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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
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Date: 2/6/2019 5:39:55 PM

Subject: Donation Bins

Attachments: 20190206150944221.pdf

Good afternoon Mayor and Council,

Please find attached a brief update on our actions in response to Council's January 15, 2019 motion that addressed the safety risks associated with clothing donation bins. The key points are as follows:

- ☐ We understand that all donation bins have been removed from City-owned property and rights-of-way.
- ☐ We have contacted donation bin operators and requested that they remove or seal bins on private property that present a safety risk. Several operators have responded with an assertion that the design of their bins do not present the specific hazards that have caused previous fatal injuries.
- ☐ We are examining the City's authority to regulate bins on private property and the parameters of a framework that would address safety risks.

We will keep Council apprised of our continuing work on this issue. However, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns at this point.

Best,
Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

MEMORANDUM

February 6, 2019

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Rena Kendall-Craden, Civic Engagement and Communications Director
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Malcolm Bromley, GM, Parks & Recreation
Francie Connell, Director & City Solicitor, Legal Services
Jerry Dobrovolny, GM, Engineering Services

FROM: Paul Mochrie
Deputy City Manager

SUBJECT: Donation Bins

Further to the motion adopted by Council on January 15, 2019 regarding the public safety risks associated with clothing donation bins, I am writing to provide a brief update on actions taken to date to address this issue.

I can confirm that donation bin operators have been directed to remove all bins from City rights-of-way and other City-owned property. With the exception of bins located on the premises of the Vancouver Zero Waste Centre at 8588 Yukon St. and overseen by City staff at that location, we are not aware of any bins remaining on City property at this time. We also understand that all donation bins have been removed from property under the jurisdiction of the Park Board.

In accordance with Council's direction, we have also contacted each of the donation bin operators to request that they take immediate action to remove or seal bins located on private property that present a risk to public safety. Several bin operators responded with assertions that their bins do not present such a risk insofar as the bin designs preclude people from accessing the bin (e.g. book donation bins) and/or do not include hinged components or pinch points such as have been identified as the causal factor in fatal injuries.

Staff are currently examining the City's jurisdiction to regulate donation bins on private property and the details of a regulatory framework to ensure that such bins do not pose a risk to public safety. The outcome of that analysis will be reported back to Council.

Staff are also supporting the preparation of correspondence to Metro and the Minister of Social Services and Poverty Reduction, as well as the development of resolutions for LGMA and UBCM.

Regarding alternative avenues for textile recycling, as indicated above, residents can drop off clothing at the Zero Waste Centre during regular operating hours. Additionally, our Solid Waste division will be operating 11 community zero waste drop-off events around the City this year and will accept textiles at those events. We also understand there are six charities presently offering programs for clothing pick-up directly from residents, as well as several thrift stores that accept clothing donations.

We will provide Council with further updates as this work advances. In the interim, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.



Paul Mochrie
Deputy City Manager

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