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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
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Subject: [E Hastings Street - update](#)

Good afternoon Mayor and Council,

I am writing to provide an update on our efforts to support the individuals who are currently camped on E Hastings St and address the associated life safety risks as per the Fire Chief's Order.

Over the course of the week, the City has had a significant presence on Hastings St comprising teams from Engineering, Outreach and Fire Prevention. I am pleased to advise that, prioritizing the most serious risks identified by VFRS and working with the individuals staying on the street, we have seen material progress in mitigating those hazards. Staff have cleared a number of obstacles to building access points and fire suppression infrastructure and, just today, we removed over 4000 kilograms of material from the sidewalks. An increasing number of individuals are requesting totes to pack their belongings and a small number are taking advantage of the storage that is now available. We are hoping that more people will feel comfortable transferring their belongings to storage over the coming week.

While the public safety risks on E Hastings are far from fully resolved, our team is encouraged by the results that have been achieved to date without resort to non-voluntary enforcement measures. We continue to assess our response on a daily basis and will keep you apprised as we move forward.

In conjunction with the above efforts, ACCS staff, with support from the EOC, are continuing to work on the implementation of additional storage services and washrooms. Atira is now offering short-term storage for women and the Aboriginal Front Door will also be providing short-term storage services as of Monday. The automated toilet at Pigeon Park is expected to be operational by the end of next week and, while we have encountered challenges with sourcing an additional mobile washroom trailer, that initiative is in progress. The City is also continuing to provide food and water to the individuals staying on the street.

Some people who were previously staying on Hastings Street have opted to move to other locations, including CRAB park. Park Board staff are monitoring the number of people sheltering in parks around the City and are attending to request compliance with the Park Control Bylaw in respect of structures during the day time.

In terms of support from provincial partners, BC Housing has committed to identify vacant units and shelter spaces and is exploring options to expand that capacity. Outreach has identified candidates for units that are available immediately and is engaged with BC Housing and those clients regarding placements. With BC Housing, we are developing a comprehensive view of the housing and shelter capacity that will become available over the coming weeks and will be able to provide more detail in that regard in the coming days.

A clinical team from VCH attended the encampment today and will maintain regular visits going forward.

I can also report that the Ministry of Attorney General and Housing is convening an executive steering committee to oversee the provincial response to the situation on Hastings St and ensure coordination with the City and our response efforts. The steering committee will be holding its first meeting tomorrow morning. Attending with me will be Armin, Donnie Rosa, Deputy Chief Moore and Deputy Chief Chow.

Again, we will continue to provide updates as this situation evolves. If you have any questions or concerns at this point, please let me know.

Best,
Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̍əm (Musqueam), Sqw̓w̓ú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.