

MOTION

7. 58 West Hastings Street

At the Regular Council meeting on November 13, 2018, Vancouver City Council referred the following Motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on November 14, 2018, to hear from speakers.

MOVED by Councillor Swanson
SECONDED by

WHEREAS

1. The low income Downtown Eastside community has been fighting for 100% welfare/pension rate* community controlled social housing at 58 West Hastings Street for over 10 years;
2. The community vision for the site includes housing for Chinese speaking seniors, people of African descent, Indigenous people, and people who make up the diversity in the Downtown Eastside, with half the units being for women, some with children;
3. Homelessness has been growing in the Downtown Eastside, and 100% welfare/pension rate housing will ensure that up to 148 units are provided or freed up for people who desperately need housing;
4. The community lost about 500 units of low income housing in 2017 and lost the Regent in 2018 with 153 Single Room Occupancy (SRO) units were closed for life-safety reasons;
5. The site is owned by the City;
6. The Vancouver Chinatown Foundation has promised to raise \$30 million for the 58 West Hastings housing project;
7. The Province, through BC Housing, has committed \$30 million and low-cost financing for the 58 West Hastings housing project;
8. The application has been scheduled for the Development Permit Board on Tuesday, November 13, 2018, at 3:00 pm;
9. The current proposal is for only one-third to one-half of the units to be affordable at welfare/pension rates;

* welfare rate means \$375 a month for a single person; \$570 a month for a couple or single parent and child; pension rate means 30% of the basic full OAS/GIS pension for senior citizens (about \$1500 in Sept., 2018), or about \$450 a month for a single person.

10. The current proposal does not provide for community control; and
11. The former Mayor promised in writing that housing at 58 West Hastings Street would be 100% welfare/pension rate community controlled social housing.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council recommit to the community vision of 100% welfare/pension rate community controlled social housing and the former Mayor's promise for the site at 58 West Hastings Street.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to report back within one month, to outline what funding is required to achieve 100% welfare/pension rate and include at least three (3) options for sources of revenue, including city sources, to meet the former Mayor's commitment and the community's vision for the site.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to consult with the Our Homes Can't Wait coalition and Vancouver Chinatown Foundation and propose how the former Mayor's commitment to community controlled housing at 58 West Hastings Street can be achieved.

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