

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
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Subject: E Hastings St - update

Good afternoon Mayor and Council,

The purpose of this email is to share a number of key updates regarding the City's ongoing work to remove structures and secure indoor spaces for people sheltering on East Hastings St.

Structure removal and impoundments

Since the New Year, City crews continue to work on a daily basis to encourage people to voluntarily remove their structures in order to reduce fire risk, increase street safety, and to make sidewalks, the roadway and buildings accessible for everyone. As of January 10, staff counted 90 structures remaining along Hastings St., down from 180 in August and the lowest number since reporting began.

With the support of members of the VPD where needed, staff also continue to enforce the Street and Traffic By-law 2849, Section 71A, which prohibits the accumulation of structures and personal belongings on sidewalks. As part of that effort, staff continue to make every effort to work with individuals, providing ample notice ahead of enforcement and impoundment of items.

Planned enforcement activities the week of January 16

Next week, City Engineering staff will be enforcing the bylaw to address a series of entrenched structures at Hastings and Carrall. This block has high numbers of people using it and the structures there present a number of significant fire risks, obstruct sidewalk and building access, and create road safety issues for pedestrians along this busy arterial corridor. Addressing these issues will also enable the return of the trolley bus to its route.

Occupants of the structures at Carrall have been provided repeated notice that City staff will be enforcing the bylaw. Staff will impound items should voluntary compliance not occur, providing storage options for a minimum 30 days.

Our Homelessness Services Outreach Team continues to do early morning outreach to people sheltering overnight and supporting them to get connected with shelter and services. We continue to work with BC Housing to ensure indoor spaces are available for people to come inside. We also have a series of measures in place to support those being required to move, including assisting with moving belongings into storage, transporting belongings, and working with our partners at Vancouver Coastal Health to provide mental and physical health services.

The operational team and City communications are working closely on an approach to this impoundment activity that ensures media have accurate and timely information related to the work at the appropriate juncture.

Amendment to City bylaws

In their work on E. Hastings, City Engineering staff and staff from our partners, including Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services, have frequently been subjected to varying levels of harassment and interference, including unsolicited filming. In an effort to mitigate and prevent this, the City's legal department is working on an amendment to City Bylaws, which will be based on the Parks Control Bylaw and would prohibit any hindrance or interruption in the work of our crews by the public. This bylaw amendment will be brought to Mayor and Council for consideration in the near future and is intended to cover all work City staff do outside of City facilities, not just work on Hastings Street. As an interim and additional measure, pedestrian access will be limited (diverted) in the work area during planned impoundment events.

Forthcoming RFP for cleaning services

The City currently has an RFP inviting proposals for supplemental cleaning services in the DTES that are outside the typical scope of cleaning performed by our crews in the area, notably with respect to micro-cleaning, which involves daily collection of litter on foot using brooms, shovels and wheeled garbage carts. This cleaning initiative is incremental to the work underway by City crews and micro-cleaning provided under the regular Street Cleaning Grant Program.

This RFP is part of a broader set of objectives to provide a range of services in the East Hastings encampment area:

- Improve cleanliness and sanitary conditions
- Maintain accessibility for pedestrians, and safe access and egress to buildings
- Reduce fire hazards
- Build community capacity by providing job support and applied skills training opportunities
- Help strengthen relationships and collaboration with community partners
- Provide information about available services to people experiencing homelessness

The City will be looking for a non-profit organization that meets the following criteria to handle the sensitivities of the job:

- Resources and capabilities to provide income generation and applied skills training opportunities for people who experience barriers to traditional employment
- Capacity and ability to deliver the scope of work
- Ability to create partnerships with a diverse range of non-profits and social enterprises
- Ability to use an equity lens and trauma-informed lens when providing services
- Downtown Eastside community knowledge and experience

We will continue to provide updates on these and other matters on a regular basis, but please let me know if you have any immediate questions.

Best,
Paul

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