



## **SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**DECEMBER 20, 2018**

A Special Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Thursday, December 20, 2018, at 9:36 am, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, for the purposes of receiving a report from the Mayor's Overdose Emergency Task Force on recommendations for immediate action on the overdose crisis.

**PRESENT:**

- Mayor Kennedy Stewart
- Councillor Rebecca Bligh\*
- Councillor Christine Boyle\*
- Councillor Adriane Carr
- Councillor Melissa De Genova
- Councillor Lisa Dominato
- Councillor Pete Fry
- Councillor Colleen Hardwick
- Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung\*
- Councillor Jean Swanson
- Councillor Michael Wiebe\*

**CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE:** Sadhu Johnston, City Manager  
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Rosemary Hagiwara, Deputy City Clerk  
Irina Dragnea, Meeting Coordinator

\*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

### **WELCOME**

The Mayor acknowledged we are on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations and we thank them for having cared for this land since time immemorial.

#### **1. Mayor's Overdose Emergency Task Force – Recommendations for Immediate Action on the Overdose Crisis**

Mayor Stewart introduced the report from the Overdose Emergency Task Force.

\* \* \* \* \*

*AT 9:53 am, it was*

*MOVED by Councillor De Genova  
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato*

*THAT Council hear from speakers before asking questions to staff.*

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND  
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY  
(Councillor Kirby-Yung absent for the vote)*

**VARY AGENDA**

*AT 12:00 pm, it was*

*MOVED by Councillor De Genova  
SECONDED by Councillor Carr*

*THAT Council hear speaker 18 immediately after the recess.*

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND  
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY*

*Subsequently, it was*

*MOVED by Councillor Carr  
SECONDED by Councillor De Genova*

*THAT the meeting recess and reconvene in half an hour.*

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

*Council recessed at 12:04 pm and reconvened at 12:35 pm.*

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**VARY AGENDA**

*AT 3:50 pm, it was*

*MOVED by Councillor De Genova  
SECONDED by Councillor Carr*

*THAT Council hear one additional speaker before continuing with questions to staff.*

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND  
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY  
(Councillor Bligh absent for the vote)*

\* \* \* \* \*

Council heard from nineteen speakers; thirteen spoke in general support of the recommendations from the Mayor's Overdose Emergency Task Force, and six spoke to other matters related to the report.

Sadhu Johnston, City Manager, along with staff from Arts, Culture and Community Services, the Vancouver Police Department, and Vancouver Coastal Health, responded to questions.

*AT 4:25 pm, it was*

*MOVED by Councillor De Genova  
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato*

*THAT Council can ask another round of questions to staff.*

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND  
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY  
(Councillor Bligh absent for the vote)*

*AT 4:36 pm, it was*

*MOVED by Councillor Dominato  
SECONDED by Councillor Carr*

*THAT the meeting be extended to complete the business on the agenda.*

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND  
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY  
(Councillor Bligh absent for the vote)*

*AT 4:37 pm, it was*

*MOVED by Councillor De Genova  
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato*

*THAT the meeting recess briefly.*

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND  
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY  
(Councillor Bligh absent for the vote)*

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*Council recessed at 4:37 pm and reconvened at 4:47 pm.*

\* \* \* \* \*

MOVED by Mayor Stewart  
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

**A. Results of the Overdose Emergency Task Force**

THAT Council receive for information results of the Mayor's Overdose Emergency Task Force with details described in the Administrative Report dated December 14, 2018, entitled "Mayor's Overdose Emergency Task Force – Recommendations for Immediate Action on the Overdose Crisis," as well as recommendations for immediate action based on input from the Mayor's Overdose Emergency Task Force.

**B. Invest in Indigenous Healing and Wellness**

- i. THAT Council approve a one-time grant of up to \$100,000 to Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council (MVAEC) to pilot wrap around supports and post-overdose response in collaboration with other Indigenous led and serving organizations. Source of funds: 2018 Operating Budget.
- ii. THAT Council request that the Provincial and Federal governments commit to ongoing operating funding of approximately \$310,000 to Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council (MVAEC) and \$120,000 to the Pacific Association of First Nations Women.
- iii. THAT Council approve a one-time grant of up to \$100,000 to the Pacific Association of First Nations Women to support Indigenous women including mothers who have lost loved ones due to the crisis in Vancouver as identified in this report. Source of funds: 2018 Operating Budget.

**C. Enable a Peer Based Organization/Drug user Network**

THAT Council request that the Province provide \$1,000,000 annually in ongoing operating funding for a provincial organization(s) of people who use drugs to better engage their expertise in the municipal overdose emergency response as described in the Administrative Report dated December 14, 2018, entitled “Mayor’s Overdose Emergency Task Force – Recommendations for Immediate Action on the Overdose Crisis.”

**D. Save Lives at Home: SROs and Overdose Prevention**

- i. THAT Council approve a one-time grant of up to \$106,000 for an 18 month pilot to the Downtown Eastside SRO Collaborative Society for the Tenant Overdose Response Organizers (“TORO”) to assist with the costs of space, furniture and tenant improvements for peer programs in five private single room occupancy (SRO) hotels where tenants are at risk of overdose, and that staff report back after the 18 month pilot on options for securing space in private SROs. Source of funds: 2018 Operating Budget.
- ii. THAT Council request that the Province provide the Downtown Eastside SRO Collaborative Society \$47,000/year annual funding to expand existing overdose response operations and \$135,000 for the 18 month pilot noted in D(i) above.
- iii. THAT Council request that the Province provide additional annual funding to Vancouver Coastal Health in the amount of \$1,000,000 to expand the existing Vancouver Coastal Health overdose prevention services in non-profit SROs where tenants are at risk of overdose.
- iv. THAT Council provide a grant in the amount of \$44,000 to Lookout Housing and Health Society to support a one-year pilot for peers to monitor SRO washrooms in collaboration with Vancouver Coastal Health overdose prevention services. Source of funds: 2018 Operating Budget.
- v. THAT Council direct staff to review the Vancouver Coastal Health washroom guidelines and develop an implementation strategy for working with not for profit and private operators by April 2019.

**E. Expand Harm Reduction in the Downtown Eastside**

- i. THAT Council request that the Province provide funding for Vancouver Coastal Health in the amount of \$355,000 in annual operating funding to support a new outdoor inhalation Overdose

Prevention Service in the Downtown Eastside and direct staff to assist in identifying an appropriate outdoor site.

- ii. THAT Council direct staff to assess the level of risk in public washrooms and recommend any necessary changes to public washrooms by June 2019.

**F. Secure Space for a Clean Supply project**

- i. THAT Council direct City staff to work with partners to identify a location for a storefront service space in or adjacent to the Downtown Eastside for the BC Centre for Disease Control (“BCCDC”) low barrier hydromorphone dispersal pilot enrollment project by April 2019.

**G. Expand Access to Treatment Options**

- i. THAT City staff be directed to work with Vancouver Coastal Health as needed to support the improvements anticipated by their new Cascade of Care model, including promoting and facilitating referrals and linkages to care and supports for marginalized people receiving care.
- ii. THAT Council send a request that the Province make significant additional investments in addictions treatment services in Vancouver and province-wide, with appropriate input from experts at Vancouver Coastal Health, First Nations Health Authority, other health authorities, and the BC Centre for Disease Control.
- iii. THAT Council grant standing authority to the Mayor to request additional investment in addictions treatment services from the Province in Vancouver and province-wide should the need arise in the future, with appropriate input from experts at Vancouver Coastal Health, First Nations Health Authority, other health authorities, and the BC Centre for Disease Control.
- iv. THAT Council approve a one-time allocation of \$100,000 to the Vancouver Police Board to implement a pilot to address any gaps, improvements and recommendations that may be made relevant to continuity of treatment for detainees with opioid use disorder, including maintenance of opioid agonist therapy and connection to care upon release. Source of funds: 2018 Operating Budget.

**H. Support programs providing low barrier employment and purposeful activity opportunities to understand the role of employment in maintaining therapy and recovery**

THAT Council request that the Department of Employment and Social Development Canada contribute \$500,000 in one-time funding to

EMBERS for Eastside Works to a pilot a program to evaluate and demonstrate the impact of income generation and purposeful activity on people with mental health and addictions.

**I. Provide Harm Reduction, Treatment and Supports Across Vancouver Neighbourhoods**

- i. THAT Council direct City staff to work with Vancouver Coastal Health to identify locations for Vancouver Coastal Health to park its mobile Overdose Prevention Services unit by April 2019 that will allow for an assessment of service needs in neighbourhoods outside the Downtown Eastside.
- ii. THAT Council direct staff to work with the BC Centre on Substance Use (“BCCSU”) to plan and implement a communications plan for distributing resources and information for families and people using illicit drugs across Vancouver.
- iii. THAT Council request that the Province provide additional funds to Vancouver Coastal Health to support wider distribution of and fentanyl test strips across Vancouver, targeting high risk areas with Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services, Community Centres, Libraries, Neighbourhood Houses and other social serving agencies.
- iv. THAT Council approve a grant in the amount of \$10,000 to the BCCSU to host five additional “Stronger Together” community sessions to increase awareness of resources and link to low-barrier access to treatment in neighbourhoods outside of the Downtown Eastside. Source of funds: 2018 Operating Budget.
- v. THAT Council approve a one-time grant of \$20,000 to RainCity Housing and Support Society to implement a pilot program to provide supports to sex workers along the Kingsway corridor. Source of funds: 2018 Operating Budget.

**J. Collective Action for Systemic Changes**

- i. THAT in the context of the crisis, the Mayor request that the City and Vancouver Police Department co-host a working group with Executive membership from the BC Ministry of Justice, BC Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, Community Drug Court, Vancouver Coastal Health, BC Centre for Substance Use, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, and People with Lived Experience, to identify risks to overdose deaths due to interface with the criminal justice system of those addicted to illicit drugs; and, for this Working Group to report back on a comprehensive program for action in Vancouver.

- ii. THAT Council approve a grant of up to \$20,000 to Drawing Wisdom to develop a training resource for the City, including the Vancouver Police Department and Vancouver Public Library, with a focus on colonization, and its resulting effect on social issues including criminalization. Source of funding: 2018 Operating Budget.
  - iii. THAT Council commit the City of Vancouver to approaching the Provincial and Federal Governments to seek their commitment to enter into a new Vancouver Agreement that will provide an ongoing programmatic relationship and a shared commitment to a long term approach to addressing the overdose crisis. Within the context of this agreement, partners will work together to identify and plan changes to the health care system to enable a robust system of continuity of addiction treatment that includes culturally safe practices.
- K.** THAT, pursuant to Section 206(1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council deem the organizations in Recommendations B(i), B(iii), D(i), D(iv), I(iv), I(v), and J(ii) above, which are not otherwise a registered charity with the Canada Revenue Agency, to be contributing to the health and welfare of the City.
- L.** THAT all grants to each organization be subject to executing and delivering a grant agreement (or signing and returning a grant letter agreeing in writing to its terms) on the terms generally outlined in the Administrative Report dated December 14, 2018, entitled “Mayor’s Overdose Emergency Task Force – Recommendations for Immediate Action on the Overdose Crisis,” and otherwise satisfactory to the General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services and City Solicitor, and in the case of a grant agreement to be executed by the City Solicitor on behalf of the City.
- M.** THAT no legal rights or obligations are created by the approval of B(i), B(iii), D(i), D(iv), I(iv), I(v), and J(ii) above, unless and until an actual grant agreement (or letter agreement) is executed and delivered by the City and the recipient organization in accordance with L above.
- N.** THAT Council authorize the Mayor to communicate all requests approved above on behalf of Council to each appropriate government authority.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Carr  
SECONDED by Councillor Swanson

THAT the following be added as “O”:

THAT in recognition of the lives that have been lost and are continuing to be lost in the opioid crisis of contaminated illicit drugs, the City of Vancouver fly our city’s



flag at half-mast continuously until B.C.'s provincial health officer rescinds the current state of public health emergency.

amended

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry  
SECONDED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the word "continuously" be replaced with "on Welfare Wednesday".

withdrawn

Councillor Fry requested to withdraw his amendment to the amendment noted above. The Council agreed.

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry  
SECONDED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the word "continuously" be replaced with "on the anniversary of the declaration of the state of emergency (April 14) and on International Overdose Day (August 31)".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 3726)  
(Councillors Bligh, Boyle and Wiebe absent for the vote)

The amendment to the amendment having carried, the amendment as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, with Councillors Bligh, Boyle and Wiebe absent for the vote. (Vote No. 3727)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Swanson  
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the following changes be made to "G(ii)":

- insert the phrase "drug users and drug user groups" following the word "Control"
- delete the word "and" before the phrase "the BC Centre for Disease Control"

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 3728)  
(Councillors Bligh, Boyle and Wiebe absent for the vote)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Swanson  
SECONDED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the following be added as "P":

THAT Council direct staff to work, in consultation with drug user groups and other stakeholders, to review City by-laws that may further marginalize and criminalize drug users and low income people and report back to Council with findings and any recommendations for adjustments in approach, at the end of Q2 of 2019.

amended

*AT 5:01 pm, it was*

*MOVED by Councillor Carr  
SECONDED by Councillor De Genova*

*THAT the meeting recess briefly.*

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND  
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY  
(Councillors Bligh, Boyle and Wiebe absent for the vote)*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Council recessed at 5:02 pm and reconvened at 5:10 pm.*

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AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor De Genova  
SECONDED by Councillor Fry

THAT the amendment be amended as follows:

- insert the word “illicit” before the words “drug user”, in both instances
- replace the phrase “findings and any recommendations for adjustments in approach at the end of” with the phrase “an interim report in”

CARRIED (Vote No. 3729)  
(Councillor Hardwick opposed)  
(Councillors Bligh, Boyle and Wiebe absent for the vote)

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor De Genova  
SECONDED by Councillor Hardwick

THAT the phrase “low income people and” be removed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 3730)  
(Councillors Bligh, Boyle and Wiebe absent for the vote)

The amendments to the amendment having carried, the amendment was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, with Councillors Bligh, Boyle and Wiebe absent for the vote. (Vote No. 3731)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Dominato  
SECONDED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the title of “G” be amended as follows:

- insert the word “Recovery” in front of the word “Options”

FURTHER THAT “G(ii)” be amended as follows:

- insert the phrase “and recovery-oriented services and supports, including acute treatment and on demand” after the word “treatment”
- insert the phrase “and the BC Centre on Substance Use” after the phrase “drug user groups”
- delete the word “and” before “drug user groups”

amended

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry  
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT the word “acute” and the phrase “and on demand” be deleted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 3732)  
(Councillors Bligh, Boyle and Wiebe absent for the vote)

The amendment to the amendment having carried, the amendment was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, with Councillors Bligh, Boyle and Wiebe absent for the vote. (Vote No. 3733)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Dominato  
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT “G(iii)” be amended as follows:

- insert the phrase “and the British Columbia Centre on Substance Use” after the phrase “BC Centre for Disease Control”
- delete the word “and” before “the BC Centre for Disease Control”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 3734)  
(Councillors Bligh, Boyle and Wiebe absent for the vote)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Dominato  
SECONDED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the following be added as “G(v)”:

THAT Council write the Premier and Minister of Mental Health and Addictions in support of Coquitlam Mayor and Council’s call for action to establish a “Campus of Care” for mental health and addictions on the Riverview lands, which could include treatment services and recovery supports for those struggling with opioid addiction.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 3735)  
(Councillors Bligh, Boyle and Wiebe absent for the vote)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Dominato  
SECONDED by Councillor Fry

THAT the following be added as “H(ii)”:

THAT Council direct staff to make a call out for philanthropic foundations and other funders to partner with EMBERS or similar organizations to establish supported employment programs to aid in treatment and recovery.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 3736)  
(Councillor Swanson abstained from the vote)  
(Councillors Bligh, Boyle and Wiebe absent for the vote)

*(\*Section 145.1 of the Vancouver Charter states “Where a member present at meeting abstains from voting, they are deemed to have voted in the affirmative.”)*

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Dominato  
SECONDED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the following be added as “J(iv)”:

THAT Council endorse the 39 recommendations included in the recently released BC Centre on Substance Use report: “Strategies to Strengthen: Recovery in British Columbia. A Path Forward.”

amended

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor De Genova  
SECONDED by Councillor Fry

THAT the amendment be amended as follows:

- delete the word “endorse”
- insert the phrase “direct staff to report back” after the word “Council”
- insert the phrase “by end of Q1 of 2019” after the word “Forward”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 3737)  
(Councillors Bligh, Boyle and Wiebe absent for the vote)

The amendment to the amendment having carried, the amendment was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, with Councillors Bligh, Boyle, Kirby-Yung and Wiebe absent for the vote. (Vote No. 3738)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Dominato  
SECONDED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the following be added as “J(v)”:

THAT Council issue a formal statement of support for a clean drug supply and write the provincial and federal governments in support of health care system changes to enable this supply.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 3739)  
(Councillors Bligh, Boyle, Kirby-Yung and Wiebe absent for the vote)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry  
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT the following be added as “I(vi)”:

THAT Council direct staff to prioritize work on the development of drop-in, support, and overdose prevention services along the Kingsway corridor.

FURTHER THAT Council request funding for these services and operations from the Province (approximately 2.5 million/year).

amended

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor De Genova  
SECONDED by Councillor Fry

THAT the phrase “and in consultation with all community stakeholders as staff see fit” be inserted after the word “corridor”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 3740)  
(Councillors Bligh, Boyle, Kirby-Yung and Wiebe absent for the vote)

The amendment to the amendment having carried, the amendment was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, with Councillors Bligh, Boyle, Kirby-Yung and Wiebe absent for the vote. (Vote No. 3741)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor De Genova  
SECONDED by Mayor Stewart

THAT the following be added as “B(iv)”:

THAT Council request the Mayor to move a motion at the Metro Vancouver Mayor’s Committee, to recommend the committee to strike a sub-committee or task force to address the overdose crisis in Metro Vancouver and relevant regional issues; and

FURTHER THAT if resources cannot be sourced within Metro Vancouver that each municipality contribute at least \$10,000 to provide resources and funding to the committee.

amended

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Carr  
SECONDED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the FURTHER THAT be deleted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 3742)  
(Councillors Bligh, Boyle, Kirby-Yung and Wiebe absent for the vote)

The amendment to the amendment having carried, the amendment was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, with Councillors Bligh, Boyle and Wiebe absent for the vote. (Vote No. 3743)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor De Genova  
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the following be added as "Q":

THAT Council request the Mayor to write a letter to the Minister of Public Safety, responsible for Canadian Border Services Agency, the Minister of Public Services and Procurement, responsible for Canada Post Corporation, and:

- a. Request their participation in the Advisory and Membership of the Mayor's Overdose Emergency Task Force.
- b. Express the concerns and issues; in consultation with the Vancouver Police Department, surrounding all illicit drugs entering Vancouver through the mail system and across borders.
- c. The need for laws, by-laws, acts and policies that currently impede the Vancouver Police Department's ability to intercept the systems and mail that enable the travel and delivery of illicit drugs fuelling the overdose crisis.

amended

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Mayor Stewart  
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT "Q(a)" be deleted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 3745)  
(Councillor abstained from the vote)  
(Councillor Bligh, Boyle, Kirby-Yung and Wiebe absent for the vote)

(\*Section 145.1 of the Vancouver Charter states "Where a member present at meeting abstains from voting, they are deemed to have voted in the affirmative.")

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Carr  
SECONDED by Councillor De Genova

THAT "Q(c)" be amended as follows:

THAT the words "changes to" be inserted after the phrase "The need for".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 3746)  
(Councillor Swanson abstained from the vote)  
(Councillors Bligh, Boyle, Kirby-Yung and Wiebe absent for the vote)

*(\*Section 145.1 of the Vancouver Charter states "Where a member present at meeting abstains from voting, they are deemed to have voted in the affirmative.")*

The amendments to the amendment having carried, the amendment was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, with Councillors Bligh, Boyle, Kirby-Yung and Wiebe absent for the vote. (Vote No. 3747)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor De Genova  
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the following be added as "R":

THAT Council ask the Mayor to urge the Province of British Columbia to implement a new model for issuing social assistance cheques and offer Vancouver as a site for a proof of concept model.

amended

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Dominato  
SECONDED by Councillor Wiebe

THAT the word "implement" be replaced by the word "explore".

CARRIED (Vote No. 3748)  
(Councillor Swanson opposed)  
(Councillor Hardwick abstained from the vote)  
(Councillors Bligh, Boyle, Kirby-Yung absent for the vote)

*(\*Section 145.1 of the Vancouver Charter states "Where a member present at meeting abstains from voting, they are deemed to have voted in the affirmative.")*

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Swanson  
SECONDED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the phrase “explore a new model for issuing social assistance cheques and” be replaced with the phrase “consult with people on social assistance to see if they would like a new model for issuing social assistance cheques, and if they do”.

CARRIED (Vote No. 3749)  
(Councillor Hardwick opposed)  
(Councillor Bligh, Boyle and Kirby-Yung absent for the vote)

*AT 6:30 pm, it was*

*MOVED by Councillor De Genova*  
*SECONDED by Councillor Dominato*

*THAT the meeting recess and reconvene in half an hour.*

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND*  
*BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY*  
*(Councillors Bligh, Boyle and Kirby-Yung absent for the vote)*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Council recessed at 6:31 pm and reconvened at 7:03 pm.*

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AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry  
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the amendment be struck and the following be inserted:

THAT Council request that the Province consider using Vancouver as a community in which to pilot new models for social insurance cheque distribution, consulting with recipients, community organizations and the City on the process and evaluation of the pilots.

withdrawn

Councillor Fry requested to withdraw his amendment to the amendment. Council agreed.

The amendments to the amendment having carried, the amendment was put and CARRIED, Councillors Fry, Hardwick and Swanson opposed, and with Councillors Bligh, Boyle and Kirby-Yung absent for the vote. (Vote No. 3750)



AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor De Genova  
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the following be added as "S":

THAT Council direct staff to explore how all pillars of the Four Pillars Drug Strategy have been applied to the overdose crisis since the Provincial Medical Health Officer declared a public health emergency under the Public Health Act on April 14, 2016, and report back in Q3 of 2019.

FURTHER THAT staff include information, in consultation with the Vancouver Police Department, as to the steps that are being taken to enforce all laws and bring charges against high-level and high-volume illicit drug traffickers who directly contribute to the death(s) of illicit drug user(s) and report back with information by Q3 of 2019.

amended

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Carr  
SECONDED by Councillor Fry

THAT the phrase "enforce all laws and" be deleted.

CARRIED (Vote No. 3751)  
(Councillor Swanson opposed)  
(Councillor Hardwick abstained from the vote)  
(Councillors Bligh, Boyle and Kirby-Yung absent for the vote)

*(\*Section 145.1 of the Vancouver Charter states "Where a member present at meeting abstains from voting, they are deemed to have voted in the affirmative.")*

The amendment to the amendment having carried, the amendment was put and CARRIED, with Councillor Swanson opposed, and with Councillors Bligh, Boyle and Kirby-Yung absent for the vote. (Vote No. 3752)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Carr  
SECONDED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the following be added as "T":

THAT staff explore and implement one or more ways to regularly provide information to the public on the numbers of lives being lost due to the opioid crisis. This could include a digital display board, a tracker on the website, public art, or other approaches.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 3753)  
(Councillor Bligh, Boyle and Kirby-Yung absent for the vote)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Hardwick  
SECONDED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the following be added as “U”:

THAT Council direct City staff to partner with the [Overdose Prevention Society](#) (OPS), in conjunction with Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) and the Vancouver Police Department (VPD), to explore options for the use of legal cannabis in preventing deaths from opioid overdose, including reducing the anxiety that leads to opioid addiction, given that, as of October 17, 2018, and subject to provincial or territorial restrictions, adults who are 18 years of age or older are legally able to possess and consume legal cannabis.

FURTHER THAT City staff be directed to seek the clinical advice of British Columbia Centre on Substance Use (BCCSU) substance-use epidemiologist M-J Milloy who was recently appointed to be Professor of Cannabis Science at UBC and is leading clinical trials to explore the role cannabis can play in helping people with opioid use disorder stay on their treatment plan.

amended

*AT 7:27 pm, it was*

*MOVED by Mayor Stewart  
SECONDED by Councillor De Genova*

*THAT the meeting recess.*

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND  
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY  
(Councillors Bligh and Boyle absent for the vote)*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Council recessed at 7:27 pm and reconvened at 7:31 pm.*

\* \* \* \* \*

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor De Genova  
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the word “partner” be replaced with the phrase “consult and possibly partner”.

FURTHER THAT the phrase “in conjunction” be replaced by the word “consultation”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 3754)  
(Councillor Bligh, Boyle and Kirby-Yung absent for the vote)

The amendment to the amendment having carried, the amendment was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, with Councillors Bligh, Boyle and Kirby-Yung absent for the vote. (Vote No. 3755)

The amendments having carried, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND B(i), B(ii), D(i), D(iv), I(iv), I(v) and J(ii), BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY, with Councillors Bligh and Kirby-Yung absent for the vote. (Vote No. 3756)

## **FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED**

### **1. Mayor's Overdose Emergency Task Force – Recommendations for Immediate Action on the Overdose Crisis**

#### **A. Results of the Overdose Emergency Task Force**

THAT Council receive for information results of the Mayor's Overdose Emergency Task Force with details described in the Administrative Report dated December 14, 2018, entitled "Mayor's Overdose Emergency Task Force – Recommendations for Immediate Action on the Overdose Crisis", as well as recommendations for immediate action based on input from the Mayor's Overdose Emergency Task Force.

#### **B. Invest in Indigenous Healing and Wellness**

- i. THAT Council approve a one-time grant of up to \$100,000 to Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council (MVAEC) to pilot wrap around supports and post-overdose response in collaboration with other Indigenous led and serving organizations. Source of funds: 2018 Operating Budget.
- ii. THAT Council request that the Provincial and Federal governments commit to ongoing operating funding of approximately \$310,000 to Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council (MVAEC) and \$120,000 to the Pacific Association of First Nations Women.
- iii. THAT Council approve a one-time grant of up to \$100,000 to the Pacific Association of First Nations Women to support Indigenous women including mothers who have lost loved ones due to the crisis in Vancouver as identified in this report. Source of funds: 2018 Operating Budget.
- iv. THAT Council request the Mayor to move a motion at the Metro Vancouver Mayor's Committee, to recommend the committee to strike a sub-committee or task force to address the overdose crisis in Metro Vancouver and relevant regional issues.

**C. Enable a Peer Based Organization/Drug user Network**

THAT Council request that the Province provide \$1,000,000 annually in ongoing operating funding for a provincial organization(s) of people who use drugs to better engage their expertise in the municipal overdose emergency response as described in the Administrative Report dated December 14, 2018, entitled “Mayor’s Overdose Emergency Task Force – Recommendations for Immediate Action on the Overdose Crisis”.

**D. Save Lives at Home: SROs and Overdose Prevention**

- i. THAT Council approve a one-time grant of up to \$106,000 for an 18 month pilot to the Downtown Eastside SRO Collaborative Society for the Tenant Overdose Response Organizers (“TORO”) to assist with the costs of space, furniture and tenant improvements for peer programs in five private single room occupancy (SRO) hotels where tenants are at risk of overdose, and that staff report back after the 18 month pilot on options for securing space in private SROs. Source of Funds: 2018 Operating Budget.
- ii. THAT Council request that the Province provide the Downtown Eastside SRO Collaborative Society \$47,000/year annual funding to expand existing overdose response operations and \$135,000 for the 18 month pilot noted in D(i) above.
- iii. THAT Council request that the Province provide additional annual funding to Vancouver Coastal Health in the amount of \$1,000,000 to expand the existing Vancouver Coastal Health overdose prevention services in non-profit SROs where tenants are at risk of overdose.
- iv. THAT Council provide a grant in the amount of \$44,000 to Lookout Housing and Health Society to support a one-year pilot for peers to monitor SRO washrooms in collaboration with Vancouver Coastal Health overdose prevention services. Source of funds: 2018 Operating Budget.
- v. THAT Council direct staff to review the Vancouver Coastal Health washroom guidelines and develop an implementation strategy for working with not for profit and private operators by April 2019.

**E. Expand Harm Reduction in the Downtown Eastside**

- i. THAT Council request that the Province provide funding for Vancouver Coastal Health in the amount of \$355,000 in annual operating funding to support a new outdoor inhalation Overdose Prevention Service in the Downtown Eastside and direct staff to assist in identifying an appropriate outdoor site.

- ii. THAT Council direct staff to assess the level of risk in public washrooms and recommend any necessary changes to public washrooms by June 2019.

**F. Secure Space for a Clean Supply project**

THAT Council direct City staff to work with partners to identify a location for a storefront service space in or adjacent to the Downtown Eastside for the BC Centre for Disease Control (“BCCDC”) low barrier hydromorphone dispersal pilot enrollment project by April 2019.

**G. Expand Access to Treatment Recovery Options**

- i. THAT City staff be directed to work with Vancouver Coastal Health as needed to support the improvements anticipated by their new Cascade of Care model, including promoting and facilitating referrals and linkages to care and supports for marginalized people receiving care.
- ii. THAT Council send a request that the Province make significant additional investments in addictions treatment and recovery-oriented services and supports, including treatment services in Vancouver and province-wide, with appropriate input from experts at Vancouver Coastal Health, First Nations Health Authority, other health authorities, the BC Centre for Disease Control, drug users, drug user groups, and the BC Centre on Substance Use.
- iii. THAT Council grant standing authority to the Mayor to request additional investment in addictions treatment services from the Province in Vancouver and province-wide should the need arise in the future, with appropriate input from experts at Vancouver Coastal Health, First Nations Health Authority, other health authorities, the BC Centre for Disease Control, drug users, drug user groups, and the BC Centre on Substance Use.
- iv. THAT Council approve a one-time allocation of \$100,000 to the Vancouver Police Board to implement a pilot to address any gaps, improvements and recommendations that may be made relevant to continuity of treatment for detainees with opioid use disorder, including maintenance of opioid agonist therapy and connection to care upon release. Source of funds: 2018 Operating Budget.
- v. THAT Council write the Premier and Minister of Mental Health and Addictions in support of Coquitlam Mayor and Council’s call for action to establish a “Campus of Care” for mental health and addictions on the Riverview lands, which could include treatment services and recovery supports for those struggling with opioid addiction.

**H. Support programs providing low barrier employment and purposeful activity opportunities to understand the role of employment in maintaining therapy and recovery**

- i. THAT Council request that the Department of Employment and Social Development Canada contribute \$500,000 in one-time funding to EMBERS for Eastside Works to a pilot a program to evaluate and demonstrate the impact of income generation and purposeful activity on people with mental health and addictions.
- ii. THAT Council direct staff to make a call out for philanthropic foundations and other funders to partner with EMBERS or similar organizations to establish supported employment programs to aid in treatment and recovery.

**I. Provide Harm Reduction, Treatment and Supports Across Vancouver Neighbourhoods**

- i. THAT Council direct City staff to work with Vancouver Coastal Health to identify locations for Vancouver Coastal Health to park its mobile Overdose Prevention Services unit by April 2019 that will allow for an assessment of service needs in neighbourhoods outside the Downtown Eastside.
- ii. THAT Council direct staff to work with the BC Centre on Substance Use (“BCCSU”) to plan and implement a communications plan for distributing resources and information for families and people using illicit drugs across Vancouver.
- iii. THAT Council request that the Province provide additional funds to Vancouver Coastal Health to support wider distribution of and fentanyl test strips across Vancouver, targeting high risk areas with Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services, Community Centres, Libraries, Neighbourhood Houses and other social serving agencies.
- iv. THAT Council approve a grant in the amount of \$10,000 to the BCCSU to host five additional “Stronger Together” community sessions to increase awareness of resources and link to low-barrier access to treatment in neighbourhoods outside of the Downtown Eastside. Source of funds: 2018 Operating Budget.
- v. THAT Council approve a one-time grant of \$20,000 to RainCity Housing and Support Society to implement a pilot program to provide supports to sex workers along the Kingsway corridor. Source of funds: 2018 Operating Budget.
- vi. THAT Council direct staff to prioritize work on the development of drop-in, support, and overdose prevention services along the Kingsway corridor and in consultation with all community stakeholders

as staff see fit.

FURTHER THAT Council request funding for these services and operations from the Province (approximately 2.5 million/year).

**J. Collective Action for Systemic Changes**

- i. THAT in the context of the crisis, the Mayor request that the City and Vancouver Police Department co-host a working group with Executive membership from the BC Ministry of Justice, BC Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, Community Drug Court, Vancouver Coastal Health, BC Centre for Substance Use, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, and People with Lived Experience, to identify risks to overdose deaths due to interface with the criminal justice system of those addicted to illicit drugs; and, for this Working Group to report back on a comprehensive program for action in Vancouver.
  - ii. THAT Council approve a grant of up to \$20,000 to Drawing Wisdom to develop a training resource for the City, including the Vancouver Police Department and Vancouver Public Library, with a focus on colonization, and its resulting effect on social issues including criminalization. Source of funds: 2018 Operating Budget.
  - iii. THAT Council commit the City of Vancouver to approaching the Provincial and Federal Governments to seek their commitment to enter into a new Vancouver Agreement that will provide an ongoing programmatic relationship and a shared commitment to a long term approach to addressing the overdose crisis. Within the context of this agreement, partners will work together to identify and plan changes to the health care system to enable a robust system of continuity of addiction treatment that includes culturally safe practices.
  - iv. THAT Council direct staff to report back on the 39 recommendations included in the recently released BC Centre on Substance Use report: "Strategies to Strengthen: Recovery in British Columbia. A Path Forward," by the end of Q1 of 2019.
  - v. THAT Council issue a formal statement of support for a clean drug supply and write the provincial and federal governments in support of health care system changes to enable this supply.
- K.** THAT, pursuant to Section 206(1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council deem the organizations in B(i), B(iii), D(i), D(iv), I(iv), I(v), and J(ii) above, which are not otherwise a registered charity with the Canada Revenue Agency, to be contributing to the health and welfare of the City.
- L.** THAT all grants to each organization be subject to executing and delivering a grant agreement (or signing and returning a grant letter agreeing in writing to its terms) on the terms generally outlined in the Administrative Report dated

December 14, 2018, entitled “Mayor’s Overdose Emergency Task Force – Recommendations for Immediate Action on the Overdose Crisis”, and otherwise satisfactory to the General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services and City Solicitor, and in the case of a grant agreement to be executed by the City Solicitor on behalf of the City.

- M.** THAT no legal rights or obligations are created by the approval of B(i), B(iii), D(i), D(iv), I(iv), I(v), and J(ii) above, unless and until an actual grant agreement (or letter agreement) is executed and delivered by the City and the recipient organization in accordance with L above.
- N.** THAT Council authorize the Mayor to communicate all requests approved above on behalf of Council to each appropriate government authority.
- O.** THAT, in recognition of the lives that have been lost and are continuing to be lost in the opioid crisis of contaminated illicit drugs, the City of Vancouver fly our city’s flag at half-mast on the anniversary of the declaration of the state of emergency (April 14) and International Overdose Awareness Day (August 31) until B.C.’s provincial health officer rescinds the current state of public health emergency.
- P.** THAT Council direct staff to work, in consultation with illicit drug user groups and other stakeholders, to review City by-laws that may further marginalize and criminalize illicit drug users and report back to Council with an interim report in Q2 of 2019.
- Q.** THAT Council request the Mayor to write a letter to the Minister of Public Safety, responsible for Canadian Border Services Agency, and the Minister of Public Services and Procurement, responsible for Canada Post Corporation, and:
  - a) Express the concerns and issues, in consultation with the Vancouver Police Department, surrounding all illicit drugs entering Vancouver through the mail system and across borders.
  - b) The need for changes to laws, by-laws, acts and policies that currently impede the Vancouver Police Department’s ability to intercept the systems and mail that enable the travel and delivery of illicit drugs fuelling the overdose crisis.
- R.** THAT Council ask the Mayor to urge the Province of British Columbia to consult with people on social assistance to see if they would like a new model for issuing social assistance cheques, and if they do, offer Vancouver as a site for a proof of concept model.
- S.** THAT Council direct staff to explore how all pillars of the Four Pillars Drug Strategy have been applied to the overdose crisis since the Provincial Medical Health Officer declared a public health emergency under the Public Health Act on April 14, 2016, and report back in Q3 of 2019.



FURTHER THAT staff include information, in consultation with the Vancouver Police Department, as to the steps that are being taken to bring charges against high-level and high-volume illicit drug traffickers who directly contribute to the death(s) of illicit drug user(s) and report back with information by Q3 of 2019.

- T. THAT staff explore and implement one or more ways to regularly provide information to the public on the numbers of lives being lost due to the opioid crisis. This could include a digital display board, a tracker on the website, public art, or other approaches.
- U. THAT Council direct City staff to consult and possibly partner with the [Overdose Prevention Society](#) (OPS), in consultation with Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) and the Vancouver Police Department (VPD), to explore options for the use of legal cannabis in preventing deaths from opioid overdose, including reducing the anxiety that leads to opioid addiction, given that, as of October 17, 2018, and subject to provincial or territorial restrictions, adults who are 18 years of age or older are legally able to possess and consume legal cannabis.

FURTHER THAT City staff be directed to seek the clinical advice of British Columbia Centre on Substance Use (BCCSU) substance-use epidemiologist M-J Milloy, who was recently appointed to be Professor of Cannabis Science at UBC and is leading clinical trials to explore the role cannabis can play in helping people with opioid use disorder stay on their treatment plan.

## ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Hardwick  
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Special Council adjourned at 7:52 pm.

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The foregoing are Minutes of the Special Council Meeting (Overdose Emergency Task Force) of December 20, 2018, adopted by Council on January 15, 2019.

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MAYOR

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CITY CLERK