

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
"Singh, Sandra" <Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca>
Date: 10/6/2020 9:22:07 AM
Subject: Report 6 - Leases for SWAN and Rain City at 1101 Seymour St.

Good morning Mayor and Council,

As Dr. Daly is not available to speak to the above-referenced report today, she has asked me to convey the following message regarding the proposed overdose prevention site.

Best,
Paul

From: Daly, Patty [VCH] [mailto:Patricia.Daly@vch.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, October 06, 2020 9:00 AM
To: Mochrie, Paul <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
Cc: VanVeen, Chris [VCH] <chris.vanveen@vch.ca>; Bell, Erika [VCH] <Erika.Bell@vch.ca>
Subject: Statement for Mayor and Council
Importance: High

Hi Paul – can you please forward this statement to Mayor and Council:

Unfortunately I am not able to attend today's council meeting. However, I would like to voice strong support for the staff recommendation to provide the RainCity Housing and Support Society with a lease to operate an overdose prevention site at 1101 Seymour Street.

We are still in the midst of two public health emergencies: the opioid overdose emergency and the COVID-19 pandemic. For people living with substance use disorder in Vancouver using illegal substances, the risk of overdose death is greater than their risk of severe COVID-19. The Vancouver Police Department reported that there were 14 suspected overdose deaths in Vancouver last week, the second-highest weekly total since City staff started tracking VPD-reported deaths in 2016. The city centre has consistently seen the second highest number of overdose deaths in our region after the downtown eastside (DTES). Historically people at risk of overdose who live downtown have had few options for supervised consumption, often being forced to use alone, in parks or alleyways, or to travel to the DTES to visit Insite. The new overdose prevention site that is being proposed for 1101 Seymour St will provide an important, life-saving opportunity for people to use their drugs in a safe environment. It will also offer opportunities for access to treatments and supports when through referrals to our VCH Overdose Outreach Team.

Overdose Prevention Sites operate under a provincial ministerial order, which permits their operation without exemption under section 56.1 of the federal Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. Due to the nature of the emergency, which requires public health to move quickly to establish services, the order does not require community consultation. However, we have full confidence in RainCity as a service provider, and our staff will work closely with stakeholders to ensure impacts to the surrounding community are minimal.

Analysis from the BC Centre for Disease Control clearly demonstrates that overdose prevention services have saved lives, and I would remind Mayor and Council that they are an essential component of the work required to address the opioid overdose crisis as outlined in my Chief Medical Health Officer Report of 2018 (<http://www.vch.ca/Documents/CMHO-report.pdf>).

Thank you for your ongoing support in addressing the opioid overdose emergency in Vancouver.

Sincerely,

Patricia Daly, MD, FRCPC

Vice-President, Public Health & Chief Medical Health Officer

Vancouver Coastal Health

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Erika Bell

Executive Assistant

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I acknowledge that my place of work lies on the unceded traditional homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

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