

From: "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
"Collens, Michelle" <Michelle.Collens@vancouver.ca>

Date: 6/12/2020 7:46:23 AM

Subject: Memo: Update on Canucks NHL Hub City Proposal

Attachments: CMO - Memo re Update on Canucks NHL Hub City Proposal - 2020.06.11.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo regarding an Update on the Canucks NHL Hub City Proposal.

- ☐ The NHL released the Return to Play Plan, which outlines the format of the completion of the 2019-20 season.
- ☐ On June 10, the Province confirmed its support for the Canucks to bid as one of the NHL Hub Cities.
- ☐ Staff will continue to work with CSE and other partners on next steps.

Should you have any questions, please contact Michelle Collens at Michelle.Collens@vancouver.ca.

Best,
Sadhu

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston | City Manager
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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.

MEMORANDUM

June 11, 2020

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Rena Kendall-Craden, Civic Engagement and Communications Director
Rosemary Hagiwara, Acting City Clerk
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office
Michelle Collens, Manager, Sport Hosting Vancouver

FROM: Sadhu A. Johnston
City Manager

SUBJECT: Update on Canucks NHL Hub City Proposal

Dear Mayor and Council,

Further to the memo shared on May 7, 2020, the following is an update on the Canucks Sports and Entertainment (CSE) bid to host remaining 2019-20 NHL season games in Vancouver – and become one of the 'NHL Hub Cities.'

Over the past month, our Sport Hosting Vancouver team has been working closely with CSE to support this competitive bidding process. New developments have included: the NHL's release of the Return to Play Plan, outlining the format in which the 2019-20 season will be completed, the continued development of proposed procedures and acceptable operational guidelines in collaboration with local health authorities, and the Government of British Columbia's support for the Vancouver Canucks proposal.

CSE has committed that the health and safety of the public and everyone involved is paramount and hosting NHL games must and will not reduce public access to tests or put strain on public health resources. The operations will carefully follow and be in compliance with local Provincial Health Officer and government guidelines.

NHL Return to Play Plan

On May 26, 2020, the National Hockey League announced a Return to Play Plan for the 2019-20 season, highlighted by a modified competition format in which 24 teams (the top 12 teams in each Conference on the basis of points percentage at the pause of the season on March 11, 2020) will return to play to vie for the Stanley Cup at two 'NHL Hub Cities' beginning later this

summer. It was noted that the two 'NHL Hub Cities' would be selected from among the following shortlist:

1. Chicago, IL
2. Columbus, OH
3. Dallas, TX
4. Edmonton, AB, Canada
5. Las Vegas, NV
6. Los Angeles, CA
7. Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN
8. Pittsburgh, PA
9. Toronto, ON, Canada
10. Vancouver, BC, Canada

The NHL Return the Play Plan also outlined that each Conference would be assigned a 'NHL Hub City' with secure hotels, arena, practice facilities and in-market transportation. Teams will be limited to approximately 50 personnel in the hub city with only a small number of support staff permitted to enter the event areas.

Estimated economic impacts

With the public announcement of the format for the remainder of the season and playoffs, we are now able to estimate the impacts of hosting. If Vancouver were able to take advantage of the full opportunity to host the NHL as a hub city in the restart plan (through the awarding of the Stanley Cup), it is estimated that the following economic impacts would be felt in the City:

- \$12.1M in estimated direct visitor spending
- \$19.5M in estimated total visitor spending
- Over 120 full-time jobs supported
- Over 15,000 hotel room nights generated

Provincial approval

On June 10, 2020, the Province confirmed its support for the Vancouver Canucks bid to host as one of the NHL Hub Cities. Premier John Horgan submitted a letter confirming the Government of British Columbia's support for the NHL Hub City proposal for Vancouver to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, citing B.C.'s approval of the modified quarantine regime "that would involve isolation bubbles in accommodations and arenas, secure transport and testing protocols."

Additionally, Dr. Bonnie Henry submitted a letter to the President of the Public Health Agency of Canada and confirmed that she is supportive of the Vancouver Canucks plan as proposed to the Province.

Next steps

Our Sport Hosting Vancouver team will continue to work closely with CSE and other partners to establish acceptable parameters and required approvals and next steps for this event to move forward. This continues to be a competitive bid process lead by the NHL.

Additionally, staff are working on proposals that demonstrate why Vancouver would be the best destination to host teams for such long period of time. Vancouver is a desirable destination given the Province's favourable response to the COVID-19 pandemic, our hosting infrastructure and our world-class destination offerings including outdoor activities and attractions featured prominently within the summer months that can be contained within the approved isolation bubble.

While the economic benefits are extremely positive, the opportunity to host the return of the NHL has been focused on bringing pride and a unifying spark back to Vancouver.

The City of Vancouver is supportive of this event concept as it has received the appropriate approvals from Provincial Government Officials.

There is not a definite timeline for a decision from the NHL.

If you have any further questions, please contact Michelle Collens
(michelle.collens@vancouver.ca)

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sadhu A. Johnston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Sadhu A. Johnston
City Manager

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