

From: "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
"Singh, Sandra" <Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca>
Date: 1/27/2020 7:45:11 AM
Subject: Mayor's Overdose Emergency Task Force Update

Dear Mayor and Council;

Staff are writing to provide an update on one of 31 recommendations from the Mayor's Overdose Emergency Task Force. On Dec 20, 2018 staff were directed by Mayor and Council to work with Vancouver Coastal Health to identify locations to park a mobile Overdose Prevention Service unit by April 2019 that will allow for an assessment of service needs in neighbourhoods outside the Downtown Eastside.

Status Update: The City of Vancouver (the City) worked with VCH to identify a suitable location to park a mobile unit. After over a year of preparations, the mobile OPS is ready to provide services effective Thursday January 30. The site is near Commercial and Broadway.

VCH worked with Portland Hotel Society (PHS) to hire staff to operate the site, and local businesses have been informed.

Additional Details:

- The mobile OPS is a van that will be parked at Commercial and East 8th (just West of Commercial)
- The van will drive to the site on service days and will be parked at a PHS when not in service
- The OPS service will operate Monday to Friday, 12pm-6pm
- Services will be delivered by PHS peers using funding from VCH Overdose Emergency Response
- Services include supervision/witnessing drug use, harm reduction education, overdose response, distribution of harm reduction supplies

Next Steps for VCH:

- VCH will release an official media release once the service is operational and has been running for about a month.
- Additional questions from the public can be directed to overdoseresponse@vch.ca

Next Steps for the City:

- There are Mobi bikes parked at the location and the City will remove them to provide parking space for the van.
- City Communications staff can liaise with VCH Communications, Matt Kieltyka Matt.Kieltyka@vch.ca

Should Mayor and Council have additional questions or concerns, please contact Sandra Singh, General Manager at Sandra.singh@vancouver.ca

Thanks,

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.