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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
Date: 3/29/2022 3:30:55 PM
Subject: [Upcoming news release: Permitting Task Force Updates \(March 29, 2022\)](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

Related to the memo you received earlier this afternoon regarding Permitting Task Force updates, the City will be issuing the news release attached below.

Some key updates include:

- Staff have cleared an intake backlog of over 500 applications for single family homes, duplexes and laneway homes - 450 are now being processed
 - Staff review times per application have been reduced by approximately 75%, resulting in much greater throughput
 - Applicants are now contacted within two to three business days from application submission (**15 – 16 weeks faster**)
 - Initial plan review now occurs at application (**2 weeks faster**)
- Laneway applications now received initial review **3 months faster**
- Direct to Inspections process now issues permits in as little as two weeks for simple renovations (**7 weeks faster**)
- Staff continue ongoing consultation with industry stakeholders to discuss changes and help identify additional opportunities to improve processes and wait times
- To support eligible businesses seeking a change in use or occupancy, a dedicated fast-track online enquiry and application page will be launching this spring

Please keep this news release embargoed until it goes live from the City media email account.

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 səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

City of Vancouver
News Release
March XX, 2022

Permitting Task Force changes speed up application process

Almost one year since the creation of the City Manager's Permitting Task Force, City staff are delivering results that have helped clear the application backlog and reduce wait times for permits and licences.

Staff have cleared an intake backlog of more than 500 applications for single family homes, duplexes and laneway homes, despite more than double the applications in 2021 versus 2020. Of these applications, 450 are now being processed and the remaining applications are with the applicants to provide more information.

“We know businesses and residents expect our support with post pandemic economic recovery, and we are excited to see that all the permit improvements we have made are having a positive impact,” said Andrea Law, General Manager, Development, Buildings and Licensing. “We remain committed to improving our permitting and licensing programs through open and transparent collaboration with industry partners and stakeholders.”

In addition to clearing the application backlog, City staff have been implementing City Council priorities and Task Force recommendations which have resulted in faster processing times.

Single-family houses, duplexes and laneways

- Staff review time per application has been reduced by approximately 75 per cent through the use of improved processes and tools, resulting in a 300 per cent increase in applications processed
- Applicants contacted within two-three business days from application submission: **15-16 weeks faster**
- Initial plan review now occurs at application intake: **2 weeks faster**

Improved Application Processing

- Laneway applications receiving initial review **3 months faster**
- Direct to Inspections process is now issuing permits in as little as two weeks for simple renovations: **7 weeks faster**

Industry Consultation

Staff continue ongoing consultation with industry stakeholders to discuss changes and help identify additional opportunities to improve processes and wait times.

Business Licensing

To support eligible businesses seeking a change in use or occupancy, a dedicated fast-track online enquiry and application page will be launched this spring.

Next Steps

The City Manager’s Task Force continues to review potential opportunities to reduce processing times. The next update and set of recommendations will be brought to Council later this year.

For more information and a complete list of actions to streamline the permit and licensing process, visit vancouver.ca/permit-backlog.

Background

In a motion last spring, [City Council made improving wait times and clearing the application backlog a priority](#) and established the City Manager’s task force with a dedicated \$1 million dollars in funding.

In June 2021, [Council approved an initial set of regulatory and policy changes](#) .

In September 2021, Council approved a '[ground-breaking](#)' [improvement](#) to help build social and rental housing faster.

In October 2021, [Council approved additional actions to support business recovery](#).

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