

From: ["Levitt, Karen" <karen.levitt@vancouver.ca>](mailto:karen.levitt@vancouver.ca)
To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
Date: 8/8/2022 4:40:17 PM
Subject: [Upcoming Media Statement: City to Begin Removal of Structures on Hastings Street \(August 9, 2022\)](#)

EMBARGOED TIL AUGUST 9, 2022 @ 9 AM

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the following media statement today regarding the removal of structures along Hastings Street. Please keep this information bulletin embargoed until it goes live from the City media email account at 9 am tomorrow (Aug. 9, 2022).

All the best,

Karen

City of Vancouver
Media statement
August 9, 2022

City to begin removal of structures on Hastings Street

City staff will begin working with those sheltering outdoors today to remove structures on East Hastings between Gore Avenue and Abbott Street in the Downtown Eastside (DTES). The removal of structures will begin with the highest risk areas and is expected to continue over the coming weeks. The City has also arranged temporary storage to secure people's personal belongings.

This is a complex effort and the City appreciates the work of the many community organizations and social enterprises who have been contributing expertise and effort as well as the support of BC Housing and Vancouver Coastal Health.

We recognize that this work will have an emotional impact on the community and everyone involved. City staff will be seeking to conduct the work with thoughtfulness and care of the residents and their circumstances.

We ask that media be sensitive to the needs of those sheltering outdoors as well as staff and community partners in the area at this time. If gathering footage, media are asked to take a trauma-informed approach and respect requests for distance and/or instructions by City staff or police while filming.

Media are also advised that interviews with staff are not available as they will be engaged in the work.

Background

The City's Street and Traffic By-law prohibits structures on sidewalks and the City enforces this by-law. We are also responding to Vancouver Fire Rescue Services (VFRS) Fire Order issued on July 25 ordering the removal of structures in the area due to fire risk. The City has been working with the community, non-profit organizations and those with lived experience on a thoughtful, phased approach for structure removal to adhere to the order.

Our crews also continue to attend daily to clean the streets and sidewalks as much as possible and the

partnership with community partners has been integral as we address both the fire and life safety risks along these blocks.

-30-

Media contact:

City of Vancouver

Civic Engagement and Communications

media@vancouver.ca