

**VANDU's
VIA DUCT CLEAN UP
and
METAL LOCK SHARPES
CONTAINER
PROGRAM PROPOSAL**

AUG 2002

DRAFT

ATT: GEO M.

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VANDU.ORG
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Purpose: The purpose of the VANDU viaduct clean-up and metal lock sharpes containers is to try and elevate the large amount of garbage that is in and around the DTES, (Drug related garbage) as well as provide ample access to sharpes containers to provide a safe disposal for used syringes. In conjunction with this Sharpes proposal is a weekly clean up of the viaduct area where a team of volunteers would do a clean up of specified areas where users are known to frequent. We feel as drug users that it is partly our responsibility to keep our neighborhood free of hazardous waste such as syringes and all associated garbage.

Sharpes Container Program:

It has become evident that access to disposal sites for used syringes is a problem in the DTES and in an effort to alleviate this problem VANDU proposes it install a series of metal locking Sharpes containers in key areas throughout the alleyways of the DTES. This program would be set-up and run by VANDU volunteers in conjunction with the City of Vancouver and the Regional Health Authorities.

Placement:

The Sharpes project would consist of approximately 35 self locking sharpes containers secured to hydro poles and other sites that would be serviced on a weekly basis. These sites are yet to be determined.

Testimonies:

I think that a sharpes container in Victory Square is a great idea because it is a park! Children play and visit the parks and it scares me to death when I see kids getting poked by a dirty needle. I am a dealer in this park and I'm constantly telling my customers to make sure they put the old rigs in a garbage can or something but don't throw them on the ground.

R. Falk

My name is Kevin and I am 40 years old. I'm an ex heroin user who is currently on the Methadone program. Although I no longer use rigs I always have rigs and water for those who need them. Every day I pick up syringes in my neighborhood and off the streets and would really like to see a sharpes container at Opiehimier Park so I don't have to walk all the way down to VANDU or the DEYAS exchange to dispose of the rigs I fined

Kevin Mc G

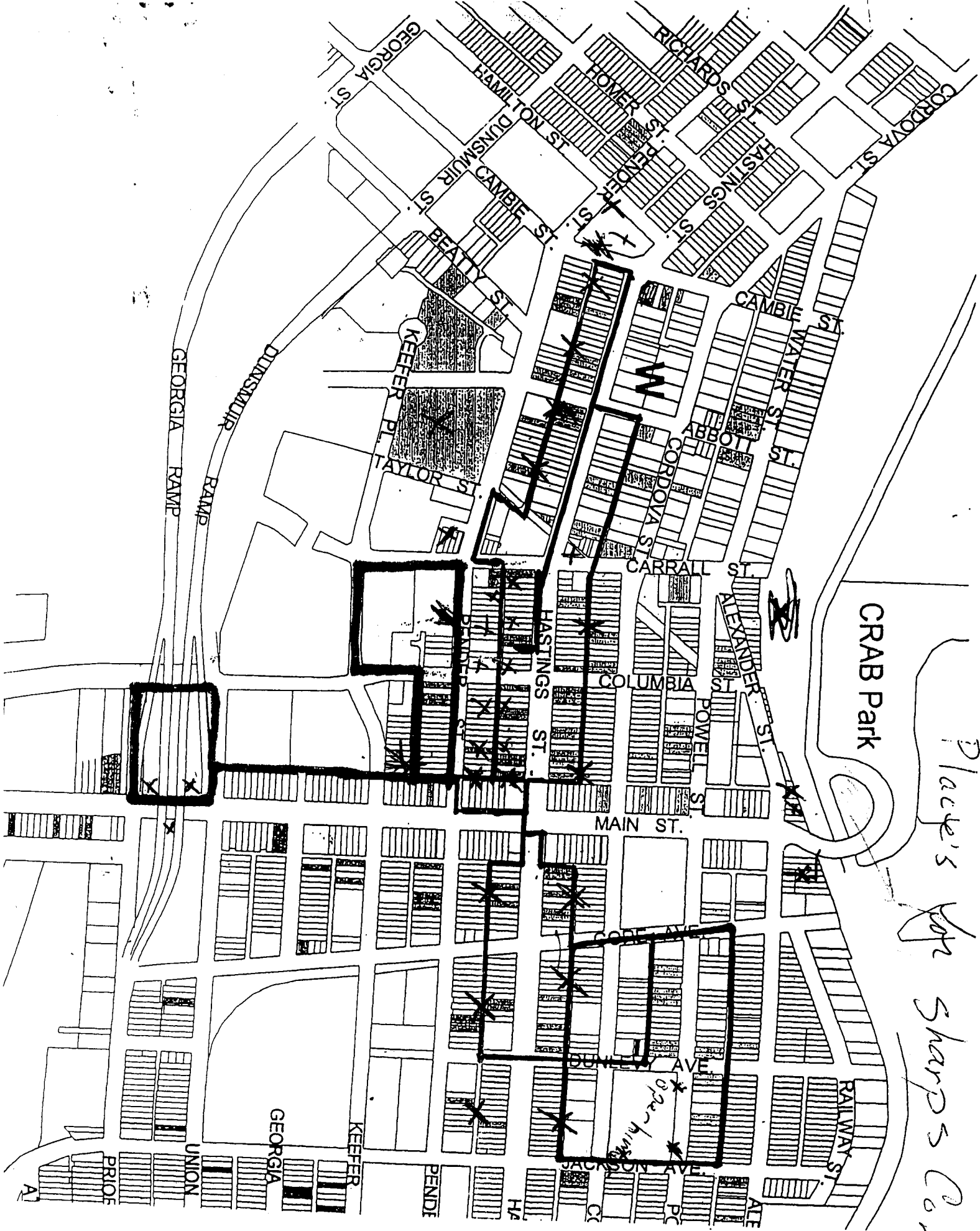
If you feed the need then you should clean the heap. Make a mess clean it up. Every pit stop in all the allies, beneath bridges in any washroom where risk is imitates. To ask is preposterous when you already know but choose to ignore.

S. Raymond

I have been a full time volunteer with VANDU for over a year now and have been in charge of the alley patrol/street nurse program for the last six months. It has become evident that the waste created by drug use in the DTES has gotten to the point of noticibility, for example in the week ending July 15 to 23, VANDU collected over 17,000 used syringes from the alleyways and from local users. Although we try to cover as much of the DTES as we can in order to collect dirty needles there is still many missed and this concerns us. I feel that a Sharpes container program is essential in protecting the health of those who live in the DTES.

Dave Douglas
Senior supervisor, Ally Patrol

More testimonies are available apon request.



CRAB Park

Places for Sharps Con