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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
Date: 7/9/2021 8:12:27 AM
Subject: Heat emergency - review of CoV response

Good morning Mayor and Council,

As you know, the province experienced an unprecedented extreme heat event over the past two weeks. This was the first-ever heat event for which an Extreme Heat Alert was issued by Vancouver Coastal Health, initiating the second level of our extreme heat response plans.

While staff from across the organization ensured our response measures were in place ahead of and throughout the event, initial reports from the BC Coroner indicate a high number of fatalities and we saw a significant strain on our first responders.

As a standard practice following the de-activation of our response plans, VEMA conducts an after-action review (AAR) with departments and agencies involved. Given the severity of this event, we will be conducting this review in two phases:

Phase 1 – Preliminary Review and Immediate Actions

- The first phase of this review has started and will take place over the next two-to-three weeks. It will include input from all departments involved in the response, Vancouver Coastal Health, Environment Canada, Emergency Management BC, and Health Emergency Management BC.
- The focus of this phase is make any immediate adjustments to our response plan and identify additional response measures that can be implemented for additional extreme heat events this summer to decrease the likelihood of heat-related impacts and deaths in Vancouver.

Phase 2 – In-depth assessment

- Phase 2 will take place once the more detailed assessments have been completed by the BC Coroner Service and additional data analyzed from our First Responders and community partners. This is expected sometime this fall.
- VEMA will work with our partners across the City and in the community, health, and external organizations to better understand who was most impacted, what additional measures can be implemented to mitigate those impacts (focusing on deaths and extreme illness), and how we can best deliver those measures.
- The focus of this phase is to make data-driven adjustments to our plan for future extreme heat events and may include more significant changes to our response plans and implementation partners.

We will keep Council informed of the outcomes at each stage of this review.

In addition to planning for extreme heat response, staff continue to work on climate change adaptation efforts coordinated by our Sustainability team. Together, the adaptation and response planning streams of work aim to reduce the overall risk of extreme weather events to Vancouver now and in the future.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Best,
Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̍əm (Musqueam), Sḥwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwəta+ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.