

MOTION

1. Lower Barrier Winter Shelters

MOVER: Councillor Kerry Jang

SECONDER:

WHEREAS

1. For three consecutive winters (2008, 2009, 2010) the City of Vancouver and the Province of British Columbia have partnered to open lower barrier HEAT winter shelters across Vancouver;
2. The HEAT shelters are "lower barrier" meaning that each allows pets, safe storage of personal belongings, a convenient location that is accessible by foot, three balanced meals a day, and regular access to primary health and mental health care. The HEAT shelters are open 24 hours per day, 7 days a week unlike traditional shelters that have limited operating hours of operation, services and does not allow pets which are significant barriers that has deterred street homeless from accessing services;
3. The lower barrier nature of the HEAT shelters have a demonstrated efficacy in getting street entrenched populations indoors and into contact with primary and mental health care providers and housing staff with hundreds having now transitioned from the shelters into care and housing;
4. The HEAT shelters have made a significant contribution to the reduction of Vancouver's street homeless population as reported by the Regional and city homeless counts from 811 in 2008, to 421 in 2010, to 145 in 2011 - an 82% reduction from March 2008 to March 2011.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council request the Mayor and direct staff to expedite discussion with the Provincial Government funding for HEAT shelters for the winter of 2011-2012.
- B. THAT Council request the Mayor and direct staff to continue to attempt to secure regular funding for winter HEAT shelters in partnership with the Provincial Government.

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