

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
Date: 3/28/2023 8:29:54 AM
Subject: Questions related to BC Housing Grant and 2023 Renter Services Grants

Good morning Mayor and Council,

Staff previously sent a response to questions from council regarding a report on tomorrow's Council agenda. Staff have corrected that the answers are in reference to two council reports. Please note the following correction:

Questions in relation to *Grant to BC Housing To support Continuation of Temporary Shelter at 15-27 W. Hastings (RTS 15556)*:

Q: Why is the landlord seeking an approx 50% increase in base rent? Is the footprint growing to accommodate the additional shelter beds? Or is it just a cost increase and if so, on what grounds?

A: There is no expansion of the footprint, but an increase in lease costs. Some additional context.

- The original lease was for two years with an option to extend for another year.
- In 2021, Council approved \$825k (or \$275k/year), a 50% contribution towards the three year lease. The entire amount was paid to BC Housing.
- When BCH took the option to renew the lease for the third year, the landlord, based on increased costs, increased the lease cost from \$550,000 to \$700,000 (an increase of 27%, or \$150,000).
- BC Housing requested the City contribute 50% of the increased lease costs hence our recommendation that Council \$75,000.

Q Secondly, can the EHT be used as the source of funding rather than the 2023 operating budget? This is definitely a shelter and housing initiative that is temporary in nature and time-bound.

A: Yes, this could be funded by EHT. HSS have funding in the operating budget for shelters which is why this funding source was identified.

Questions in relation to *Housing and Homelessness Services 2023 Grants: Renter Services Grants and SRO Tenants Support Grant (RTS 15388)*:

Q: Can you advise please why EHT funding can be used for four years now for these grants but the report states not for future years? And secondly, why does the SRO \$85k come from operating and not from EHT?

The original grants were approved for EHT funding as they were time limited and part of the larger program to review and recommend how to support a renter office or renter center to support tenants. As that program has now been ended and new recommendations have been brought forward the new program including grants need to be reviewed to ensure alignment with the EHT funding policy.

Q: And secondly, why does the SRO \$85k come from operating and not from EHT?

The grant to the SRO-C to support tenants does not align with the requirements of the EHT funding policy.

Please let me know if you require further information or clarification.

Thank you,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca

