

GENERAL INFORMATION ON SINGLE ROOM ACCOMMODATION (SRA) BY-LAW: QUESTION AND ANSWER

1. **What is the Single Room Accommodation (SRA) By-law?**
The Single Room Accommodation (SRA) By-law regulates the conversion and demolition of single room accommodation in the City's Downtown Core.
2. **What is single room accommodation?**
Single room accommodation includes residential hotels or single room occupancies (SROs), rooming houses, and other buildings with rooms less than 320 square feet that have been identified in the *2003 Survey of Low-income Housing* that is published biannually by the City.
3. **Why only the Downtown Core?**
Staff considered a number of options with respect to the geographical scope of the By-law and recommended that the By-law apply to the Downtown Core since it contains the vast majority of the City's low-cost housing stock and the City monitors the stock in this area.
4. **Why did the Council pass such a By-law?**
Council has numerous housing policies to support low-income tenants including the elderly, people with mental health issues, and others at risk of becoming homeless. SRAs are often the last resort for an individual before homelessness.
5. **What does the By-law mean for me, an SRO hotel owner?**
Owners that want to convert, demolish or alter rooms designated under the By-law must first apply to Council for an SRA conversion or demolition permit. Council will consider whether or not to grant a permit based on a number of factors including:
 - Accommodation that will be available to the tenants affected by the conversion or demolition;
 - Supply of low-cost accommodation in the Downtown Core;
 - Condition of the building;
 - Replacement of single room accommodation in the City; and
 - Recent history of the land and building, and the use and occupancy of the building.As well as other factors such as significant heritage or economic opportunities that would result from the conversion or demolition of SRA rooms. In addition, Council may attach certain conditions to the issuance of the permit including a fee of \$15,000 per room.

If you would like more information on the SRA By-law, please call 604-871-6046.