

December 18, 2013

Dear Sir and/or Madam:

**RE: Invitation to Community Meeting on Temporary Housing at 395 Kingsway -
former Biltmore Hotel**

Housing our homeless is a major priority for the Province of BC and the City. Over the last few years BC Housing and the City have worked together to enable the provision of both housing and shelter to our homeless population in the City. BC Housing, in partnership with RainCity Housing and the City, will be opening the former Biltmore Hotel to provide temporary housing while more permanent housing is constructed.

BC Housing has leased the 95 rooms at the former Biltmore Hotel for six years and these rooms are scheduled to open late January 2014. RainCity Housing has been selected to operate the rooms as temporary housing. RainCity is an experienced housing operator and is working closely with BC Housing on the tenant selection to ensure they will be successfully housed with minimal impacts to the community. Outreach efforts have also been underway to ensure priority is given to those that are currently homeless in the Mount Pleasant area, and those who have been in shelters a long time and are ready to move into housing.

To learn more about this important project, we would like to invite you to a community meeting with staff from BC Housing, RainCity Housing, City of Vancouver and members of a community working group (including representatives from the Mount Pleasant Community Policing Centre, the Mount Pleasant BIA, Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House, Kingsgate Mall, Vancouver Coastal Health, Vancouver School Board and others) that has been meeting over the past few months to help ensure the successful community integration of this project. The meetings will provide an opportunity to meet the operator, learn more about the specific operations of the project, and have questions answered (translators will be available). We hope you can attend one of the two meetings that have been organized:

WHERE: St. Patrick's Regional High School - CAFETERIA
140 E. 11th Avenue
WHEN: Wednesday, January 8th 2014
TIME: 6pm - 8pm Presentation and small group discussions

and

WHERE: Native Education College - Fireplace Lounge
285 E. 5th Avenue
WHEN: Saturday, January 11th, 2014
TIME: 10am - 12pm Presentation and small group discussions

The issue of homelessness remains of paramount importance to residents of Vancouver, and City Council continues to work towards its goal of ending street homelessness in Vancouver by 2015. We ask you to join BC Housing, City of Vancouver and all of our community partners in offering your support for this temporary housing to assist those living on our streets.

To RSVP to the community meetings, please email housing@vancouver.ca.

To speak directly with staff from Housing Policy please contact Celine Mauboules at 604.873.7754 (celine.mauboules@vancouver.ca) or Liza Jimenez at 604.871.6460 (liza.jimenez@vancouver.ca).

For more information on the operations please contact Bill Briscall, Communications Manager, RainCity Housing at 604.215.3047 (bbriscall@raincityhousing.org).

To speak to someone from BC Housing, please contact Fergus McCann, Senior Manager, Public Affairs at 778-452-6445 (fmccann@bchousing.org).

For learn more about the Operational Management Plan, FAQs and general information please visit our website at: www.vancouver.ca/Biltmore.

Yours truly,



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