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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**COVID-19 PANDEMIC:
SPVM'S ABSENCE JEOPARDIZING HEALTH AND SAFETY OF
SAINTE-ANNE-DE-BELLEVUE RESIDENTS**

SAINTE-ANNE-DE-BELLEVUE, May 12, 2020 – The City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue denounces the public security double standard and asks that the Montreal Agglomeration Council and the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal (SPVM) immediately review the police deployment plan.

In a resolution adopted by municipal council on Monday, May 11, the City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue asks that the same level of policing service be provided to its residents as is provided to the citizens of the City of Montreal and its boroughs.

The spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 is forcing authorities all over the world to take exceptional health-protection and confinement measures. Due to its unique location, the village of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, and particularly Sainte-Anne Street, is a major tourism destination that attracts visitors from throughout the Greater Montreal area. Because the deployment of the Montreal police force in Sainte-Anne falls under the responsibility of the agglomeration, the City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue does not have police resources to enforce the standards of social distancing imposed by Quebec's Direction de la santé publique (public health department).

“With the arrival of spring and rising temperatures, people are feeling the need to go outside, and Sainte-Anne Street is a popular place for pedestrians and cyclists to gather,” said Paola Hawa, Mayor of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue. “Unfortunately, we have been disappointed to see that people are not respecting basic social distancing measures and are putting the health and safety of others at risk.”

Although the City has repeatedly asked the SPVM's neighbourhood police station (PDQ-1) to enforce social distancing directives, its requests have gone unanswered. The SPVM is the only organization with the necessary authority to act.

According to information obtained by the city, the majority of police officers are being deployed in the City of Montreal and its boroughs, particularly in Lafontaine, Mont-Royal and Jean-Drapeau parks, and are unavailable to enforce physical distancing measures in the demerged cities.

However, the Agglomeration of Montreal's demerged cities, including Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, pay for agglomeration services. For the year 2020, the overall share downloaded onto demerged cities amounts to nearly \$375 million, with the allocation for the SPVM representing 32.39% of this total, or nearly \$121.5 million. In 2020, the City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue's share of these costs is \$6.5 million, \$2.1 million of which is allocated to the SPVM.

Proportionally, the citizens of the agglomeration's demerged cities pay 62% more per person for agglomeration services, primarily for public transit and public security, than citizens of the City of Montreal and its boroughs, in return for a lower level of service.

"The residents of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue are not second-class citizens," concluded Mayor Hawa. "The Montreal Agglomeration Council has a moral duty to provide public security services that are fair to all citizens of the agglomeration. This double standard can no longer be tolerated. We pay more than our share for security services and have the right to insist that the SPVM be present in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue."

Since the outset of the confinement and physical distancing measures, the City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue has introduced measures to limit gatherings in its urban area as well as implemented an awareness campaign aimed at citizens and visitors. However, these prevention and awareness measures are not enough.

It is imperative that the Agglomeration Council and the SPVM review the police deployment plan and permanently provide a level of service to the citizens of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue identical to that given to the citizens of the City of Montréal and its boroughs.

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PROVINCE OF QUÉBEC

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 11, 2020, REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF SAINTE-ANNE-DE-BELLEVUE,
HELD IN CAMERA VIA TECHNOLOGICAL MEDIUM

05-106-20 COVID-19: Resolution to obtain equitable deployment of police services to ensure the safety and security of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue residents in a health emergency crisis situation

- WHEREAS the City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue is one of the 15 demerged cities within the Agglomeration of Montreal in accordance with Order-in-Council 1229-2005 decreed by the Minister of Municipal Affairs on December 8, 2005;
- WHEREAS in accordance with the above-mentioned decree, the City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue has been a reconstituted city since January 1, 2006;
- WHEREAS the *Act Respecting the Exercise of Certain Municipal Powers in Certain Agglomerations* gives the Montreal agglomeration powers relating to common services affecting the entire population of the agglomeration;
- WHEREAS structurally, the City of Montreal permanently holds the majority of votes on council, since it represents 87% of the population of the agglomeration;
- WHEREAS The Service de police de la ville de Montréal (SPVM, Montreal police force) is an agglomeration responsibility under the authority of the Montreal Agglomeration Council;
- WHEREAS the demerged cities pay a share of the agglomeration services;
- WHEREAS the share apportioned to the demerged cities for the year 2020 amounts to nearly \$375 million and the allocation for the SPVM represents 32.39% of this share, or the sum of nearly \$121.5 million;
- WHEREAS the share apportioned to the City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue for the year 2020 amounts to approximately \$6.5 million, of which \$2.1 million is allocated to the SPVM;
- WHEREAS the spread of the global COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the Province of Quebec and particularly the Island of Montreal;
- WHEREAS the Government of Quebec declared a public health emergency throughout the territory of Quebec on March 13, 2020 (Order-in-Council 177-2020);

- WHEREAS the Government of Quebec and the Direction de la santé publique (public health agency) are imposing strict social distancing measures to fight the COVID-19 epidemic;
- WHEREAS the Village of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, and particularly Sainte-Anne Street, is a major tourist destination that attracts visitors from the Greater Montreal area;
- WHEREAS the municipal patrol serving the City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue does not have the necessary authority to enforce the standards of social distancing imposed by the Direction de la santé publique;
- WHEREAS the City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue has implemented a series of measures aimed at limiting gatherings within its urban area, as well as raising awareness among its citizens and visitors;
- WHEREAS the prevention and awareness measures implemented by the City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue are not sufficient to ensure compliance with health measures aimed at fighting the spread of COVID-19 and, consequently, to ensure the health and safety of the city's citizens;
- WHEREAS the City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue has repeatedly advised the Poste de Quartier 1 (PDQ-1, neighbourhood police station) that since mid-March, social distancing measures have not been respected on weekends by pedestrians and cyclists, particularly on Sainte-Anne Street;
- WHEREAS the issue of non-compliance with social distancing measures is also being observed in the cities of Beaconsfield, Pointe-Claire and Dorval along Lakeshore Drive and Beaconsfield Boulevard, served by PDQ-1 (City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue) and PDQ-5 (cities of Pointe-Claire and Dorval);
- WHEREAS according to information obtained from various municipal authorities, the majority of police officers are deployed in the City of Montreal and its boroughs (Parc Lafontaine, Parc du Mont-Royal, Parc Jean-Drapeau) and are therefore not available to enforce the standards of social distancing imposed by the Direction de la santé publique elsewhere on the territory;
- WHEREAS for many years, the demerged cities, including the City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, have stated that their citizens are not receiving the same level of services under the agglomeration responsibility, as those of the City of Montreal and its boroughs, particularly from the SPVM;
- WHEREAS the citizens of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue are not second-class citizens and have the same rights as all citizens of the agglomeration of Montreal and Quebec with respect to their health and safety and that, in a context of a public health crisis, the citizens of the West Island are entitled to the same level of service as the citizens of the City of Montreal and its boroughs;

WHEREAS proportionally, the citizens of the demerged cities paid 62% more than the citizens of City of Montreal and its boroughs for agglomeration services for a level of service inferior to that of the citizens of the City of Montreal and its boroughs;

THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue ask the Agglomeration Council, and the Service de Police de la Ville de Montréal, to permanently end this double standard with regard to the level of service provided by the SPVM to the citizens of the City of Montreal and its boroughs, compared to the service provided to citizens of the demerged cities, and that this inequity, which has persisted since 2006, stop;

BE IT RESOLVED that the SPVM review its police personnel deployment plan and permanently provide the same level of service to the citizens of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue as it does to the citizens of the City of Montréal and its boroughs;

BE IT RESOLVED that during this period of global pandemic, the SPVM provide the level of service that the citizens of the City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue are entitled to obtain, taking into account that the City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue annually pays its share for agglomeration services;

BE IT RESOLVED that the SPVM enforce social distancing measures on the territory of the City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue as it does on the territory of the City of Montreal and its boroughs;

BE IT RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to Ms. Andrée Laforest, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, to Ms. Chantal Rouleau, Minister Responsible for the Metropolis and the Montréal Region, to the Executive Committee of the City of Montreal and to all demerged cities in the Montreal agglomeration.

Adopted.

TRUE COPY

Me Catherine Adam, OMA
Clerk
City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue