

Refers Item No. 6  
Public Hearing of March 15, 2011

## MEMORANDUM

March 14, 2011

TO: Mayor Robertson and Councillors

COPY TO: P. Ballem, City Manager  
S. A. Johnston, Deputy City Manager  
M. Coulson, City Clerk  
M. Welman, Director, Corporate Communications  
D. McLellan, General Manager of Community Services  
F. Connell, Director of Legal Services  
P. Judd, General Manager of Engineering Services  
Y. Liljefors, Assistant Director, Development and Real Estate, Legal Services  
W. Stewart, Corporate Communications

FROM: B. Toderian, Director of Planning

SUBJECT: 984 West Broadway and the VGH Heliport Flight Path

At the Public Hearing on March 15, 2011 Council will be considering a rezoning application that is summarized in a staff report dated July 5, 2010 entitled "CD-1 Rezoning - 984 West Broadway". On July 20, 2010 Council referred the application to a Public Hearing. This memo provides an update on the relationship between the proposed building at 984 West Broadway and the Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) heliport and it explains the time delay between referral and Public Hearing for this particular application.

### BACKGROUND

As is standard practice in the rezoning application review process for proposals near VGH, City staff circulated the application for comment to VGH in March 2010 and, at that time, received assurances that the proposed building would not obstruct heliport operations. Subsequent to the July 20, 2010 referral of the rezoning application, representatives from VGH contacted staff and requested additional consideration to ensure that the proposal meets Transport Canada's guidelines for the heliport flight path.

Over the past six months City staff have liaised with the involved parties (i.e. VGH, Transport Canada, Vancouver Coastal Health, BC Ambulance Service and Helijet -the helicopter service provider) to examine the helicopter operational protocols and the proposed building's relationship to the heliport flight path. Following a series of discussions and a site visit to the VGH helipad, the involved parties have concluded that despite the observation that any new building in this area represents a potential additional risk, all parties involved with the review

agree the location of the proposed building represents a low risk addition and thus can be proceeded with.

## CONCLUSION

Since the Council referral of this application, staff have liaised with VGH and other stakeholders to further review the proposal in the context of existing heliport operations. Given the level of comfort now secured from the parties, the application is being brought forward to a Public Hearing at this time. Staff continue to work with all parties on the issue of the heliport flight path within the larger context of Central Broadway Planning Program now underway.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Toderian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'B' being particularly large and stylized.

Brent Toderian, Director of Planning

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KM/AH/ws