

To: Eric Holmes
From: Carol Bua
Date: August 21, 2018
Re: Survey to nonprofits regarding proposed restructure of business license fee surcharge

In early August 2018, an invitation to participate in a survey requesting feedback on a proposal to restructure the business license fee and surcharge to apply to nonprofits within the city limits was sent to more than 100 nonprofit organizations in the city of Vancouver. 192 survey responses and 149 comments have been received to date.

The survey consisted of four questions: 1. Number of employees; 2. Age of organization; 3. Level of agreement with nonprofits helping to pay for police services through a business license fee surcharge; and 4. An open-ended request for comments.

SURVEY INSTRUMENT

Request for feedback on a proposal to restructure the business license fee and surcharge to apply to nonprofits.

The City of Vancouver is looking at funding options for its police services. As our community grows, and the need for services increases, the police department has not been able to keep pace with the demand.

Most businesses within the city limits of Vancouver currently pay a business license fee of \$125 a year, plus a business license surcharge per full-time employee (\$90 per FTE as of 01/01/19). Nonprofits have historically been exempt from these fees. The current proposal being considered would apply the annual business license fee and per employee surcharge to non-profit organizations with four or more full-time employees. Revenue generated from applying these fees to nonprofit organizations would be used to help fund police services.

The City recognizes that the nonprofit sector, by its very nature, endeavors to meet community needs that otherwise may not be met, but also that police services are used, either directly or indirectly, by every resident, employee, organization and business in the city – contributing to the demand for essential police services that the business license fee and surcharge is designed to help fund.

We would like to hear your feedback on this proposal. Please take a few moments to respond to a four-question survey by August 22. The survey should take less than five minutes to complete. The results of this survey and other information will be presented to the Vancouver City Council for their further consideration

Thank you for providing your feedback. If you have any questions or would like more information, please email vancmo@cityofvancouver.us.

Q1: How many full-time employees does your nonprofit currently employ in the city of Vancouver?

Q2: How long has your organization been in existence?

Q3: What is your level of agreement with nonprofits helping to pay for police services through a business license fee and per full-time employee surcharge?

Q4: Do you have any additional comments on this proposal?

SURVEY RESPONSE SUMMARY : Questions 1-3

Number of Employees: The majority of respondents (50%) indicated they had fewer than 4 full-time employees (FTEs), followed by 28% with 4-10 FTEs, and nearly 17% with more than 20 FTEs. Only 5% of respondents indicated they had 11-20 FTEs.

Age of organization: The majority of nonprofit organizations in the city of Vancouver who responded to this survey have been in existence for more than 10 years (79%).

**Level of agreement
with funding
proposal :**

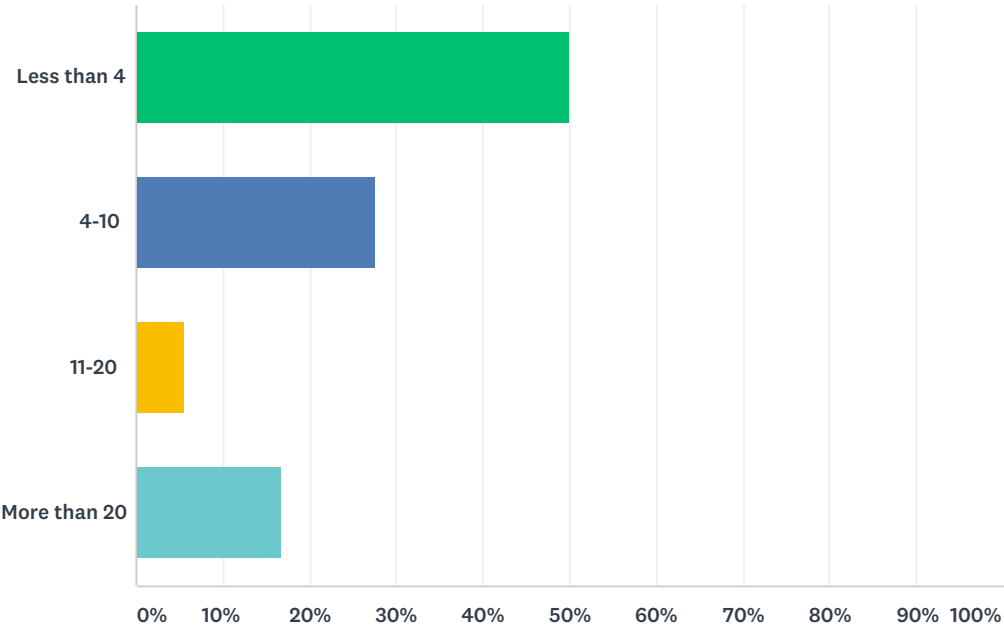
Of the 192 responses received, 76% indicated that they “strongly disagree” with non-profits helping to pay for police services through a business license fee and per-FTE surcharge. The remaining responses split between “somewhat disagree” (9%), “somewhat agree” (7%) and “strongly agree (5%), while 3% were undecided.

SURVEY RESPONSE DATA and COMMENTS

Please see attached survey report with results data and comments received.

Q1 How many full-time employees does your nonprofit currently employ in the city of Vancouver?

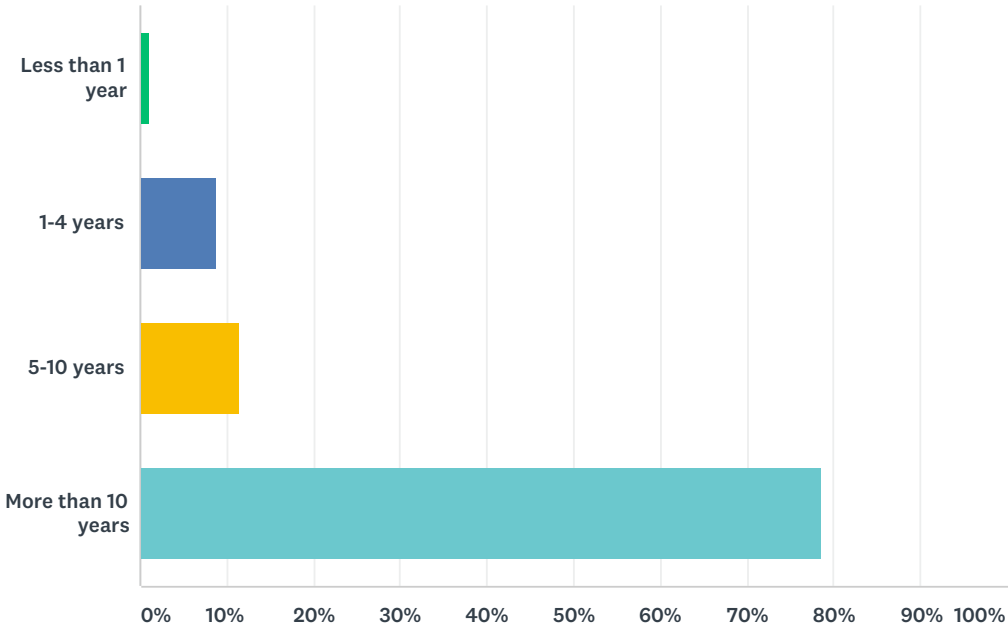
Answered: 192 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 4	50.00%	96
4-10	27.60%	53
11-20	5.73%	11
More than 20	16.67%	32
TOTAL		192

Q2 How long has your organization been in existence?

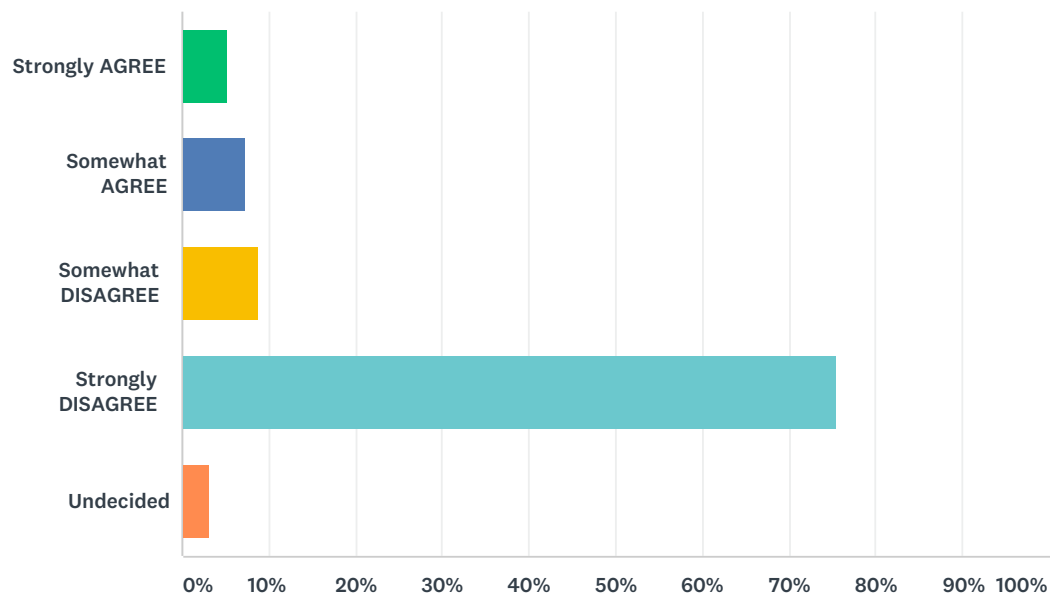
Answered: 192 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Less than 1 year		1.04%	2
1-4 years		8.85%	17
5-10 years		11.46%	22
More than 10 years		78.65%	151
TOTAL			192

Q3 What is your level of agreement with nonprofits helping to pay for police services through a business license fee and per full-time employee surcharge?

Answered: 192 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly AGREE	5.21%	10
Somewhat AGREE	7.29%	14
Somewhat DISAGREE	8.85%	17
Strongly DISAGREE	75.52%	145
Undecided	3.13%	6
TOTAL		192

Q4 Do you have any additional comments on this proposal?

Answered: 149 Skipped: 43

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	We have no employees for our organization. We are all volunteers nor do we rent a space to do our business. We are a small military organization, trying to help our vets where we can. We are a subsidiary of the MOAA of Clark County.	8/21/2018 11:30 AM
2	We run a very small non-profit mentoring group. Our budget is always dependent on donations and routinely comes in about \$8,000 a year. So every penny counts. Non-profits do a lot of good in our city. I'm sure some organizations are still struggling to find the income gap from your fireworks ban. So leave the non-profits alone, work on being financially responsible with our citizen's money and look elsewhere.	8/21/2018 11:16 AM
3	MOAA Chapter has NO fulltime employees!	8/21/2018 10:44 AM
4	I agree that our police officers need to be taken care of. I disagree that raising fees on non-profits is the best solution. There are much better ways to bring significant increase and bring our community closer together creating connection and increased support to our wonderful police officers. Maybe this was discussed in previous meeting but I would like to know the following. 1. How much extra annual revenue do we need to properly support our amazing police officers? 2. Have you discussed alternative solutions besides simply raising fees? 3. If you raise fees you may get desired out come but at what cost and are we bringing further disconnection to our relationships with non-profits? Final thoughts: I believe if the city of Vancouver and current non-profits in our region can work together and come up with the needed annual revenue solutions outside of raising fees. Btw, we are already paying \$30,000 (which is a lot for us) a month to the City of Vancouver for our space within Tower Plaza Mall with will be demolished in the near future. We either had to sign agreement to pay this amount or be evicted. There's a lot more to the story than this. My point is there has to be a better way than forcing non-profits to pay more fees and making them feel disconnected and not a part of the city of Vancouver family. There has to be a better way come together and rally around our police officers to provide the increased revenue needed and increase the connection between the city of Vancouver and non-profits. I believe there is a solution out there that would inspire and empower not only the non-profits but our entire Vancouver family to bring the much needed support for our police officers.	8/21/2018 10:16 AM
5	The City needs to review all of there budget items to see what can be cut out as I am sure there is some excess spending and departments that can be cut back on to free up funds for the police. One would be the Urban forestry department.	8/21/2018 9:45 AM
6	There has to be a better way. Nonprofit organizations provide services the City does not, and would not be able to afford without their work. They provide quality of life for citizens unmatched in the for profit sector.	8/21/2018 9:30 AM
7	This is a bad idea for non profit organizations. They are already working with a limited budget and to add this expense could put many out of business and we could lose a vital organization that is having a big positive impact on the community! We should not do this! This is wrong and we need to figure out another way to help the police! Not at the expense of nonprofit organizations!	8/21/2018 9:30 AM
8	On average NPOs struggle to meet their expenses. These organizations play a pivotal social role, helping communities in ways that directly help reduce the burden on police. Adding fees could place further stress on finances limiting the extent of the intended impact. Let's help these NPOs thrive and continue their positive contribution in our communities. Thank you.	8/21/2018 9:29 AM
9	Our nonprofit organization is totally made up of volunteers and the members make the donations to the organization. The proposed fee will be an additional burden on the organization since the fee would become a large percentage of the annual income.	8/21/2018 9:28 AM
10	Any additional fees on many nonprofits could challenge their viability. Many on shoe-string budgets have trouble staying afloat as it is. For example, the Southwest Washington Wind Symphony has no employees, is completely dependent on volunteer activity, and totally donation dependent, which is unpredictable. We already pay state fees, license fees, insurance fees, and more. We are already on the margin of viability. Additional fees at best add stress to our bottom line, and at worse, could potentially put us out of business.	8/21/2018 9:24 AM

11	Next they will propose a fee for breathing. Payable in advance with no rebate for early demise.	8/21/2018 9:23 AM
12	I'm very small and at times don't ever get pay check! I try to help parents in need and I would have to really raise my prices	8/21/2018 9:22 AM
13	I agree with the concept for taxation of non-profits. I agree with a flat rate if kept modest. I recommend that aspects of the non-profit entity be taxed other than number of employees. That puts a penalty on higher employment!! Rather, the sliding taxation should be based on variables such as income (annual member dues or donations in my case). There are certainly non-profits such as public radio stations and hospitals that have much larger operations and income than our small, volunteer-only-based association. The larger non-profits do make a profit (income greater than expenses) but they choose to spend it on equipment & facilities plus employee salaries and benefits rather than declare "profit" in accordance with accepted accounting & tax principles.	8/21/2018 9:15 AM
14	This is just Ludacris. It's getting to the point that I feel like moving out of the City of Vancouver is the only option.	8/21/2018 9:14 AM
15	While we are a non-profit we are all also citizens doing work for free to better our community. The reason non-profits are exempt from many of the fees for public officials is because we are doing work to strengthen our community and earning zero dollars for it. Taking away dollars from our already low budget takes away from those we serve. I use the police zero for the work we do. The county should be paying us.	8/21/2018 8:05 AM
16	Move the Chapter outside the Vancouver City limits.	8/21/2018 7:49 AM
17	Having higher nonprofit fees would make it extremely hard as we are a very small nonprofit.	8/21/2018 7:38 AM
18	Nonprofits greatly benefit the community in which they serve. Nonprofits are comprised of members of the community who fund public services through property taxes. Taxing nonprofits will incentivize the nonprofit to move or to greatly diminish their local effect. This is an exceptionally bad idea.	8/21/2018 7:09 AM
19	If you put this surcharge into effect it will take away funds that would go to community work.	8/21/2018 6:57 AM
20	On the back of nonprofits is the wrong approach.	8/21/2018 6:51 AM
21	NGO's will just move to the County.	8/21/2018 6:22 AM
22	How much money does the city plan to raise using this tax? How much of an increase in the sales tax would be required to raise that much money? Every citizen in the city benefits from the police services provided by the city. If insufficient funds are available, either raise the sales tax by whatever percentage or find the money in other areas. Non-profits should not bear any additional burden. This proposal merely moves the tax from everyone who benefits to organizations that survive using contributions. This proposal just becomes another way to tax the smaller population of citizens who donate rather than all citizens who benefit from receiving police services.	8/21/2018 5:59 AM
23	It makes no sense to put a greater financial burden on the very organizations working to directly address the social issues causing the need for more police involvement. The law organizations by nature are not in place to make profits and their employees are typically compensated less already. This proposal is misplaced, and will penalize good people for trying to do good things.	8/21/2018 12:30 AM
24	We support police and all first responders, but it is the primary consumers of these services who should be tapped - businesses and the Port of Vancouver.	8/20/2018 11:45 PM
25	Nonprofits such as ours, are very small and only bring in a few thousand dollars a year through member donations. We are a veterans organization and do not have any paid employees—we are all volunteers. While we financially support as many veterans groups as we can, we primarily support veterans through community service. While \$125 a year seems modest to you, it is not to us (and once imposed could easily be increased by future councils). Taxing us breaks the faith with nonprofits and would only diminish the little bit we receive from our members, and would hurt those we financially support. As president of our veteran's foundation, if this tax is imposed, I would change our registration (with the IRS and the WA Secretary of State) to a Camas address.	8/20/2018 11:21 PM
26	The non-profit I belong to is a volunteer only organization and is not within the city limits of Vancouver. Thank you for the information but it does not apply to us.	8/20/2018 11:15 PM
27	This proposal is ludicrous. Do we need to pay a tax to breath? So much for volunteerism.	8/20/2018 11:10 PM
28	Why would you want to add to the costs of numerous agencies which by the nature of their work are unlikely to add to the need for police services, and often by the nature of their service to the needs of the community, most likely reduce the need for police services. Puzzling?	8/20/2018 11:07 PM

29	The fact that a non-profit exists does not add to the demand for police services. Non-profits feed, cloth, shelter, and provide for basic mental, moral, and medical needs of the less fortunate members of our society. This is extremely misinformed public policy. If you think that adding costs to non-profits will have no effect on the number of non-profits or the amount of services they provide then you seriously delusional. Public policy does indeed have an effect on individual and non-profit decisions. An extra \$1,000 for a non-profit with 10 employees means a lot of services that can no longer be offered because most non-profits are extremely efficient by necessity, therefore every dollar taken by taxes represents a disproportionately large amount of services removed from our community. THIS PROPOSAL IF PASSED WILL COST OUR COMMUNITY A LOT OF MONEY AND ACTUALLY INCREASE THE COST OF POLICE SERVICES BY MUCH MORE THAN THE REVENUE IT BRINGS IN. THINK ABOUT IT-IF WE DO NOT GIVE FOOD, CLOTHING, AND SHELTER TO THE NEEDY THEN THEY WILL HAVE TO GET IT BY OTHER MEANS LIKE STEALING, ROBBING, OR OTHER ILLEGAL MEANS!!!	8/20/2018 10:54 PM
30	This is government interference in non-profit business.	8/20/2018 10:07 PM
31	The per employee fee is problematic for non-profits. Some non-profits have a larger number of employees, but very limited ability to pay the per employee fee. Also the number of employees does not seem well correlated with the non-profit's demand for police services. Number of locations would be a better gauge. If non-profits must pay a flat fee, that is probably fair. But I recommend exempting non profits from the per employee fee.	8/20/2018 10:04 PM
32	Nonprofits have a hard enough time covering costs as it is and often have to fundraiser to do that. People's donations to the organization will be used to pay taxes instead of helping support the function of the nonprofit. I strongly disagree with this idea.	8/20/2018 10:01 PM
33	non profits generally provide services that the government does not, and generally provides them more effectively and with less cost. They pay less than businesses because they are donor dependent so, in a sense, charging more fees, especially per employee, is essentially requiring more of the donor money for a service that helps the community and thus actually lowers the need for police services. Why would you penalize non profits that improve the quality of community life?	8/20/2018 8:25 PM
34	I disagree as to magnitude given non-profits are generally low wage payers and not focused on accumulating assets so an assessment equal to for profit businesses seems unwise given the social/community benefit many non-profits contribute. Thanks for asking for feedback.	8/20/2018 8:07 PM
35	The reason nonprofits are required is because there are not enough services to the community via state and local government agencies. We are providing services to help people, not make money! Why are we being asked to provide more support, when our main purpose is creating support for services not being provided?	8/20/2018 7:00 PM
36	We are an all volunteer Homeowner's Association. Our 94 Homeowner's pay considerable taxes in the City of Vancouver which include police and fire. Our HOA does not incur any additional police services as we do not have office space--we are simply volunteers and working out of our homes to assist our neighbors. I understand the top priority is for police and fire in the City of Vancouver. I also understand that the City is financially much stronger than several years ago due to the robust economy and strong market. I see no need to target our non-profits for additional tax revenue--their role in our community is to help others. The City of Vancouver should not seek additional tax revenue that will negatively impact what these organizations do for others. Employees of non-profits already make less then the for profit sector. Likely the impact of these additional taxes will mean fewer employees, loss of employees due to a lower salary, etc.	8/20/2018 6:42 PM
37	If this should happen I would make sure that my nonprofit is outside of the city of Vancouver.	8/20/2018 6:33 PM
38	If the tax/fee is to be imposed on non-profits, the floor at which charges are imposed should be raised so that non-profits with a small number of employees, but greater in number than four, are not subject to the tax.	8/20/2018 6:32 PM
39	As a nonprofit we already struggle for every dollar. With the new tax laws charitable donations are no longer deductible. This would hurt us even more. PLEASE NO	8/20/2018 6:29 PM
40	Nonprofits supply many essential services to people in need locally and around the world. We are hoping to expand our organization beyond it's current level to meet more needs in the mental health area and mentoring grade school children and these fees will make that much more difficult. Thank you!	8/20/2018 6:29 PM
41	none	8/20/2018 6:19 PM

42	I disagree at the steep fee. Perhaps a much lower fee since many non-profits contribute to reduction of needed police services. Seems to me this is somewhat of a deterrent to smaller non-profits to grow above 4 employees. Perhaps a lower fee and one that is much more gradually higher as number of employees increases. Give us a break!	8/20/2018 5:56 PM
43	Do not the police protection monies come from our property taxes. Homeowners are not going to be surcharged. This will place undo burdens on non profit organizations, especially the legitimate and good ones that really help people. Keep these kind of tactics up and not only will businesses leave the city of Vancouver, but also organizations that really help the citizens of Vancouver.	8/20/2018 5:50 PM
44	Since non profits by their nature are helping build stronger communities in some way or other, they already decrease police costs.	8/20/2018 5:20 PM
45	How about a compromise - the business license fee but not the per-employee surcharge?	8/20/2018 5:17 PM
46	Seattle tried this tactic to feed the homeless. It did not go well. The city of Vancouver needs to cut back it's bloated budget. Fire about 25 city administrators (some of the drones at city hall) and give their money to the homeless, which the city is paying to attract. Start with the mayor.	8/20/2018 5:11 PM
47	Social services reduce the need for police services. Charging the agencies is counterproductive. Federal support is being reduced which makes providing services more difficult. Why not just increase the existing fees by a modest amount paid by for profit businesses?	8/20/2018 5:08 PM
48	Taking from a non-profit for ANY reason is tantamount to theft. Instead of thieving from non-profits and the citizens of the City, how about reign in frivolous spending and start putting the tax money that is received to it's intended purpose instead of appropriating it to other things and projects. It's bad enough that the City shirks it's responsibility by exempting themselves from doing things that we the people are forced to do, but to steal from the non-profits?!?!?! I'm embarrassed to be a citizen of this City at this point due the mere proposal of this. I hope the City council wakes up and faces their shame.	8/20/2018 5:07 PM
49	We struggle just to pay for the expenses related to serving the homeless community. A fee like this would cause us to serve fewer struggling people.	8/20/2018 5:07 PM
50	We are providing a highly valuable service at little to no cost restoring marriages and lives. Taxing us may be too much for us to bear and cause us to no longer be able to provide the service. The juice is not worth the squeeze. Please do not tax us out of existence.	8/20/2018 4:56 PM
51	Non-profits have most of their income coming from donations. Resources are non-profits are increasingly challenging in the current environment. Additional burden on the resources will further hamstring the viability of non-profits.	8/20/2018 4:43 PM
52	Donors want their money to go to the specific purposes of the non-profit; not to Police services. With this knowledge out there, who would want to donate anymore? We will likely lose many donors and would be hard pressed to stay in business. There must be a better way to support the Police.	8/20/2018 4:43 PM
53	Adding a surcharge (bus license fee) to nonprofits burdens them while raising very little overall revenue. You would be far better served to raise the property tax, sales tax, or the general business licensing fee. Let nonprofits do what they are intended to do, make our community better. Without nonprofits we only need a greater police presence which will cost us all in the long run. Let's not be short sighted about this!	8/20/2018 4:35 PM
54	I participate in two small nonprofits in Clark County. Both small nonprofits, with zero full-time employees and all work done by volunteers, would struggle with the new fee structure. Our volunteer hours are our contribution to making our county a better place for all.	8/20/2018 4:30 PM
55	Non Profit organizations nowadays are very often extremely challenged to raise funds. This is in particular very true for small organizations who are just trying to make a difference in the community. We are trying very hard to get the raised funds with almost no administrative expenses, to the benefiting individuals and organizations, such as Vancouver Rotary Club (for Education), Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, KOMAK (Cancer Support) etc. With the proposed administrative fees from the City of Vancouver, these benefiting organizations will be the first to notice the difference. There will be less money available to the ones who need it most. Nonprofits are asking vendors and service providers for consideration regarding the nonprofit status, this should also apply to City and State Governments. Thank you!	8/20/2018 4:29 PM

56	The federal government, all state governments, and nearly all municipalities do not tax nonprofit organizations because of the recognition that such organizations serve the public good in lieu of the government needing to provide such services. The City of Vancouver should continue and respect this important relationship and not create this burden on such organizations.	8/20/2018 4:24 PM
57	Nonprofits need to pay their fair share for police and firemen as they use them just like everyone else.	8/20/2018 4:23 PM
58	Non profits are a help to the community, not an Hindrance. They should be supported as well as the police, not hindered by more fees.	8/20/2018 4:23 PM
59	We're not in the city of Vancouver, so I don't feel it appropriate for me to respond.	8/20/2018 4:22 PM
60	This is absolutely ridiculous to put the burden back on to non-profits. If this is the best the City could come up with you need to try harder. :(8/20/2018 4:18 PM
61	As you said, you realize that nonprofits are usually working and serving entities within Vancouver community where there is little interest or financial support for the work that they do. Many like mine operate within a bare-bones shoestring income and still have to pay their own taxes etc. The police benefit from our services to the community because it often means lessening their need to intervene in many cases. So if anybody should be paying into the system to help with additional police support, it should be others with more resources.	8/20/2018 4:13 PM
62	First double license plates tabs then make nonprofits cough up money to the city. I may move the Non-Profit out of the city.	8/20/2018 4:09 PM
63	I think the per full-time employee surcharge could strongly hurt some of our larger non-profits doing really great work. I would be more open to a business license fee that is a one time annual fee.	8/20/2018 3:22 PM
64	I strongly disagree. Nonprofits provide a benefit to the community and are not able to pass on these type of mandated increases to the families they serve. Please don't do this.	8/20/2018 11:58 AM
65	The government/city needs to fund the programs they have instead of diverting allotted funds to other new programs such as building shelters for working age/ability homeless, free services for illegal people, sanctuary cities, ... the list can go on and on.... Government was given a budget for programs approved by the voters and laws! Use it that way.	8/19/2018 8:03 PM
66	Creating a financial hardship on many NPs that are also serving the City would not be a good idea.	8/19/2018 3:22 PM
67	An extra \$10,000 expense is almost impossible to replace. With the state mandates and lack of funding, we need every dime we raise. This will reduce our ability to provide services to those that need it the most. Our work does reduce the need for police involvement. The impact on our budget is far greater than the benefit to the Police budget. The must be a better way.	8/17/2018 6:25 PM
68	This is an unfair burden on already stressed non profits, particularly those providing social services support. Such agencies are already not fully compensated for their services due to decreasing state and federal payments and increasing legislative decision eg minimum wage. Fully support additional funding for police services but we must look towards other sources.	8/17/2018 2:35 PM
69	We are funded to help keep youth off the streets but funding does not even cover full cost of service. In addition, most staff are barely at or above minimum wage. These fees would literally force a reduction of wages or reduction of services. This is not a fee, it is a punishment for people who are doing incredibly demanding work to also keep our community and our children safe.	8/17/2018 10:43 AM
70	Perhaps you should target your fees on larger non profits with well established streams of revenue and except small non profits that often struggle just to survive. Perhaps target only non-profits with 30 employees or more.	8/17/2018 9:08 AM
71	Our organization provides end of life care and bereavement support to the community, much of which is charity care. Every dollar taken away from our mission impacts veterans, children, and elderly patients that receive our care. Increasing government fees and new regulations are already taking a huge toll on us, and therefore we are having to increasingly say "we can't" to the needy in our community. The government should be here to help us in our charitable mission. This new fee will cost our nonprofit agency about \$15,000. This could mean the end of our annual free kids' camp for families who've lost a loved one due to hospice, military action, suicide, violence, or accidents. I am beseeching the jurisdiction to not penalize nonprofits with this new tax burden, we play a vital role in our community.	8/17/2018 7:48 AM
72	Our funding sources are fixed and we cannot raise prices to offset this kind of increase. It will mean that we will serve less at-risk individuals and families in our community.	8/17/2018 7:46 AM

73	I think it is a good idea in general. Suggest just the flat fee, however, rather than adding the employee surcharge, at least as a starting place. The latter could encourage organizations to not hire a full-time person if their budget was super close to the bone.	8/16/2018 10:24 PM
74	A terrible idea which should be rejected out of hand.	8/16/2018 1:31 PM
75	What most people forget is that we are NONPROFITS. As in we don't make a lot of money, and all funds used are for services rendered. As much as we do understand the city would like to get an increase in revenue, this would mean an increase in Admin Charges, and with so many of us struggling to stay alive and well, this is just one more fee we have to find the funds for. Remember, our funds are often grants which are very specific about how the funds can be used, donations which aren't always in money, and fundraising which is often a cost needing to be incurred as well for the venue / space and the like. Not all of the non-profits can benefit from the c.3 status and still need to raise funds for their services and people. Please RECONSIDER what you are requiring of us. Our budgets are tight and you would be removing funds from services rendered.	8/16/2018 10:16 AM
76	Leveraging this fee on our organization would cause us to have to lay off at least one FTE thus reducing the services we can provide to residents. While the point of the fee is to make our city safer, the reality is it would be the cause of having less services available to help our own community members.	8/16/2018 9:15 AM
77	These fees would cause a financial burden on our agency and many other nonprofits. We should be looking for ways to support local nonprofits not taking funds that could be used to further their mission.	8/16/2018 8:07 AM
78	This would have a negative impact on our budget when we already struggle with funding cuts.	8/16/2018 7:38 AM
79	I could support an annual license fee, but the per employee fee seems excessive. I'd rather see some small increases to what for profit businesses pay to offset these needs.	8/15/2018 7:10 PM
80	I dont understandwhy they are considering this fee since non-profits help those most in need. Is this aimed at the non-profit hospitals.. and by the way schools are non-profit right..why not charge Vancouver Schools and evergreen schoos this charge too.	8/15/2018 6:29 PM
81	While I recognize and value the work of the police department, these proposed fees will have a significant impact on our budget and diminish our ability to serve the impoverished of our community.	8/15/2018 4:45 PM
82	I am not currently connected with a nonprofit but have been before and responded on the basis of that organization's data. I would be agreeable to the \$125/yr assessment, but not the per employee charge. Many nonprofits use part-time help, thus driving up the numbers of employees. Also, it adds another layer of "tracking" that adds to the cost of operation for the nonprofit.	8/15/2018 4:37 PM
83	business license fee is appropriate but not a per full time employee surcharge which could be a serious expense for a non profit. If decision is to charge both, then create different rates for non profits.	8/15/2018 3:44 PM
84	Sorry, the nonprofits provide a benefit to the community which is already not fully compensated. Nonprofit wages are historically low, and while we don't begrudge the police unions ability to offer fair compensation to police who do a difficult job - many nonprofit jobs are also incredibly challenging, sometimes dangerous, and at minimum wage. Wrong stakeholders to ask to sacrifice even more when it is state and federal government contracts which hold the wages of our folks down to start.	8/15/2018 3:39 PM
85	Although we are not working within the City of Vancouver, to see this sets a precedent which would be very difficult for us if it the county or nearby cities took up the same. However, we might fall below the number of employees where payment was required because we wouldn't have funds to pay the fee and employ people. Yes, we are that close to the edge.	8/15/2018 2:44 PM
86	While the service is needed, nonprofits do not have money to pay for police services. Raising the funds to keep the doors open is hard enough.	8/15/2018 2:35 PM
87	The additional fee would have a tremendous impact on our services. We currently fundraise for 85% of our operating expense. The additional cost would need to be passed onto the population we serve or raised within the community. More importantly our services are preventative in nature and reduce the number of youth that maybe influenced by negative life choices and thus the need for police services.	8/15/2018 2:09 PM
88	Non-profits typically run on a shoe-string budget to provide community services. This proposal could reduce the effectiveness of organizations that typically operate with mostly volunteers and donations. This is not good for Vancouver!	8/15/2018 1:34 PM

89	We will be moving out of Vancouver to one of the surrounding cities. As long as you chase businesses out with your taxes, the less taxes you will have to collect.	8/15/2018 12:56 PM
90	We have been in Vancouver for 115 years.	8/15/2018 12:36 PM
91	A structural and broad approach to funding essential services provided by the City of Vancouver is important. That said, in a climate where many small nonprofits struggle for funding, meeting basic program needs, and retaining a talented workforce, additional taxation mechanisms could prove overly burdensome. If a nonprofit business license fee and surcharge change is adopted, the structure should be dynamic and provide for appropriate exemptions for those nonprofits who operate with a smaller capital budget and that provide essential community, social or economic services.	8/15/2018 11:27 AM
92	We have no paid staff, if we did and had to pay this minimal amount to benefit LE, we would be okay with that as we work with VPD and missing children cases and know the funds would help offset expenses for the community's safety.	8/15/2018 11:15 AM
93	We have exactly 4 employees, a budget of 140,000/yr, and a mission (legal aid) that is complicated to fund. While we support and work alongside VPD, we would need to do additional fundraising just to cover this expense.	8/15/2018 10:43 AM
94	Based on the proposal, the fee for our non-profit would go from \$0 in 2018 to over \$2000 in 2019. As I am sure you are aware, non-profits run on a shoe string budget and finding over \$2000 in 4 months would be very difficult come up with as employee costs (medical benefits. minimum wage, etc.) continue to skyrocket every year. Our non-profit's budget runs July-June, a change like this after the budget has been approved would be tough to overcome.	8/15/2018 10:07 AM
95	Nonprofit organizations large, medium or small don't generate profit, as you know. The implication in the question is that if I don't support nonprofit taxing for police services that I don't support police. That is not true. Nonprofits provide many needed services in our community, we operate on very thin margins regardless of our employee size and our employees typically are paid less than similar sized for profit businesses. This tax will negatively impact nonprofit organizations and services in our community. I appreciate the need to increase revenue for police services. I think this cost should be shared by those of us that reside in the city (I live in the city limits and would support a different funding option) We should not put a burden on nonprofits that do so much for our community and struggle to make ends meet. I think you should find another solution to fund police.	8/15/2018 10:02 AM
96	Our nonprofit, as many others, reduces the demand for police services.	8/15/2018 9:56 AM
97	Nonprofits provide vital public service just like a library or school. So if those entities are exempt then so should nonprofits.	8/15/2018 9:44 AM
98	I am in favor of non profits paying to support these services.	8/15/2018 9:41 AM
99	This impact would be detrimental to most nonprofits. I can speak to the impact to our organization, in which it would mean reducing the number of people we employee, reduce the number of people we support and reduce our impact in the community. This fee would impact our organization by over \$15,000.00 annually. This would greatly impact Clark County and the City of Vancouver in more ways than just \$15k. Are there other ways we can contribute?	8/15/2018 9:38 AM
100	fee could be structured around income rather than a set fee that way nonprofits that are volunteer run and operating on limited funds would be treated different than a nonprofit with full time employees and more assets and resources.	8/15/2018 9:33 AM
101	This is fair and reasonable.	8/15/2018 9:33 AM
102	WE are a 199% volunteer organization	8/15/2018 9:30 AM
103	This would be a financial burden for small nonprofits such as ours. And I can't imagine it would raise much money. Nonprofits do important work in our community to the benefit of all, through social services and artistic endeavors. We also provide economic benefits through jobs. Please don't punish nonprofits through onerous fees.	8/15/2018 9:30 AM
104	Obviously, safety is a big issue that is critical to address. I would hope however that if a fee is applied, it is applied to all equally. Governmental organizations should also be required to contribute for this service.	8/14/2018 3:24 PM

105	I see the value in our police force, however non-profit organizations truly struggle financially already. Could the proposal be amended to have non-profits pay the \$125 but not be charged per employee? For-profit organizations have substantially more funding to work with and would likely have no problem with accommodating a higher annual fee as well as per-person fee. They would complain, but it wouldn't put them out of business or take food out of hungry kids' mouths, which is the scenario for many small non-profits. Thank you for the opportunity to offer feedback!	8/14/2018 3:07 PM
106	I can't pay full time employees enough to keep them and have had 6 different employee changes in the last few years with only one staff that has been here more than 5 years and she only 6. My point, non profits have a lot of turn over, because we are stepping stones, the head tax will hurt us even more and not allow for much overlap of employees coming and going. Hurts training and full time, I would consider making some of the older employees go part-time.	8/14/2018 2:46 PM
107	Business license okay, head tax no way!	8/14/2018 2:42 PM
108	Is this the fiscally conservative thing to do? Or is it just a quick fix for a growing spending problem, that will continue to outpace taxes/	8/14/2018 2:40 PM
109	I can't believe you want a head tax on nonprofits. Are you going to tax stay at home mothers next?	8/14/2018 2:38 PM
110	This is just a cash grab, if Vancouver is growing, then so should the new property tax revenue. It will add to city staff more than to city police. Manage your money better.	8/14/2018 2:37 PM
111	Our services as an NPO help protect the community in many ways similar to the police. Many of our services help prevent crime or deal with the after-effects of crime. Taxing us would be like taxing one department of the police to pay for another department. Doesn't make sense at all. Please find a way to make ALL citizens pay for the police if ALL citizens benefit from having police.	8/14/2018 9:10 AM
112	I think it's a bad idea across the board to charge businesses and non-profits for employees. This deliberately encourages businesses to not hire employees. It's a bad policy that drives businesses out of the city. It's already hard for non-profits to hire.	8/13/2018 5:59 PM
113	We have 250 employees, and depending on the details it would cost us \$15k - \$25k per year. This is more than our programs made as a cushion last year. This proposal, as presented, would seriously jeopardize our operations. While I understand that "nonprofit employees use services too", we also do jobs that others won't. Because we don't have profit as a motive, we don't have the ability to pay this type of tax. I hope that the City Council will strongly consider capping this tax on non-profits at a reasonable level. We simply cannot pay this much.	8/13/2018 2:32 PM
114	I am in full agreement with supporting our police services. Unfortunately, small businesses such as ours have been hit so hard with minimum wage increases. We are having a hard time keeping up. This would be an additional \$575 for our company that is already having to make cuts. Please consider working in the support for the police in a different area than non-profits. Many of these organizations are helping the community with their efforts. Please do not add another hardship that could cause the efforts to fade. Thank you.	8/13/2018 2:17 PM
115	Nonprofits help to serve the same populations that might require additional police presence. Our nonprofit already exists on the edge of financial survival even as it strives to expand its reach to serve more and more youth in our city, providing them with a safe space for growth and activity. To impose this on nonprofits is shooting ourselves in the foot.	8/13/2018 2:04 PM
116	There should be incentives for these organizations who meet the needs of the marginalized with little pay or encouragements. Your really want to get blood out of a turnip????	8/13/2018 1:59 PM
117	NPOs contribute so much to our community and often operate on a very tight budget.	8/13/2018 1:23 PM
118	Such a tax would put an unreasonable burden on our nonprofit and most others in the community. We who rely on charitable donations operate with very thin margins. When we are providing a service to the underserved, we cannot pass the burden of a tax /tax increase onto our end user the way a business can and does. There has to be a more equitable way to arrive at balancing the budget for law enforcement services and suggest the Council engage NPO leadership in the conversation to find ways to do so. Thank you for reaching out with this survey.	8/13/2018 1:13 PM
119	This will simply result in taking money away from the goals and purpose of nonprofits, therefore needing more funds from individuals/businesses. If the public needs additional funding for police services, then the public in general should pay for those services. I believe this would result in nonprofits being burdened with a public cost that the public should be responsible for.	8/13/2018 1:05 PM

120	I understand the need for more funds for police services, but I think it would be a mistake to put that burden on non-profit organizations that exist to address social needs in our community. Most of these organizations already have to stretch to cover expenses and imposing more fees on them would likely affect employees who already sacrifice by working for lower wages than a comparable job in the for-profit sector would provide.	8/13/2018 1:04 PM
121	Non-profits, by the nature of their organizational name, already struggle to retain funding, with their employees often having to chose between passions and paycheck. A tax would only further many non-profit's existential burden as well as the families and communities that they service.	8/13/2018 1:01 PM
122	There was a reason for the original policy of not having these fees apply to nonprofits. At least part of that reason was to assist them in their hope of helping people the government would otherwise need to help (hence saving the city government money). Any (more) taxation on them will hinder their ability to help that segment of our city. Thanks for asking.	8/13/2018 12:57 PM
123	Please don't make the mission of nonprofits harder. We already do so much good for our community and for the world.	8/13/2018 12:50 PM
124	Nonprofits by their very nature struggle to meet their expenses and typically employees are paid less than a comparable job in the for profit world. NPOs already pay sales tax and have relatively few breaks in WA. It would be a mistake to hurt non-profits that are already working to meet the social needs that reduce the burden on local police. Public policy should encourage this kind of organization and not penalize it.	8/13/2018 11:53 AM
125	Two employees live in Vancouver, I am in Camas. We have a choice to rent here or not. don't discourage us, values of rent are already getting high. No Head Hunter Tax that is going to get wasted.	8/13/2018 11:24 AM
126	No fee per employee. This is the Seattle Head hunter fiasco all over again.	8/13/2018 11:21 AM
127	Strongly encourage no fee per full-time employee.	8/13/2018 11:20 AM
128	We have 4 employees, in an office here in Vancouver, so we are the smallest NP that this will impact. Which will take \$485 out of our annual budget. I am not opposed to taxes but I am to waste and bureaucracy, so if this means more staff or contractors hired to handle the accounting and enforcement then it is a waste of money. I have desired to hire another employee, this discourages it. I would suggest just a business license fee for all sizes and no employee fee tied to it. Keep it simple, keep it cheap and give it all to the police if that is what it is for.	8/13/2018 11:18 AM
129	Funding police services would directly reduce services our donors are funding to help at-risk teens. If we are doing our job well, there are less police services required.	8/13/2018 9:33 AM
130	I am extremely concerned with this proposal to instill a tax on nonprofits. Most organizations are struggling to sustain services and provide robust support to the populations they serve. This additional fee would create an undue hardship on numerous organizations throughout our community. I strongly encourage the City of Vancouver to seek alternative options when trying to raise funds to pay for services. Nonprofits provide essential programs and services that make our city a better place to live and should not have additional strain on their already tight budgets.	8/13/2018 8:27 AM
131	Nonprofit organizations are truly that, nonprofit? Why would you tax them?	8/13/2018 7:18 AM
132	fees paid to police services or any other licenses would decrease funds for direct service to those in need...	8/12/2018 5:38 PM
133	While I understand the importance of having a great police force,I believe this tax requirement would be an additional burden on the non-profits ability to operate. I can tell you our non-profit reimburses the City of Vancouver for any police support we require for our events.	8/12/2018 5:32 PM
134	Has anyone really thought this through?? It makes no sense to establish a revenue stream for the City from the very organizations that help solve some of the biggest social issues facing our most vulnerable population. Non profits provide food, shelter, after school programs, safety for people, mentoring, other basic needs, etc... It is a long list of support provided to kids & families that actually keep many out of trouble with the law. You start cutting into their funding, you will eventually need MORE police because certain service they provide will go away. We are a non-profit that provides funds to many organizations locally.... including PAL. Do you really want to cut into their good work? This is a ridiculous idea!	8/12/2018 4:53 PM
135	This is not a burden to be placed on the non-profits backs the first thing you need to do is look at your budget for wants and needs and reduce the money in your want column. Don't put this on the back of your community partners that are helping in so many ways.	8/10/2018 5:10 PM

136	Non profit organizations DO provide services for the community. Many of which are not addressed by city and county governmental organizations. If these were not addressed by non-profits, governmental organizations would have to fill the gap. Non profits enjoy tax exempt status and that should be maintained for ALL governmental units.	8/10/2018 2:48 PM
137	We have no paid employees. I think the fire and police departments are crucial to our community so I don't mind paying.	8/10/2018 2:15 PM
138	We understand and agree that we need police services. Generally, it is more acceptable to spread the cost burden of these services to ALL those that benefit from them and not just to a small segment of the community. Non-profits often work towards bettering our community and there are enough hurdles to overcome without adding additional funding worries. Lastly, it is hard to swallow an increase in fees and taxes when the police department includes a scenario of adding mounted police and other very expensive and unnecessary services.	8/10/2018 2:10 PM
139	I think a business fee would be fair, but would support some level of exemption or reduced rate. Many nonprofits are providing social services intended to reduce the burden on our emergency services (police, fire and hospital) by treating underlying issues resulting in people accessing emergency services.	8/10/2018 2:00 PM
140	Non profits by their very nature struggle to meet their expenses and typically employees are paid less than a comparable job in the for profit world. NPOs already pay sales tax and have relatively few breaks in WA. It would be a mistake to hurt non-profits that are already working to meet the social needs that reduce the burden on local police.. Public policy should encourage this kind of organization and not penalize it.	8/10/2018 1:31 PM
141	The larger staffed non-profits have capacity to pay, the smaller ones (suggest 10 or less employees) should still be exempt.	8/10/2018 1:28 PM
142	We appreciate the services provided to all entities and individuals by the City, and want to be good citizens of the City. At the same time, I don't find the idea that nonprofits should pay this fee compelling. For one thing, we provide far more to the community in services that otherwise would not be provided or which the City or county would have to provide than we take back in City services, so the exemption seems like a fair recognition of that. For another, while we do not pay a fee like this directly, we employ quite a few residents of the City who themselves pay property taxes and we utilize local merchants--in that way we indirectly contribute to the funding of the City's services. Finally, although we have over 20 staff in Vancouver, the cost of the fee would not be immaterial in our budget. Even at just about \$2,500, something else would have to give in our budget. If I felt that the City was struggling financially I'd feel differently, but that's not my understanding.	8/10/2018 12:36 PM
143	Times are changing and we all need to adapt. Police services and a healthy balance sheet are critical to our future as a city.	8/10/2018 11:36 AM
144	Non-profits by their nature provide services to the communities they server and many also have very limited funding resources. While it may not seem like a large amount many non-profits operate on a very tight budget. So any fees paid would result in a reduction of some kind in the services provided by the organizations.	8/10/2018 11:35 AM
145	As a behavioral health services provider, we believe our services REDUCE demands on the police department. Shifting funds away from treatment to law enforcement would appear to be a step backward in reducing demands on the police.	8/10/2018 11:15 AM
146	It is not just the actual fee but the burden of annual filing that weighs on non-profits who already are required to file multiple fees and filings in Washington.	8/10/2018 10:58 AM
147	As a non-profit, our budget is tight and the surcharge per full-time employee would add an additional burden to an already tight budget. We have close to 50 full-time employees providing mental health services to children/youth on Medicaid. While I value the police and the services they provide, any consideration of reducing the \$90/per FT employee for nonprofits would be greatly appreciated.	8/10/2018 10:54 AM
148	Nonprofits should remain exempt from the business license and therefore the head tax surcharge. A less aggressive police expansion plan should be considered before taxing nonprofits.	8/10/2018 10:46 AM
149	I agree that every agency and business should share in the cost of supporting our police as it has benefit to all of us. However, I would be interested if there was another way to assess fees associated with non-profits--specifically the full-time employee surcharge.	8/10/2018 10:46 AM