

**CITY COUNCIL**

## Promoter throws in the towel

New Westminster was looking into request to hold boxing tournament – but applicant pulls his paperwork

BY THERESA MCMANUS REPORTER  
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A proposed boxing tournament in the Royal City has been knocked out before getting into the ring.

After receiving a request for the city's support in holding a boxing event, council directed staff to report back on city policies and practices related to boxing events. City council received a report Monday about proposed boxing regulations for the city.

"There is further information since the report," Keith Coueffin, the city's manager of licensing and integrated services, told *The Record* Tuesday. "The promoter has withdrawn their application."

Punch Out Promotions had submitted a business licence application to hold an amateur boxing tournament in July at the New Westminster Armoury. The applicant had proposed to charge an admission fee, have a live band providing entertainment, to get a licence to serve liquor and to hold boxing contests that comply with Boxing B.C.'s guidelines.

Staff and police were reviewing the application, and the Department of National Defence, which owns the venue, was being consulted about whether it would permit the event.

A staff report indicates that amateur events can take place in New Westminster but must comply with the Criminal Code, which means that contestants can't be paid.

"It is unlikely the city will receive proposals for professional boxing matches as the city does not have an athletic commission," said the report. "Amateur boxing events may take place."

If a professional promoter wants to host an event in New Westminster, he would be required to apply for a business licence.

That application would be reviewed by city and police staff to ensure it doesn't create policing or community concerns and complies with all city regulations.

## MAYOR THANKS DEVELOPERS FOR MAKING IT HAPPEN



Photos by Larry Wright/THE RECORD

**Safe crossing:** Jennifer Rhyne and mother-in-law Lynn Rhyne walk with 14-month-old Ava over the new pedestrian overpass for the first time.

## Victoria Hill overpass is now open

BY THERESA MCMANUS REPORTER  
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Pedestrians now have a safe way of crossing McBride Boulevard from Victoria Hill to Queen's Park.

The pedestrian overpass was contributed and built by Onni Group as part of its agreement to develop Victoria Hill on the former Woodlands property across from Queen's Park.

"This new overpass is a tremendous addition to the Victoria Hill development and will facilitate safe crossing of McBride Boulevard between the neighbourhood and Queen's Park for all residents of the city," said Mayor Wayne Wright as he cut the ribbon opening the overpass with children from KIDS daycare located in Victoria Hill. "On behalf of the City of New Westminster, I'd like to thank Onni Group for working with us to make this happen."

The \$2-million structure has been under construction since early this year.

It connects the sidewalk at the intersection of Memorial Drive and McBride Boulevard with the Millennium Trail, which winds through Queen's Park.

"With the McBride Boulevard overpass,



**Safety:** The new overpass gives pedestrians a way to cross McBride Boulevard.

we ensure a safer future for community members and increased access to Queen's Park amenities," said Beau Jarvis, Onni's vice-president of development. "In addition to providing Victoria Hill residents with an enhanced lifestyle, it is our hope to provide benefit to the greater community as a whole."

The pedestrian overpass was initially expected to be completed in 2007, after Onni made its original design submission in December 2005.

It was then slated to be completed by July 2009, but Onni asked city council to extend the timeline for construction of

the overpass as a result of the "significant turn" in the real estate market.

That request prompted nearly 200 people to sign a petition supporting immediate construction of the overpass. Victoria Hill residents told city council that the McBride Boulevard/Royal Avenue intersection is too dangerous for pedestrians.

Further along McBride Boulevard, a pedestrian and a motorcyclist died after a tragic collision on McBride Boulevard in June 2008.

A local teen attempted to cross McBride Boulevard, not far from her home, when she was hit by a motorcyclist.

## VIEWES

**Last week's question**

Do you think there should be campaign spending limits?

**YES 95.8% NO 4.2%**

**This week's question**

Do you have a smoke detector installed in your home?

**Vote at:** www.royalcityrecord.com

## INSIDE

- 6 Opinion
- 11 Business
- 14 Around Town
- 15 Postcards
- 17 Class Act
- 18 Healthwise
- 19 Lively City
- 23 Arts Calendar
- 27 Sports
- 32 Classifieds

## FLYERS

- The Bay\*
  - Visions\*
  - Shoppers\*
  - M&M Meats\*
  - SportChek\*
  - Rona\*
  - Sport Mart\*
  - Mark's\*
  - Home Depot\*
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Theresa McManus's Blog

A blog about news that doesn't always fit in print

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