



# Access to Park Board Services without Fear

Park Board Committee Meeting  
November 14, 2016



Seeking Board approval of the proposed “Access to Park Board Services Without Fear” policy, attached as Appendix A to the staff report.

The goal of the proposed policy is to enable residents with uncertain or no immigration status to access Park Board programs and services, and to do so without fear that information about their immigration status will be provided to other institutions or orders of government unless required by law.

## Lucia Vega Jimenez

- identified as “undocumented” when arrested for a transit violation on December 1, 2013;
- transferred to Canada Border Security Agency (CBSA) custody;
- took her own life 20 days later while in custody awaiting deportation.



## Related Policy Development:

- Vancouver Park Board
  - Refugee Support motion
  - Economic Access Policy
- Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
- Fraser Health Authority
- City of Vancouver
- Vancouver Public Library

## Align proposed policy with PB programs and services:

- **review and amend PB procedures, guidelines, and policies**
  - replace the word “citizens” with “residents”, which is a more inclusive term;
- **update PB consent forms** – participation in PB activities does not require proof of medical insurance;
- **inform PB staff & stakeholders** – communicate policy directives & principles; increase awareness that staff are not permitted to disclose personal information.

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the “Access to Park Board Services Without Fear Policy” to support residents of Vancouver with uncertain or no immigration status and who fear detention, psychological or physical harm, or deportation, when accessing Park Board services.

