

MOTION ON NOTICE

6. Making the Case for Housing All People Counted as Homeless in Shelters or on the Street

At the Regular Council meeting on April 2, 2019, Vancouver City Council referred the following Motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on April 3, 2019.

Submitted by: Councillor Swanson

WHEREAS

1. People who are homeless have about half the life expectancy of housed people;
2. Studies show that it's cheaper to house people who are homeless than to provide services to them on the street;
3. We now have a successful model (through the Modular Housing Program) for quickly housing street and sheltered homeless people;
4. Modular housing doesn't have to be temporary if it is built with a foundation;
5. The dramatic increase in homelessness has occurred since the Federal Government reduced its support for the National Housing Program in the 1990's;
6. Vancouver spends millions of dollars trying to help, move, house, and respond to complaints about people who are homeless.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct City of Vancouver staff to develop a human and business case for the Federal and Provincial governments to increase and co-ordinate delivery of social housing to house people who are homeless and people at risk of homelessness. The business case should demonstrate the direct costs incurred by all three levels of government to deal with homelessness in Vancouver and Metro Vancouver (depending on scope of research), versus the capital and operating funding required to build permanent housing for all the counted people who are homeless and for people at risk of homelessness.
- B. THAT the business case includes the amount of funding (capital and operating grants, excluding financing) that the Federal and Provincial governments have provided for housing people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness over the last two year and the annual direct cost of homelessness to the City of Vancouver (outreach, street/engineering, park rangers, shelters, warming centres, grants to non-profits to make housing affordable for low income people, DCL exemptions and waivers

for social, supportive and rental housing, value of CAC's, density bonusing and inclusionary zoning attributable to housing for people who are homeless, City land, foregone property taxes, etc.) and the Metro Region (depending on scope), versus the capital and operating funding required to build permanent housing (which could be modular) for all the counted people who are homeless and people at risk of homelessness.

- C. THAT the business case be presented to the Federal government by the end of June, 2019 to allow for maximum impact on election platforms along with requests to the Federal and Provincial governments for the funds required to house all people who are counted as homeless and people at risk of homelessness in Vancouver and (if within scope) the Metro Region.
- D. THAT the business case outlined above be made public.
- E. THAT staff be asked to consult with modular housing residents and people who are homeless and groups they belong to, in order to make the human case.
- F. THAT if there is not currently the staff capacity to complete this work, that Council direct staff to procure an outside consultant to prepare the business case.

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