

File No. 04-1000-20-2019-511

September 10, 2019

s.22(1)

Dear s.22(1)

Re: **Request for Access to Records under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (The "Act")**

Further to our email dated August 9, 2019 regarding your request for information with respect to:

1. **Record showing expenditures of money collected through the Vacancy Tax, specifically:**
 - a. **Names of organizations/corporations to which payments were made, and amounts paid to each;**
 - b. **Amounts paid to individual renters facing eviction;**
 - c. **Amounts paid for renter protection; and**
 - d. **Amounts paid to match empty/underutilized homes and rooms with renters looking for housing.**

Date Range: April 1, 2018 to August 9, 2019.

2. **Revenue, capital and operating expenses for the Vacancy Tax, including:**
 - a. **Records indicating revenue collected from the vacancy tax for 2017 and 2018;**
 - b. **Any vacancy tax accounts receivable for 2017 and 2018;**
 - c. **Number of properties which have been determined to be liable for the vacancy tax for 2017 and 2018; and**
 - d. **Records indicating projected revenue and capital and operating costs related to the vacancy tax administration for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023.**

Part 1

For part 1a of your request, all responsive records are attached.

For parts b, c, and d of your request:

- On June 19, 2018, Council approved the allocation of the initial \$8 million net revenue collected for the 2017 Empty Homes Tax year, generally as outlined in Appendix E of the Report.

Report can be found here: <https://council.vancouver.ca/20180619/documents/rr1a.pdf>

Please note: General Council allocation via Housing Vancouver to priority action areas is still subject to relevant procurement/granting processes.

Please note: The City is not able to provide financial grants or benefits directly to individual residents or renters. The City grants to non-profit organizations who administer support programs or services to individual residents.

- Pages 12 and 13 of the Appendix details the priority allocations for EHT funding. The specific funding allocations (relevant to your request) include:
 - Support for vulnerable renters, including:
 - \$100,000 of funding to support for renters facing eviction (Chapter 8, Key Strategy 1 of Housing Vancouver)
 - \$75,000 of funding for the Vancouver Rent Bank (Chapter 6, Key Strategy 1 of Housing Vancouver)
 - \$50,000 to Matching empty/underutilized homes and rooms with renters looking for housing (e.g. shared housing models like senior/student housing arrangements)
 - \$100,000 to Funding for skills training in peer support, affordable housing management, and asset training for residents of supportive housing (e.g. "Temporary Modular College" – temporary modular housing with on-site peer-based mentorship programming)
- To date, on April 23, 2019, Council has approved the grant of \$75,000 of EHT revenue to the Network of Inner City Community Services Society to support the operating costs of the Vancouver Rent Bank. Report can be found here: <https://council.vancouver.ca/20190423/documents/a7.pdf>
- Allocation of \$100,000 to Temporary Modular College is pending a future report back to Council.
- Allocation of \$100,000 of funding to support renters facing eviction and \$50,000 for a matching program are being advanced via the Council approved Renter Office) and will subject to a future Council report back. Report can be found here: <https://council.vancouver.ca/20190611/documents/rr2.pdf>

Part 2

- The information you are requesting for parts a, b and c is available in the Empty Homes Tax Annual Report up to November 1, 2018, <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/empty-homes-tax-annual-report.pdf> . The next report is expected to be publicly available in December*.

*Please note: the information you are requesting for parts a, b and c, other than what is already publicly available to date, is excepted from disclosure under sections s.13(1) and s.17(1) of the Act: You can read or download these sections here:

http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/96165_00

- The City does not maintain information requested for part d of your request.

Under section 52 of the Act, and within 30 business days of receipt of this letter, you may ask the Information & Privacy Commissioner to review any matter related to the City's response to your FOI request by writing to: Office of the Information & Privacy Commissioner, info@oipc.bc.ca or by phoning 250-387-5629.

If you request a review, please provide the Commissioner's office with: 1) the request number (#04-1000-20-2019-FOI #); 2) a copy of this letter; 3) a copy of your original request; and 4) detailed reasons why you are seeking the review.

Yours truly,



Barbara J. Van Fraassen, BA
Director, Access to Information & Privacy

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*If you have any questions, please email us at foi@vancouver.ca and we will respond to you as soon as possible. Or you can call the FOI Case Manager at 604.871.6584.

Encl.

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Expenditures of money collected through the Vacancy Tax
Names of organizations/corporations to which payments were made, and amounts paid to each
For Period April 1 to August 9th 2019

	\$
Grant to Network of Inner City Community Services Society (NICCSS) for Vancouver Rent Bank	75,000