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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL" <CCDTMACDL@vancouver.ca>
Date: 4/22/2016 4:09:46 PM
Subject: Housing Staff Update

Dear Mayor and Council,

With Council's increased emphasis on affordable housing, in 2015 our Chief Housing Officer agreed to take-on the responsibility of directing the housing policy and projects staff. This was particularly timely given the transitions within the Community Services leadership. I would like to personally thank Mukhtar Latif for his willingness to take on this additional scope on top of running VAHA and providing housing policy oversight.

With new leadership now in place with Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas serving as our GM of Community Services (CS), we'll be transitioning the Housing Policy and Projects team back under the oversight of CS. Moving forward, Abi Bond, the Director of Housing Policy and Projects will report to Kathleen.

Moving the day-to-day housing policy and projects work back to CS aligns well with the group's work around homelessness and operations of City Housing facilities and will position the group to oversee the upcoming housing refresh in 2016.

This transition will also enable Mukhtar to focus on achieving Council's objectives to build affordable housing on city land through VAHA, which has very aggressive targets in the years ahead. In addition to his role as the CEO of VAHA, Mukhtar will maintain the title as Chief Housing Officer (CHO) and will help to shape housing policy as a member of a newly formed CMT Housing Steering Committee that will include Mukhtar Latif, Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas, Patrice Impey, Bill Aujla, Jane Pickering, Francie Connell and me. The Steering Committee will provide direction on housing and homelessness programs, initiatives and work plan priorities.

These changes support your increased focus on solving housing affordability in Vancouver and will support the increased pressures of delivering on this ambitious agenda. I expect it will also set us up for success as we undertake the refresh of the City's current Housing and Homelessness Strategy.

The recent commitment from both the federal and provincial governments' 2016 budget to increase funding for affordable housing and homelessness programs is very encouraging and reinforces the urgency to address housing needs in Vancouver.

Thank you for your continued support. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best
Sadhu Johnston

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