

From: "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
Date: 9/29/2020 8:37:11 AM
Subject: Upcoming NR - new WISH shelter

Dear Mayor and Council,

An emergency shelter for women who are in street-based sex work opens in the DTES today (September 29, 2020). Run by WISH Drop-In Centre Society and funded by BC Housing, the City is providing the space at 340 Alexander Street for a nominal rent. A permanent shelter was approved by Council in 2019 but with site constraints, the current shelter is temporary. City staff will continue to work with WISH and BC Housing on longer-term plans for permanent solutions to the needs of women in street based sex work.

The temporary shelter will provide beds for 23 self-identifying sex working women (cis, trans and two-spirit) along with hot showers, laundry and meals. Some of the beds will be allocated to sex workers seeking short-term respite spaces, while the majority of the beds will be with a longer-term focus, while permanent housing solutions are found.

A news release will be shared with media on the opening this morning.

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.