

**From:** "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>  
**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"  
**Date:** 2/22/2023 3:52:22 PM  
**Subject:** FYI: Hasting Encampment – Pivot Press Conference (Feb. 23, 2023 @ 11:30 AM)  
**Attachments:** PIGEON PARK MEDIA ADVISORY.pdf

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Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you of a press conference organized by Pivot regarding ongoing work on the Hastings Encampment. It is scheduled for 11:30 am at Pigeon Park and I have attached the media advisory for your information.

We have shared City key messages with BC Housing and as always will approach with a coordinated media response. More information on the City's ongoing work along East Hastings will be included as part of this week's Council inquiries round-up.

#### Media Inquiries

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We would appreciate you referring any media inquiries to [media@vancouver.ca](mailto:media@vancouver.ca). If you are approached for comment by media or constituents, here are proposed key messages and Q&As to support responses:\u8239 \u8239

- Our Homelessness Services Outreach team continues to connect with people sheltering outdoors on East Hastings Street and supporting them to access income, support services and housing and shelter spaces as they become available.
- The City and BC Housing continue to work with our partners on a variety of options to meet the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness in Vancouver, including longer term options, such as the expedited creation of more social and supportive housing.
- Recognizing that demand is greater than available housing, and people are living in unsafe conditions on the street, shelter space is an important interim solution for people to come inside and stay dry and warm throughout the winter and until housing is available.
- As more supportive housing and SRO units come online, partners will continue to offer available housing to people in shelters and those who are unsheltered in Vancouver. We recognize that shelter is not housing and some SRO rooms are seen as far from ideal. However, these indoor options are warmer and drier than sleeping outdoors, especially during the winter months.
- City staff continue to be out on E Hastings on a daily basis to clean and to encourage people to remove their structures. E Hastings has high numbers of pedestrians and the structures present significant fire risks, obstruct sidewalk and building access, and create road safety concerns.
- When necessary, staff are enforcing the Street and Traffic By-law 2849, Section 71A, which prohibits the accumulation of structures and personal belongings on sidewalks. Where individuals are required to remove their structures and have indicated that they do not have other housing, they are being offered access to shelter spaces or available SRO rooms. The work is critical in terms of addressing the Fire Chief's order, addressing life safety risk and returning the street to diverse activities.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Sandra Singh [Sandra.Singh@Vancouver.ca](mailto:Sandra.Singh@Vancouver.ca) or Taryn Scollard [Taryn.Scollard@vancouver.ca](mailto:Taryn.Scollard@vancouver.ca).

Best,  
Paul

**Paul Mochrie** (he/him)  
City Manager  
City of Vancouver  
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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθʷəlm̓ (Musqueam), ḵʷəw̓7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

FEBRUARY 22, 2023

### **Media Advisory – Press Conference:**

Hastings Tent City Residents Respond to Increase in Evictions and Impoundment

#### **WHAT:**

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA – Residents of the Hasting Tent City and community partners will be hosting a press conference to respond to the increase in evictions along Hastings Street. The City of Vancouver is decamping and impounding unhoused people’s belongings without offers of safe or dignified housing alternatives.

The press conference will address how the City of Vancouver has been misleading residents of the Hastings Tent City, advocates, lawyers and the public regarding the ‘voluntary’ nature of its decampment procedures. Residents will speak openly about the ongoing, hostile interactions with City workers and VPD constables, and share their experience of being underhoused in SROs.

**LOCATION:** Pigeon Park (399 Carrall Street)

**DATE:** Thursday February 23, 2023

**TIME:** 11:30am PST

#### **SPEAKERS:**

Residents of the Hastings Tent City  
Anna Cooper, Lawyer at Pivot Legal Society

#### **MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Hamish: 905-999-7684

Molly: 250- 858-9665