

Esther Short Neighborhood Association

Newsletter May 2025

Parking Presentation and Concerns

City Staff presented the pending parking plan changes and current conditions. Comments and concerns were recorded. See page 3 for a summary of comments made during the meeting. Residents are encouraged to submit further comments in person or via email to City Council at the next City Council meeting set for Monday, May 19th at City Hall.

NOTE: The 7-day paid parking is scheduled to go into effect June 1.

Successful Spruce the Couve!

Spruce the Couve, held May 10th, was a great success. Roughly 150 volunteers picked up 2,000 pounds of solid waste, and planted hundreds of flowers at Esther Short Park. All four Board Members and dozens of neighborhood residents attended. A massive Thank You to all those that participated.

Elected Board Members

President

Marcus Griffith

Vice President

Alyssa Wheeler

Secretary

Kyle Peterson

Treasurer

Jonathan Wheeler

Contact the Board

esthershortneighborhood@gmail.com

City Contacts

Neighborhood Liaison

Julie Arenz

julie.arenz@cityofvancouver.us

Neighborhood Police Officer

Ofc. Lee Gelsinger

lee.gelsinger@cityofvancouver.us

Next Meeting Time

* All Membership *

TBD in July

Bylaw Review Committee

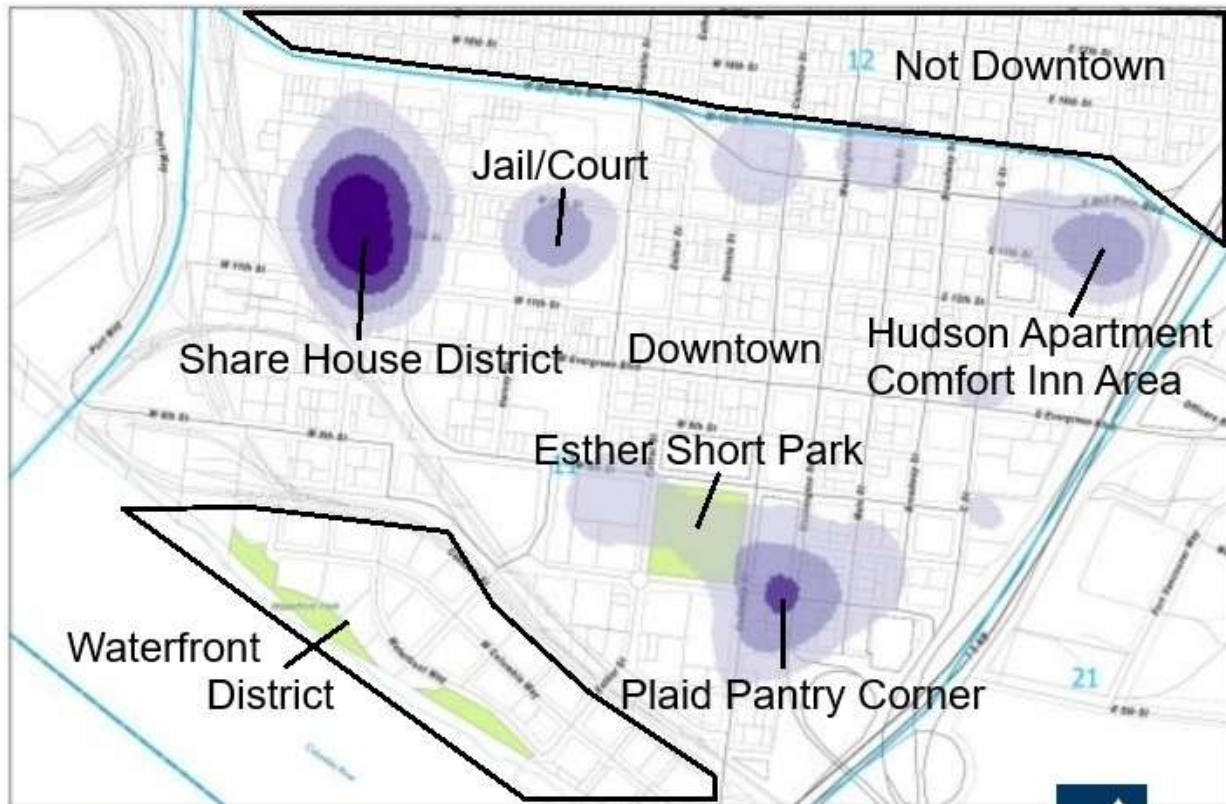
A committee is being formed to review the neighborhood bylaws. Major focus will be on updating roles to better reflect current duties, allowing for representatives from neighborhood districts, possibly changing the neighborhood's name, and creating meeting attendance requirements for voting rights. No final decision has been made on any changes. Persons interested in participating in the Bylaw Review Committee are encouraged to apply by emailing the Board at EstherShortNeighborhood@gmail.com.

Membership and Fundraiser Drives

The Board is planning on applying for grants and donations to acquire materials for tabling events at the neighborhood for membership and fundraising drives. Residents interested in assisting can email the Board emailing the ESNA President at EstherShortNeighborhood@gmail.com.

Downtown Crime Update

Hotspots—Q1 2025 All Offenses in Beat 11



All Downtown Offenses



Above is a hotspot map for reported crime in Quarter 1 of 2025 (Jan., Feb. Mar.). Obtained from the VPD presentation at the April Downtown Stakeholders Meeting. Labels for landmarks added.

A total of 440 crimes were reported in the downtown area during Quarter 1 of 2025. For police statistics, Beat 11 serves the downtown area. Beat 11 has the same boundaries as the Esther Short Neighborhood (except the jail is excluded from the neighborhood). The two big hot spots are the camping areas around the Sharehouse District and the Plaid Pantry corner at 6th and Washington. No hotspots were recorded in the waterfront district. For comparison, the 440 reported crimes are 7% of the city wide total of 6,004 crimes.

Residents concerned about criminal activity are encouraged to report crimes to the VPD via 911/311. Patrol officers might not be able to quickly respond to low level offenses, but reporting crimes helps form a complete picture of criminal activity and aids in allotting patrol resources.

Parking Comments Made During May 10th Presentation

- + Concern about how June 1st rollout will affect Lot 1 Permits (all permit holders)
- + Concern about parking migrating to Uptown (people not coming downtown).
- + How will parking impact elderly and disabled at Churches and nonprofits?
- + How much will parking increase?
- + How will service employees from local businesses be impacted? (Residents, Guests?)
- + Walking safely for waterfront service employees (to designated employee parking)?

Note: These comments are in addition to the comments recorded during the March listing session and don't reflect the totality of neighborhood concerns.

Interested In hosting the Neighborhood Meeting?

The Board is seeking locations to host the neighborhood association throughout the next year. Ideally, locations can accommodate up to 50 people, are located within the neighborhood boundaries, and must be open to the public during the meeting times. The goal is to have the meeting in different districts of the downtown to help build a more inclusive neighborhood association.

Any person interested in hosting the neighborhood association meeting can reach the board at EstherShortNeighborhood@gmail.com.

An Important Note About ADA Accommodations

Any person requiring special accommodation to fully participate in a neighborhood association meeting is encouraged to reach out to request reasonable accommodation. This includes, but is not limited to, hearing impairments, mobility impairments, and language assistance.

The City of Vancouver supports the Neighborhood Associations in their effort to share vital information with residents to create a more informed public. However, the information provided, and the opinions and views expressed in the Neighborhood Association newsletter or other documents do not necessarily represent the position of the City of Vancouver, nor does the City determine whether the information published is accurate or appropriate. Printed by the City of Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods.