

## Chat Log & Discussion for 10/6/22 Hospitality Roundtable

**Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle:** Street Eats App for Vancouver businesses:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/22ce3e18456c432ab24af895c4b6498f>

Doing Business in Vancouver: <https://www.cityofvancouver.us/eph/page/doing-business-vancouver>

We are now updating our small business assistance website every few days as we hear of new state and federal business assistance programs: <https://www.cityofvancouver.us/eph/page/covid-19-business-worker-assistance>

Please feel free to reach out to the City's Economic Development Team with any questions that you may have:

- Teresa Brum, Economic Development Division Manager > [Teresa.Brum@CityofVancouver.us](mailto:Teresa.Brum@CityofVancouver.us)
- Julie H. Arenz, Small Business Project Manager > [Julie.Arenz@CityofVancouver.us](mailto:Julie.Arenz@CityofVancouver.us) or (360) 487-7940
- John Collum, Economic Development Principal Planner > [John.Collum@CityofVancouver.us](mailto:John.Collum@CityofVancouver.us) or (360) 487-7956

**Rep. Paul Harris:** Important issues currently include continued labor shortage, communicable diseases, crime (police issues and drug use), and abortion.

**Rep. Wylie 49:** Training new representatives, federal grant distribution, replacing the Interstate Bridge. Back on Commerce and Gaming Committee – cannabis industry

### Operator concerns:

- Long Term Care Act – will start collecting July 2023
- Homelessness in Downtown has increased in the last 4-6 months. Trying to coach staff on how to handle and keep customers safe.
  - Rep. Harris: Met with Governor's office who is going to put a big emphasis on mental health solutions and substance abuse
  - Rep. Wylie: Compassion vs. action. Regional approach vs. national. PeaceHealth – private mental health services. Tiny house villages leading to sustainable housing options.
  - Follow-up Q: The uptick in homelessness in Vancouver seems to correlate with Portland's push for clean-up about 6 months ago – is there coordination across state lines?
  - Mayor Anne: Just talked to Ted Wheeler who was asking about our [Safe Stay program](#) (2 in DT with one more being proposed). Time/place/manner (sleeping). Ordinance passed last year that if a safe place is offered and refused, they must stay 1,000 feet away. Also an issue with WSDOT property – owned by state and the City can't touch it.

Q: Anyone to call for assistance that is not the police

A: [Homeless Assistance & Resources Team \(HART\)](#): [hartteam@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:hartteam@cityofvancouver.us)  
[Jamie.spinelli@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:Jamie.spinelli@cityofvancouver.us) is the Homeless Response Coordinator

**Sarah Kohout**- Southwest Washington Director, Senator Cantwell : Hi all! Sarah Kohout from Senator Cantwell's office. No huge updates today from me but I wanted to attend to listen. My email is Sarah\_Kohout@cantwell.senate.gov and my phone is 360-773-8418 if you want to connect offline. Thank you!

**JD Thomas**, NW Culinary Institute: Apprenticeship-style program that graduates 12 students/quarter. Training for quick integration (knife skills, cooking staples, etc.) so that cost to hire and train is less for restaurant (especially with minimum wage increasing). Internships are 120 hours. What skills would you like to see in a new hire? [Jthomas@aha.edu](mailto:Jthomas@aha.edu)

**John Lane and Gretchen Fritz**, WHA: Seattle having same public safety and homelessness concerns.

Nov. 3 > in-person hospitality members meeting/listening session (will replace this call next month) at the AC Hotel by Marriott from 9-11 am

WHA Conference: Tacoma at the Silver Cloud at Point Ruston on Nov 17, 1-9 pm with 40 exhibits, dinner and reception – partnering with WSU hospitality program. Students there to hire.

Working WA Round 5 grant – funds dispersed end of October (delayed slightly)

WHA Grant for those that applied and were approved for RRF. Oct/Nov

Food Code Requirement – ServSafe Program, WHA offers discounted pricing – need a ‘person in charge’ by March 2023.

Q: Does this qualify as food handlers permit also? Looking into the answer for this question.

More info on any of these: [gretchenf@wahospitality.org](mailto:gretchenf@wahospitality.org), 360-798-9299

### **Visit Vancouver WA**

Tourism Master Plan - Resident survey: <https://www.visitvancouverwa.com/resident-survey-site/>

Stakeholder Survey: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6976265/Vancouver-WA>

Dine the Couve: <https://www.visitvancouverwa.com/dinethecouve/>

We also added a 2022 Projections and 2023 Outlook document on the Hospitality RT webpage under resources: <https://www.visitvancouverwa.com/hospitality-roundtable/>

I will add chat notes and links to this page as well, and info about next month's in-person meeting.

**Philip Johnson**, Battle Ground Mayor: Sales tax increasing in January, will be used for roads/transportation purposes in BG.