



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: September 15, 2011
Contact: Dennis Carr
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VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: October 4, 2011

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Managing Director of Social Development
SUBJECT: Assignment of Lease: Bantleman Court (600 Vernon Drive)

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve the assignment of the lease for Bantleman Court at 600 Vernon Drive (PID 019-183-542; Lot C, Block A; District Lot 182 Group 1, NWD; Plan LMP22063) from Bantleman Court Housing Society to Pacific Community Resources Society, on terms and conditions to the satisfaction of the Director of Legal Services.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Community Services RECOMMENDS approval of the foregoing.

COUNCIL POLICY

Council policy is to purchase sites for social housing development and to lease them to non-profit housing societies. The social housing developed on the sites are to be funded and administered by provincial or federal levels of government.

PURPOSE

This report seeks Council approval for the assignment of the lease of 600 Vernon Drive, a site occupied by a 15-unit non-profit housing project, from Bantleman Court Housing Society to Pacific Community Resources Society.

BACKGROUND

Bantleman Court is a 15 unit project providing housing for core-need street youth, ages 18 to 25. Development of the project commenced in 1996 and was occupied in October 1997. The 60-year lease expires in 2056.

DISCUSSION

The Bantleman Court Housing Society (BCHS) was incorporated in 1994 and has been operating the Vernon Street project since 1997. Recently, the Society faced a number of internal issues and a decision was made to give up their interest in the building at 600 Vernon Drive. Finally, the Society's registered charitable status was revoked by Canada Revenue Agency.

In February 2010, BCHS approached Pacific Community Resources Society (PCRS) to elicit their interest in taking over the management of the building and related program so the youth in need would still be able to access short-term support-based housing in the inner city area.

PCRS is an accredited, not-for-profit society serving Lower Mainland communities since 1984. The agency provides alternate education, employment, addiction counselling and prevention services, housing support, and cultural enrichment for children, youth, adults and families. Currently the Society is also sponsor of the Broadway Youth Centre, which is part of Broadway and Fraser redevelopment for social housing, as part of the 14 City-owned properties.

BC Housing is in favour of the project being transferred over to PCRS, as it is felt that their organization has the staff and necessary resources to effectively manage this vulnerable group.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no social implications as a result of this lease assignment.

CONCLUSION

BC Housing has requested the City replace Bantleman Court Housing Society with Pacific Community Resources Society on the lease for 600 Vernon Drive, and it is recommended that this request be approved.

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