

From: ["Singh, Sandra" <Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca)
To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
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Subject: Update: Escalated enforcement at the Grand Union SRO

Good afternoon Mayor and Council,

This is an update on an ongoing, serious life-safety situation at the Grand Union SRO (74 West Hastings) and steps being taken to address it.

- In February VFRS Inspectors found that the fire alarm system (FAS) was not in compliance with City by-laws as it had failed certification.
 - This means that it is uncertain if the FAS and all associated devices would function properly in the event of a fire.
 - Accordingly, VFRS issued an order requiring the owner to correct the FAS deficiencies and to conduct a 24-hour fire watch.
- Despite continuous pressure and escalating enforcement efforts, the FAS remains in a non-compliant and unsafe state. Also, staff have found that the fire watch is not being conducted in an adequate fashion.
- In an effort to remedy this unsafe situation, a CBO order was posted on Friday, August 29th requiring them to hire a private contractor to conduct the fire watch and to provide documentation that the FAS has been certified. As of this morning, the order has not been complied with.
- Accordingly, the Chief Building Officer (CBO) is taking immediate corrective measures within their authority (VBBL: Division C, Section 1.5) to address these serious life safety risks:
 - The CBO have now engaged a private security contractor to conduct the fire watch beginning today and continuing until the FAS is in compliance.
 - Next week, the CBO will engage a private electrical contractor to begin work on the FAS.
 - Any costs incurred are recoverable from the owner.

The situation at the Grand Union is very unsafe. By taking these immediate corrective measures, the City will be remedying the unsafe conditions. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Corrie Okell, General Manager of DBL and she will ensure a response through the weekly Q&A.

Thank you,

Sandra

Sandra Singh | Deputy City Manager
City of Vancouver
E-mail: sandra.singh@vancouver.ca
Pronouns: she/her

Assistant: Alix Kivlin

E-mail: alix.kivlin@vancouver.ca
Pronouns: she/her

The City of Vancouver acknowledges the unceded homelands of the x m k y m (Musqueam), S wxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.