

4. Homeless Action Plan

MOVER: Mayor Gregor Robertson

SECONDER: Councillor Kerry Jang

WHEREAS ending street homelessness in Vancouver by 2015 is a key goal of the Mayor and Council;

WHEREAS the City of Vancouver staff have increased capacity and services to house and serve homeless individuals to unprecedented levels in the past year;

WHEREAS the 2008 regional homeless count indicated that 2000 housing units are required to house street homeless in Vancouver;

WHEREAS Vancouver's street homeless population is diverse, and individuals often suffer from concurrent mental health, addictions and other medical issues which require services, in addition to poverty, and abuse;

WHEREAS the mental health plan for Vancouver has led to the adoption of an integrated urban health approach to fostering community capacity to address these interrelated issues;

WHEREAS Vancouver's street homeless require a broad continuum of supportive housing options that include shelters, interim housing, permanent housing, subsidized rental housing, and affordable market rental and strata housing;

WHEREAS some of these options, such as purpose-built supportive housing will take significant resources and time (upwards of 3-5 years) from ground breaking until being ready for occupancy;

WHEREAS the current economic climate has delayed a number of planned initiatives under various agreements negotiated with the Province;

WHEREAS even within the context of those plans, there will remain a significant gap in available housing by 2015;

AND WHEREAS the City's Homeless Action Plan predates the current economic crisis and the changing demographics of street homeless in the past decade;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT staff be directed to revisit the Homeless Action Plan and return to Council by the end of April 2010 with a revised action plan, that:

- Presents up-to-date Vancouver specific information on the number of street homeless individuals from a count to be completed in March, 2010;
- Addresses the constraints of the changing economic climate;

- Outlines options for interim solutions for street homelessness;
- Provides realistic options to achieve the goal of ending street homelessness in Vancouver by 2015;
- Provides options for optimizing City real estate and assets that can strategically leverage funding from other orders of government, private donors and investors for solutions for street homelessness;
- Creates a plan for an annual progress report card on the state of street homelessness to the public that includes results of an annual count and relevant metrics;
- Provides options for encouraging citizen engagement in supporting homeless individuals by expanding such initiatives as Homeless Action Week, Homeless Connect events and the Mayor's Multi Faith Advisory Group on Homelessness;
- Ensures that bylaws, regulations and enforcement policies that relate to individuals who are street homeless provide for their maximum safety and are in alignment with current statutes and relevant case law; and
- Provides options for optimizing social development grants to foster and support local community-based solutions tailored to ending street homelessness within individual neighbourhoods.

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