

**From:** "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>  
**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"  
**Date:** 5/17/2023 12:42:52 PM  
**Subject:** Marguerite Ford Apartments

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Dear Mayor and Council,

It is my understanding that you will be joining Feezah Jaffer, Executive Director Sanford Housing Society and Catherine Hume, Executive Director, RainCity Housing and their staff for a tour of Marguerite Ford Apartments tomorrow.

We appreciate your interest in learning more about this building given it continues to be frequently referenced as a failure. In advance of your tour, Sandra Singh thought it would be helpful to provide you with a quick summary of the building and its history.

- MFA consists of 147 studio units and opened in 2013.
- The project was part of a [2007 MOU](#) with the Province (BC Housing) to develop social and supportive housing on 12 City-owned sites for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- The City entered into a 60 year, nominal lease with Sanford housing), with BC Housing providing construction and ongoing operating funding. Sanford provides property management services, and RainCity provides tenant supports that include 24/7 staffing and other supports.
- MFA has notably been a challenging supportive housing building since opening in 2013. There have been a number of lessons learned by BC Housing, the operator and the City on ensuring supportive housing buildings are designed, operated and managed well. In the first few years, it took a lot of work to balance the building and build community within MFA and between MFA and our neighbours – it is often this period that is referenced by opponents to supportive housing
- MFA has made significant positive progress over the last few years and Sanford and RainCity are working together to support successful tenancies.
- A CAC was established for the building but due to dwindling attendance, and few issues being raised, it has not convened since the pandemic. Should concerns be raised the CAC will reconvene.
- The Better Together Pilot includes the Olympic Village to address broader community impacts of unsheltered homelessness (staff will be providing you with an update shortly)
- Staff recently met with Sanford, RainCity, BC Housing and VCH to discuss the building and how things are going. It was a productive meeting, and we will be reconvening on a regular basis to ensure to ensure the operators have the support they need.

Please let Sandra know if you have any follow up questions after your tour and she will ensure answers through the weekly Q&A

Best,  
Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.