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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
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Date: 7/3/2020 3:48:16 PM
Subject: DTES Street Market Update

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Dear Mayor and Council,

Please find below an update from staff regarding the restart of the DTES Street Market at 58 West Hastings:

Background

The DTES Street Market ("Market") is operated by the Vancouver Community Network (VCN) and provides safe, low-barrier vending, employment and income generation opportunities for residents of the DTES. The Market is supported by the City's Community Economic Development Strategy and DTES Plan.

Market Location: The long-term, permanent site for the Market is 501 Powell Street, a site currently home to Temporary Modular Housing operated by Atira. Prior to COVID-19, the Market had been operating temporarily at 62 E Hastings, as well as 58 West Hastings. Both sites are scheduled for redevelopment in 2020, so are temporary in nature. As of April 2020, 62 East Hastings has solely been utilized as temporary outdoor safe injection space in response to Covid-19, and no longer used for Market space. Given 501 Powell Street use as Temporary Modular Housing, and the very short term nature of 58 West Hastings, staff have been searching for the past several months for a new location for the Market to operate, ideally to coincide with timing of the 58 West Hastings redevelopment.

COVID-19 Market Status Update

- When COVID-19 response began in Vancouver, the Market downscaled operations at 62 East Hastings and 58 West Hastings to align with the Provincial Health Officer maximum gathering numbers and public health protocols, including hand washing and physical distancing.
- The City requested VCN close Market operations in the last week of March 2020. Redeployed market peer managers have been critical in the City's EOC COVID-19 response initiatives, including supporting physical distancing during Cheque Week and the monitoring of portapotties for overdose and safety risk.
- A lack of public space negatively impacts the ability to physically distance in the DTES, and perpetuates health and safety inequities for DTES residents. In the 100-100 Block of Hastings Street alone, 400-500 people typically access sidewalk space for connecting with community, vending, and accessing other basic needs. Construction adjacent to Pigeon Park and the closure of the Market have further restricted access to space.
- As the City's EOC plans for heat response over the summer, and the City enters into Phase 3 of recovery planning, parklets have been introduced at 5 locations in the DTES to support the reopening of critical services. Parks (Raycam, MacLean and Strathcona) will prioritize summer camps for at risk children and youth, further restricting access for overall populations due to physical distancing continuing. In addition, 62 E Hastings is currently being utilized as an outdoor OPS and washroom trailer site to provide access to critical services.
- 58 W Hastings has been identified as a key site to ensure access to COVID-19 public health initiatives (physical distancing, access to hygiene, information), respite, EOC heat response, and ongoing monitoring for overdose prevention in the context of dual public health emergencies. In addition, as the City begins Phase 3 of recovery, opening back up safe income generation opportunities for disproportionately impacted residents is a priority, mitigating clustering of people on the sidewalk in unmanaged vending

locations.

- VCN began piloting an adapted Market operational model while cleaning the site last week. The adapted model will include a peer managed heat response and respite site for DTES residents. VCH/Infection Control completed a site walk-through of the operations on June 16, 2020 and satisfied public health requirements.

Next Steps

1. Further assessment and ongoing monitoring of the operational program will continue through the summer and evaluated in September.
2. Staff continue to search for space for relocation of the Market with the goal of finding space to coincide with the timing of the redevelopment of 58 West Hastings in 2020; however it is possible that we may not have identified a relocation site by the time the 58 W Hastings site is deployed for construction. Staff will be considering contingency plans in the event a new site is not identified.

If you have any further questions, please contact ACCS General Manager, Sandra Singh
Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca.

Best,
Sadhu

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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.