

CAMPAIGN DOCUMENT / PUBLIC-INTEREST OP-ED

Same-Day Tickets. Same-Day Detox.

A city that can enforce parking quickly can build a faster path to survival.

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Suggested website placement: Homepage quote; DTES Reality; Platform; campaign handout.

The contrast voters understand

The most powerful municipal argument is often the simplest. Vancouver can enforce a parking rule the same day. It can issue a ticket, tow a vehicle, process a payment, and defend a bylaw. But when a person asks for detox, a bed, a bathroom, or a safe place to recover, the system becomes fragmented, delayed, outsourced, conditional, or unavailable.

Same-day tickets. Same-day detox.

That line is not anti-worker, anti-bylaw, or anti-police. It is a performance comparison. The city has already proven that government can act quickly when it chooses to act quickly. The question is why the same urgency is not applied to people at risk of overdose, exposure, violence, and preventable death.

A mayoral policy demand

A mayor cannot personally operate the entire health system, but a mayor can set city priorities, convene provincial partners, publish wait-time dashboards, use city land and facilities, fund pilot capacity, remove local barriers, and stop hiding behind jurisdiction when people are dying in public.

The demand should be concrete: create a Zero-Barrier Detox Access Fund, identify immediate temporary capacity, publish same-day access targets, and track every turn-away. If a city department can track an unpaid parking meter, the public-health system can track an unmet detox request.

What same-day detox means

- A person can ask for help without being sober first.
- The system has a real bed or supervised stabilization pathway available that day.
- Transportation is included.
- Withdrawal management is connected to housing, treatment, income support, and work.
- No one is lost because they lacked ID, a phone, a referral, or the ability to navigate bureaucracy.
- Every refusal or delay is logged and reported publicly.

The Great Scott Pledge

A campaign can make this personal without making it reckless. The pledge should be framed subject to election law, employment law, charitable compliance, and City of Vancouver rules:

My entire mayoral salary - minus \$1,000 per month for basic living costs - will support zero-barrier, on-demand detox capacity on East Hastings. Every person who completes 100 days of treatment should have a pathway to suitable city-supported work.

That pledge matters because it turns campaign language into personal sacrifice. It says the mayor is not merely asking taxpayers to care; he is putting his own salary into the first bed.

The political frame

This issue can unite voters who normally disagree. Conservatives can understand public order and fiscal accountability. Progressives can understand dignity and survival. Families can understand fear. Residents can understand street disorder. People in addiction can understand the difference between being managed and being helped.

The message is simple enough for a sign and serious enough for a policy page: Detox Before Tow Trucks.

Source and verification note

Based on recent campaign slogans and policy proposals: Zero-Barrier Detox Access Fund, same-day detox, Great Scott salary pledge, DTES sanitation, and “Vancouver has a system for cars. Build one for people.”

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