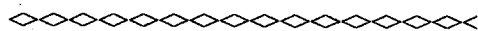


## Strategy Session Against Safe Streets Act

Please join us in strategizing against the Safer Streets legislation and the International Downtown Association's upcoming conference in Vancouver.

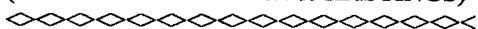


Wednesday, September 1, 2004

6:00pm - 8:00pm

CARNEGIE CENTRE THEATRE

(SW CORNER OF MAIN & HASTINGS)



The Anti-Poverty Committee is inviting groups and individuals to an organizing meeting on September 1st, 2004 at 6:00pm at the Carnegie Centre (Main & Hastings – in the Theatre). The focus of the meeting will be the International Downtown Association meeting in October, but the area covered will extend to the Safe Streets Act, the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association and other proponents of/attempts at social cleansing in Vancouver.

The Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (DVBIA) has made it their business to clean up their jurisdiction. Of course, we all know to get nervous with the upper classes start talking about 'cleaning up,' as it typically means many of us will be getting our heads cracked and/or losing livelihoods. As part of this effort, they have hired former VPD goon Dave Jones as their chief of crime prevention. Dave's absolute disdain for the poor makes him the perfect suit for the job and the DVBIA is glad to have him aboard.

Dave Jones and the DVBIA have pretty clear goals – all of which result in making the Downtown core area unliveable for poor people. The Safer Streets Act is an important part of their strategy. If passed, the SSA will further criminalize poor people by making activities such as squeegeeing and panhandling summary offences. We know that this will translate into red zones and jail time for homeless and street-involved people – simply for doing what they need to do to survive.

The Anti-Poverty Committee is committed to making this agenda uncomfortable for the DVBIA. We crashed their AGM on June 24th as a warning – the real power of disruption will be felt as they are playing host to up to 1000 international visitors this fall at the International Downtown Association's conference.

Dave Jones and the DVBIA have made it their mission to drive poor people into jails and deeper poverty. We have in turn made it our mission to make Downtown Vancouver as embarrassing as possible from October 1st through October 5th of this year while city officials, civic planners and other social cleansers from around the world visit Vancouver for the International Downtown Association's fall meeting.

We know that we are operating in a network of groups that are also planning to attack the DVBIA during this event. The meeting on the 1st is an opportunity for us all to strategize and make sure that we make the most of this exciting occasion. Let's work together to pull the welcome mat out from under their feet! We will show the DVBIA that poor people fight back.