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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

Date: 10/8/2024 4:00:42 PM

Subject: Crane safety - recent Oakridge incident

Good afternoon Mayor and Council,

In follow up to Councillor Dominato's question during the Council meeting this morning, I am writing with an update on the response to the crane accident that occurred at the Oakridge construction site on October 2, 2024. As you are aware, that incident was the second serious accident of this type in the past year.

As with the prior incident, WorkSafeBC is leading the accident investigation and follow up. On October 3, WSBC ordered the stoppage of all rigging and lifting with tower cranes on the Oakridge site.

With respect to the City's involvement with in this matter, Saul Schwebs has been working closely with WSBC. Of note, WSBC's mandate is focused on the protection of workers, not on public safety in general. Part 8 of the Vancouver Building By-law speaks to the preservation of public safety and places responsibility on the Chief Building Official.

In his capacity as Chief Building Official, Saul did not issue any orders following the first crane incident and deferred to WorkSafe as the lead agency. However, with this second incident, Saul will be issuing a separate order in the interest of public safety. Specifically, Saul will be issuing an order that mirrors the stop work order issued by WorkSafe's and is limited to the operation of tower cranes. WSBC has acknowledged the fact that there are 2,200 people working on the site and have structured their order to be specific to the identified risk while letting work continue on the site as much as possible.

WSBC will be working with Ellis Don and their sub-contractors to address identified issues with training and supervision of rigging and lifting operations. As the employers are able to verify sufficient numbers of trained personnel to ensure that any further rigging will be done safely, WSBC plans to amend their order to permit additional tower cranes to operate. Saul will remain in close contact with WSBC in this regard and will amend the City's order to align. WSBC has confirmed their support for this approach. Westbank's project lead has been advised as well.

With respect to broader concerns regarding the safety of tower cranes, revised Occupational Health and Safety Regulations came into effect on October 1, 2024 which impose new obligations for employers that operate tower cranes. The new regulations reflect WSBC's finding of increased risks associated with crane operations, due in part to the volume of work taking place in the province and the complexity of the sites under construction. Following several crane-related incidents in the Lower Mainland, WSBC undertook a comprehensive review of crane safety, informed by stakeholder input and feedback, and has developed a new crane and rigging risk-reduction strategy. Elements of that strategy include the recent OH&S regulation updates as well as an increase in capacity for WSBC's specialized crane inspection team.

If you have any further questions or concerns regarding this matter, please let me or Saul know.

Best,
Paul

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