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**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"  
**CC:** "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"  
**Date:** 4/28/2020 6:24:04 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Response to Councillor Question re. DTES Staffing for VFRS

Good Evening Mayor and Council

Please find below a response from Darrell to the question raised today at Council regarding additional VFRS staff in Firehall 2.

Best  
Sadhu

As supported by Council, adding VFRS resources to mitigate and respond to risk in the DTES is a critical priority.

Covid-19 has led to delays in staffing Medic 2. Medic 2, stationed in the DTES, was communicated to Council as the highest priority to be added to the VFRS response profile in 2020.

Reasons for the delay

VFRS has hired 46 new staff this year. VFRS hires to fill vacant positions as well as new positions. The budget approval last year added 30 new firefighter positions to VFRS. So far, the 46 firefighters hired filled 25 vacant positions and 21 of the 30 approved new positions. Covid has delayed further recruitment and hiring processes.

Staff are hired in classes of up to 24 firefighters. These classes undergo a comprehensive orientation and training program to prepare them for a safe, effective start to their operational careers. Due to the coronavirus outbreak, the second class (22 firefighters as two made alternative career choice) has not properly completed all aspects of their training. The final steps of their training will be completed as soon as it can be done safely in a group learning environment.

In addition, physical distancing measures required for staff safety combined with the physical realities of Hall 2 led to VFRS making the decision to delay staffing the Medic until Public Health measures were no longer necessary.

Summary:

VFRS will staff Medic 2 as soon as safe physical distancing measures allow. The current goal is to staff Medic 2 on June 19<sup>th</sup>. The staff required for Medic 2 have been hired. The final date for activating Medic 2 will be determined by surveillance of the ongoing coronavirus outbreak.

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Pronouns: he, him, his



*The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.*