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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
Date: 3/16/2020 7:51:47 PM
Subject: COVID-19 update; March 16; 20:00h

Good evening Mayor and Council,

In follow up to our conference call this morning, I am writing to provide an update on developments over the course of the day.

- As discussed this morning, the service closures were announced to staff and subsequently confirmed at the 12:30 media conference. Those closures have now been implemented. There are a number of outstanding substantive questions regarding the impact on employees working in those operations and their compensation over the coming weeks; we are focused on addressing those issues in the next 48 hours.
- In her media conference this morning, the Provincial Health Officer revised her guidance to cancel and avoid mass gatherings to include any gathering of more than 50 people. Pursuant to that direction, staff have identified a further set of service adjustments that we will begin to implement tomorrow, along with internal and public communications. Of note, those changes include cancellation or deferral of public engagement sessions and open houses, including Vancouver Plan engagement and rezoning open houses. Planning is looking at options to undertake specific conversations with smaller groups. ACCS is reviewing the operational implications for its social centres and shelter operations but we intend to maintain essential services, even if it is not possible to provide for the recommended social distancing. We will also be implementing changes to our Development Services and Engineering service desks, shifting to online and phone interaction and in-person meetings by appointment only. Further details will be available tomorrow.
- VEC and our IGR team have been working to consolidate information from the business community regarding the projected impact to the local economy and measures that the City can be advocating to the provincial and federal governments. We are refining that analysis and will be able to provide additional detail in the coming days.
- The DTES task force has confirmed a group of 20 self-contained rooms that can be made available to VCH as necessary for isolation of individuals who so require. That information remains confidential at this time. Our staff are also working with VCH and BCH to expedite the availability of emergency shelter capacity for this purpose. Tomorrow, communications will be issued to the owners of private SROs regarding cleaning protocols and posters will be distributed in those buildings to advise residents on measures to keep themselves healthy. ACCS is also working with peers to distribute communications materials from VCH broadly within the neighbourhood. Finally, the team continues to work on contingencies for the provision of food, including the role of NFP and social enterprise.
- Tomorrow morning, the City and Province will be announcing the issuance of a public health order that will require the closure of bars and restaurants in downtown Vancouver for March 17. This order is intended to mitigate the risk associated with crowds that are expected to congregate in establishments downtown for St. Patrick's Day.

Thanks again for all your support. It is very impactful for our team.

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.