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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
Date: 9/13/2021 6:28:36 PM
Subject: Update: 205 Kingsway

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to share the following update in the context of several questions and ongoing community interest in the opening of 205 Kingsway as supportive housing.

Staff have been actively engaging with neighbours, the BIA and other stakeholders on the opening of 205 Kingsway. What follows is a brief summary of activities to date, including two meetings held with neighbours at the end of August. At the same time, the lease has been finalized and tenancing will begin in the next few weeks. As such, staff are also working with BC Housing, Coast and Vancouver Coastal Health, to ensure tenants are supported in the transition to their new homes.

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Neighbour Meetings – Summary

Dates: August 30 & 31

Project Team attendees:

- ☐ COV: Celine Mauboules, Andrea Jung, Jeremy McElroy
- ☐ BCH: Betty Lepps, Regional Director, Cluny MacPherson Supportive Housing Advisor
- ☐ Coast Mental Health: Tracy Rapanos, Community Services Director, and Cynthia Leighton, Program Manager
- ☐ Diana Bulley ☐Ideaspace ☐Meeting Facilitator

Community attendees:

Approx. 80 stakeholders were offered a meeting and 20 in total attended over the 2 sessions.

The first meeting was attended by an organized group of neighbours, with some vocally opposed to the project. The second meeting was attended by neighbours who generally supported the project and had questions and some concerns. Staff also received letters of support from residents but who did not attend the meeting.

The meetings were roughly 90 minutes and began with a brief presentation by COV and Coast (the operator of 205 Kingsway) followed by discussion. The presentation included background about the project, description of Supportive Housing and information about Coast.

Attendees expressed dissatisfaction with the level of community consultation, the proximity of the Best Western to the Biltmore, and increases in unsheltered homelessness and discarded needles in the community in general. Additionally, there were concerns that the supports offered at the site should be adequate to address the needs of tenants. The majority of the 20 attendees across the two meetings supported the provision of housing for people experiencing homelessness. Attendees were also interested in the Community Advisory Committee process and volunteer opportunities with Coast.

Background 205 Kingsway - Community Engagement Activities

April

- ☐ Postcard announcing the project – delivered to 2 block radius
- ☐ Email to stakeholders announcing the project
- ☐ Ongoing – responding to feedback received from public via email and phone conversations
- ☐ COV website update with project information

June

- ☐ Email update to stakeholders announcing the operator
- ☐ Ongoing – responding to feedback received from public via email and phone conversations

August

- ☐ Email update to stakeholders offering to meet and discuss the project
- ☐ 2 virtual neighbourhood meetings (summary below)
- ☐ Ongoing – responding to feedback received from public via email and phone conversations

September

- ☐ Additional one-on-one virtual meeting with stakeholders (Block Watch rep, Community Centre)
- ☐ Meeting with Mount Pleasant BIA
- ☐ CAC development and implementation – first meeting late September

The City's website is also being updated with Coast's contact information and staff will continue to respond to feedback received from public via email and phone conversations.

Next Steps

Staff will be working with the BIA and businesses on a number of initiatives to address concerns expressed about the broader changes being experienced along this stretch of Kingsway and in the neighbourhood. The type of measures contemplated include increased outreach by the City's Homelessness Services team, increased street cleaning, peer based micro-cleaning initiatives, as well as other measures to address neighbourhood concerns. Staff will update Council as plans solidify.

We can also confirm that management from Coast and RainCity (the operator of the Biltmore) have already been meeting to establish lines of communication and collaboration should any issue arise. In response to concerns that have been raised in relation to the Biltmore, staff will also be following up with RainCity to explore options to improve the public realm at the corner of Kingsway and 12th where tenants and visitors tend to congregate. Staff will update Council as we identify next steps.

If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact me or Sandra Singh. Finally, you will be receiving via separate email an invitation for a pre-opening Council tour of 205 Kingsway with Coast. I hope you are able to attend.

Best,
Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.