

Copenhagen's Lord Mayor: Don't buy weed in Pusher Street

After the latest killing at Christiania, Copenhagen's Lord Mayor Sophie Hæstorp Andersen (S) is now sending an appeal to foreign visitors and students.

A 30-year-old man was shot and killed on the 26th of August at Christiania. Four other people were hit. Copenhagen Police assesses that this is a result of an ongoing conflict between Hells Angels and the banned street gang Loyal to Familia.

The cynical murder led the residents of Fristaden Christiania to make a historic decision: Pusher Street must be closed.

Lord Mayor Sophie Hæstorp Andersen supports the decision of the residents. And that is why she is now sending an appeal to more than the half a million visitors who yearly make Fristaden Christiania one of Copenhagen's biggest tourist attractions.

"The spiral of violence at Christiania is deeply worrying. Therefore, I would like to encourage not only Copenhageners, but also the hundreds of thousands of visiting tourists and the many new foreign students who have just moved to Copenhagen to stay away and refrain from buying weed or other drugs at Pusher Street. Stop supporting the cynical gangs!" Sophie Hæstorp Andersen says.

"It may seem innocent to buy weed for a festive night out but think about the fact that your money ends up in the pockets of criminal gangs who shoot in our streets and put innocent people in danger," says the Lord Mayor.

Sophie Hæstorp Andersen hopes that she can help start an anti-Pusher Street movement in civil society.

"It is important that the residents of Christiania, who live with the violence and insecurity every single day, experience that the rest of the city – including visitors from abroad – support the boycotting of Pusher Street. I sincerely hope that any potential buyer will think twice before supporting the criminal gangs and bikers in Pusher Street. There is room for a twisted and alternative Christiania in Copenhagen, but Christiania's future must be without the violent and organized crime," emphasizes Sophie Hæstorp Andersen.

The Municipality of Copenhagen is currently working together with the Copenhagen Police, the Ministry of Justice, Fonden Christiania and the residents of Christiania on a comprehensive plan to close Pusher Street and at the same time ensure that drug sales and violence won't spread to other areas in Copenhagen.

"If it had been easy to close Pusher Street permanently without moving the problems to another area in Copenhagen, it would undoubtedly have happened during the last 50 years. But there is no quick fix. On the other hand, there is a historic agreement and willingness among all stakeholders at and around Christiania to say: Enough is enough."