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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
Date: 11/8/2021 12:55:29 PM
Subject: [Media request: Balmoral-Regent security costs](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that City staff will be responding to a media request this morning about the ongoing security costs for the Regent and Balmoral, following Council's initial questions regarding the proposed budget at Council last week. The reporter, Mike Howell at Glacier Media, has asked for a breakdown of monthly costs, clarity on who has paid for these since 2017, and an update on what the plans are for both hotels.

Please find the City's responses below for your information and use should you receive follow-up questions from media this week.

Q: I want to be clear on how much it has cost the city to provide security for these buildings since the city purchased them last year. Please provide a breakdown by month and what security entails — one or two guards? More than that? Have there been break-ins or any problems with squatters?

The City does not typically provide details about our security arrangements and operational strategies. City security staff have completed a comprehensive risk assessment of these properties, and have security plans and activities in place to address the risks identified. There is a monthly cost to protect these buildings and maintain a fire watch, which has been approximately \$91,000 per month. Fire systems are anticipated to be online in both buildings by December 1, 2021, which will significantly reduce these costs.

Q: Also curious if the city was paying for security for both buildings after they were closed in June 2017 (Balmoral) and June 2018 (Regent) — even though they were still owned by Sahotas at time. If so, cost and what that entailed, please.

From the time each building was vacated, until it was acquired by the city, security was provided and paid for by the property owners.

Q: Could you also provide a status report on what the plans are for both hotels. My understanding from BC Housing is the Balmoral will be demolished and the Regent will be renovated. Is that accurate?

City staff are in priority discussions with BC Housing about these two sites to bring this important low-income housing stock up to code and create safe and comfortable homes. Currently, BC Housing and the City of Vancouver are exploring renovation and redevelopment opportunities on both sites; however further work remains to finalize an approach for each building given the complexities of each site. The City will work in partnership with BC Housing to find the most appropriate use of both buildings to address housing needs for the neighborhood.

Q: Is the city presently doing any work to the hotels to keep them from falling down?

Structural supports were previously installed in these two buildings, as ordered by the City, to mitigate the serious structural deficiencies that necessitated their closure. With the buildings being empty no additional structural supports have been required.

Please let Sandra Singh know if you have any follow up questions and she'll have them either answered through the Budget Q&A or Weekly Q&A as appropriate.

Best,
Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.