

From: **"Singh, Sandra"**
To: **"Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"**
Date: 1/22/2024 5:33:12 PM
Subject: RTS 16096: Grant to BC Housing to Support Continuation of Temporary Shelter at 15-27 West Hastings (Bud Osborn Shelter)

Good afternoon Mayor and Council,

Staff received a question regarding a report on tomorrow's agenda: RTS 16096 *Grant to BC Housing to Support Continuation of Temporary Shelter at 15-27 West Hastings (Bud Osborn Shelter)*. Please find below the question and response.

Q: Based on the size of the space it was flagged to met that 80 beds seemed low. Just wondering if the number of beds is limited by a fire capacity piece or if it is an operational funding piece etc.

A: Staff can confirm that the main floor at 15-27 W Hastings is being fully utilized as a shelter. The Osborn shelter opened with 60 pods in 2021. In 2023, portions of the common area were converted into shelter space to increase capacity to 80 total. The original 60 beds utilize pods instead of cots which do take up more space, but provide more privacy and comfort for guests and are recognized as a best practice for shelter operations.

Additionally, in partnership with the City, PHS is operating a Warming Centre in the remaining common area. The Warming Centre has capacity for 40 individuals when fully staffed. This is for individuals to come in and get warm during periods of extreme cold (-4 degrees) and does not provide mats or beds. However, utilizing this space on a more permanent basis would be very challenging given the need for common space to support overall shelter operations.

The main floor where the shelter is located is approx. 15,000 sq feet and includes (as seen in drawings) shelter beds, reception, storage, common area, bathrooms and offices. The basement has been explored as expansion space but there are a number of concerns, including the actual building structure and lack of egress. The basement is also used for storage, supplies and other uses to support overall shelter operations.

I hope the information above is helpful. Celine Mauboules, Managing Director of Housing and Homelessness Services will be available to answer any other questions that may arise.

Thank you,

Sandra

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges the unceded homelands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.