To discuss today

1. City of Vancouver Covid-19 response and recovery programs

2. Council Committee on Covid-19 Recovery

3. Key recovery initiatives implemented to date, overview

4. Next steps

Appendix: Key recovery initiatives implemented to date, details
1. City of Vancouver Covid-19 response and recovery programs
Covid-19 in Vancouver

632,000 residents
37,000 businesses
3,400 registered charities

116% increase in hate crimes and racially motivated incidents
2020-09/2019-09

12.8% unemployment
Metro Vancouver, at August 2020

$7 m lost income for artists
Metro Vancouver, 2020 forecast/2019 actual

878% increase in anti-Asian hate incidents
2020-09/2019-09

The City of Vancouver is committed to working with our partners to support and accelerate our collective recovery from the pandemic impacts – on dimensions that include health, well-being, economic stability, safety, security, equity, anti-racism, and cultural expression – recognizing that at this time we are still in the midst of the pandemic.
City of Vancouver Covid-19 response and recovery programs

- **Response**
  - Emergency pandemic response

- **Recovery**
  - Economic and community recovery

- **Restart**
  - Reinitiating the City’s operations

- **Rethink | Rebuild**
  - City service efficiencies and effectiveness

**CITY OF VANCOUVER COVID-19 RECOVERY PROGRAM**
City of Vancouver Covid-19 response and recovery programs

Response
Emergency pandemic response

Recovery
Economic and community recovery

Restart
Reinitiating the City’s operations

Rethink | Rebuild
City service efficiencies and effectiveness

CITY OF VANCOUVER COVID-19 RECOVERY PROGRAM
Significant Covid-related work still underway, Emergency Operations Centre

~ 150 staff deployed to emergency pandemic response work

Primarily monitoring function

Select initiatives, City operations and community response
Covid emergency response continues to challenge our organisation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Winter and second wave</th>
<th>Continued very significant demand for City emergency response</th>
<th>Continuation of very significant pandemic response workload</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>→ Continued increase in cases</td>
<td>→ Need to prioritise limited City resources in the face of extensive community need</td>
<td>→ Covid requirements putting additional pressures on non-profit agencies involved in community response, e.g., space needs, cleaning supplies, PPE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>→ Changing weather means increased impact on people experiencing homelessness</td>
<td>→ Ability to respond depends upon available funding, financial uncertainty affects ability to proactively pursue opportunities</td>
<td>→ Demands on staff time to evaluate ongoing requests from health authorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>→ Demands on staff time to evaluate ongoing requests from health authorities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>→ Constant pressure to fund/deliver services outside of City’s mandate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
City of Vancouver Covid-19 response and recovery programs

Response
Emergency pandemic response

Recovery
Economic and community recovery

Restart
Reinitiating the City’s operations

Rethink | Rebuild
City service efficiencies and effectiveness

CITY OF VANCOUVER COVID-19 RECOVERY PROGRAM
Objective: City of Vancouver Covid-19 Economic and Community Recovery Program Plan

→ Develop a program comprised of a number of focused work components to support and accelerate our local business and community recovery during/following the Covid-19 crisis
How the City is supporting economic and business recovery

1. Existing programs and services
   - Libraries, community centres, public safety, social/cultural services

2. Existing work pivoted toward recovery
   - Online permit processing, rezoning digital open houses, the Vancouver Plan

3. New recovery initiatives implemented (~ 70)
   - Temporary Expedited Patio Program
   - Making Streets for People

4. New recovery initiative candidates (~ 120)
   - tbd

How to choose?
1. Alignment with Council priorities
2. Anticipated outcomes/impacts
3. Resourcing capabilities (funding, staff)
4. Alignment with existing programs and services
5. Alignment with municipal mandate
The City of Vancouver Covid-19 Recovery Program key assumptions

1. The City must work with partners on community recovery. Working closely with key partners such as Vancouver Coastal Health, BC Housing, the Vancouver School Board, local non-profit agencies, local First Nations and various senior government agencies, the City of Vancouver has a role to play in supporting our local community recovery.

2. The City has limited power to substantially directly influence the local economy. City of Vancouver has limited ability to directly influence the local economy through Covid-19 recovery, but is in a position to support a speedier recovery through strategic efforts.

3. This is an opportunity to make it easier to do business in Vancouver. One of the principal ways the City can support local business by making it easier to do business in Vancouver, through our regulations, services, policies and processes.

4. The City has an important advocacy role. City of Vancouver leadership can influence and support economic recovery planning efforts of industry, other levels of government and regional peers through convening others and targeted advocacy.
Planning Vancouver Together
Share your voice at vancouverplan.ca

Report of the Council COVID Recovery Committee

Committee of the Whole:
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

Covid-19
Economic and Community Recovery
Advisory Committee Council of Councils
30-Sep-2020

Covid engagement survey and two pulse surveys
#MovingVancouverFwd
2.

City of Vancouver’s Council Committee on Covid-19 Recovery
Council Covid Recovery Committee

- Initiated via Council motion, May 2020
- Committee of the whole of Council
- Presentations by ~25 experts and stakeholders on a selected set of recovery-related themes from May-July 2020
- Approximately 150 speakers’ recommendations, 40 identified as top-priority by the CCRC
Council Covid-19 Recovery Committee, themes

1. Economic recovery forecasts
2. Economic recovery and complete communities
3. Municipal government roles and responsibilities
4. Housing and homelessness
5. Climate emergency
A. Incorporate now

1. **Incorporate priority recommendations immediately.** Immediately upon receipt of the CCRC Report, incorporate the top-priority recommendations into the City’s Covid-19 Recovery Program and other workstreams as appropriate.

2. **Consider priority recommendations in 2021 budget.** Give consideration to the 41 top-priority recommendations in the CCRC report in the City’s 2021 Operating Budget.

B. Report back to Council in January 2021

1. **Evaluate/integrate.** Evaluate and as appropriate integrate CCRC findings and recommendations.

2. **Further questions.** Pursue answers to questions the CCRC was not able to answer during its mandate:
   - How can the city’s recovery plans increase resiliency city-wide?
   - How can we advance goals of service excellence?
   - What practices has the City adopted as a result of the pandemic should we consider continuing?

3. **Opportunities for Council to identify/hear from experts.** Options to create more opportunities for Council to identify/hear directly from experts and organizations as part of Council presentations.
3.

Key recovery initiatives implemented to date, overview
The City has invested $13 million in Covid-19 response since March 2020

The City has invested $21 million in Covid-19 community/economic recovery since March 2020

Response
Actions to address acute issues, risks and immediate impacts of Covid-19

Recovery
Actions supporting and/or accelerating local business and community recovery, to regain/rebuild what has been lost or disrupted by Covid-19

SOURCE OF FUNDING = REALLOCATED AND EXTERNAL FUNDING
RESPONSE FIGURE IS BEFORE PROVINCIAL REIMBURSEMENTS · FIGURES ARE APPROXIMATE
### Core municipal services
- Core municipal programs and services supporting recovery
- Advocacy, Safe Restart funding
- Advocacy, federal support for Canada’s large cities
- Advocacy, provincial support for Canada’s large cities
- Preparing for senior government stimulus funding

### Affordability and the housing crisis
- Affordable housing initiatives

### Protect and build a resilient local economy
- Business support and liaison
- Property tax due date extension
- Rent Assistance Program
- Electronic permit processing and inspections
- Digital public hearings
- Temporary Expedited Patio Program
- Temporary liquor licensing pre-approvals
- Making Streets for People Program
- Community safety and street disorder
- Cultural grants
- Open With Care campaign
- Advocacy: Digital Main Street, ShopHERE and Bring Back Main Street
- Advocacy: An expanded Provincial property tax deferment program
- Advocacy: Split commercial property assessment

### Equity and critical social issues
- Social grants and childcare
- Alcohol Consumption Pilot Project
- Bus-priority measures
- Support for people disproportionately impacted by Covid-19
- Indigenous peoples and recovery
- Supporting women through the recovery

### Action on climate change
- City’s climate emergency action plan Covid-19 intersects
Report of the Council COVID Recovery Committee

Committee of the Whole:
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

Submitted to:
Sadhu Johnston, City Manager, City of Vancouver
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Vancouver July 31, 2020

~ 90% of City’s recovery initiatives implemented to date are aligned with CCRC presenters’ recommendations
4.

Next steps
Wherever appropriate, City work has been/is being pivoted to address Covid-19 impacts and to support business and community recovery.

We will be flexible and quickly adjust within each priority to best support recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
Recovery Program next steps

Various Covid-19 Recovery Program workstream reports and one-off recovery initiatives to Council

January 2021
CCRC report to Council

Q1-2021

Implementation and continued focus on Covid-19 recovery integrated into all City work

November 2020
Covid-19 Recovery Program Progress Update to Council
Appendix
Key recovery initiatives implemented to date, details
Economic and Community Recovery Program, seven workstreams

A. Business Recovery
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager

B. Community Recovery / The Vancouver Plan
Gil Kelley, GM, PDS · Susan Haid, Deputy Director, PDS

C. Non-Profit & Social Enterprise Recovery Support
Sandra Singh, GM, ACCS · Branislav Henselmann, Director, Cultural Services

D. Disproportionately Impacted Populations Recovery Support
Sandra Singh, GM, ACCS · Mary Clare Zak, Director, Social Policy and Projects

E. Development & Permit Process Improvements
Gil Kelley, GM, PDS & Jessie Adcock, GM, DBL

F. Senior Government Advocacy
Tobin Postma, Director, Intergovernmental Relations

G. Stimulus-Funded Projects
Patrice Impey, GM, FRS · Grace Cheng, Director, LT Financial Strategy

Some overlap among workstreams, coordinated and aligned via central Leads Forum

INDIGENOUS RECOVERY
Deliver quality core services that meet residents’ needs

| Address affordability and the housing crisis | Protect and build a resilient local economy | Increase focus on equity and critical social issues | Accelerate action on climate change |

We will be flexible and quickly adjust within each priority to best support recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
COUNCIL PRIORITY

Deliver quality core services that meet residents’ needs
Our core municipal programs and services support recovery

- Libraries and community centres have mostly fully resumed services
- Public service desks limited operation, have been largely replaced with digital services
- Civic theatres limited restart
- Significant budget shortfalls in 2020 and 2021
Advocacy, Safe Restart funding

- Federal and provincial governments to contribute $540 million to support BC local governments’ Covid-19 restart/recovery
  - $425 million: Support restart and mitigate Covid-19 financial and operating impacts
  - $100 million: Strengthening communities
  - $15 million: Development approval process improvements
- Combined efforts of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Big City Mayors’ Caucus, and finance and intergovernmental relations staff
- City of Vancouver allocation tbd
Advocacy, federal support for Canada’s large cities

- Seeking enhanced ongoing federal support for large urban cities
- Municipal finance reform to better align funding sources and mandate
- Parallel/aligned political and staff efforts
- City Manager collaboration forum for Canada’s six largest cities – Big City Executive Partnership
Advocacy, provincial support for Canada’s large cities

- BC Urban Mayors’ Caucus 2020 Blueprint for British Columbia’s Urban Future
  - Mental Health, Substance Use and Addictions
  - Affordable Housing
  - Public Transit
  - A New Fiscal Framework

- Seeking a minimum $1 billion annual unconditional funding from Province for capital infrastructure
Preparing for senior government stimulus funding

- Preparing applications for a number of emerging senior government Covid-related infrastructure funding streams
- Emphasis on alignment with other Council priorities, e.g., housing, climate emergency, childcare, etc.
COUNCIL PRIORITY

Address affordability and the housing crisis
Affordable Housing

• $30 million allocated to Emergency Covid-19 relief for unsheltered Vancouver residents in October 2010

• Expediting regulatory processing for affordable housing

• April 2020 Covid19 Housing Response and Recovery Plan – immediate recovery actions and longer-term recalibration of our housing system
  – Replacement of DTES SROs to self-contained social housing, scaling up production of non-market housing, encouraging private developers to provide housing aligned to local incomes, enhancing rental housing, preventing speculation
  – Opportunity to access the $1 billion federal Rapid Housing Initiative, the second stream of Reaching Home Program funding
COUNCIL PRIORITY

Protect and build a resilient local economy
Business support and liaison

- Business Communication and Support portal established April 2020, single point of contact for business support and feedback to the City
- To mid-October, over 10,800 business inquiries to 311, website accessed over 2,000 times
- June 2020 Council motion to advance business support and liaison, including one-stop portal for City transactions, and a business advisory taskforce
Property tax due date extension

- Residential and non-residential property tax due date extended from first week in July to September 30, 2020
Rent Assistance Program

• For qualified tenants in City-owned properties, option to defer April/May 2020 rent, to be paid back over 2021, no interest or penalties
Electronic permit processing and inspections

- Evaluating which of the Covid-19 permit intake improvements to permanently incorporate into business model

- Virtual meetings and document review, electronic payments, virtual design staff review meeting decisions

- Virtual Urban Design Panel and Development Permit Board meetings

- Thirty-three virtual open houses for rezoning applications to date, ~14,300 visits – three-week period for public to ask questions, response within two business days, replacing a single three-hour in-person event

- Expanded construction hours, case by case decisions via GM, DBL
Digital public hearings

- Online digital public hearings for rezoning applications

Can public hearings in Vancouver City Council for rezoning applications still be conducted within the foreseeable future? Attracting public speakers and delegations to council chambers is currently a tough proposition due to COVID-19.
Temporary Expedited Patio Program

• For restaurants and cafes
• Original program ended November 2020, extended to October 2021
• Fees and permits waived, straightforward permits issued in 2-5 business days
• Changed Zoning Bylaw to allow breweries, wineries and distilleries to operate outdoors
• 415 temporary patio permits issued to end-September 2020 – 336 on public property, 79 on private property
Temporary liquor licensing pre-approvals

- Blanket pre-approval for eligible temporary liquor service area expansions, streamlined process
- Originally to end-October 2020, extended to end-October 2021
- Aligned *Fire Bylaw* occupancy calculations with *BC Fire Code*, allowing higher occupancy in some cases
Making Streets for People Program

- **Room to Move** – Space for business customers, pedestrians and bus passengers (Beach Avenue, Granville Street)

- **Room to Load** – Space for short term loading near businesses

- **Room to Queue** – Space for lineups outside businesses and agencies (17 in place)

- **Slow Streets** – Over 40 km of roads to give people more space to exercise/hang out

- **Repurposed street space** – To allow more walking, rolling and cycling, e.g., Beach Avenue, 11 + 3 upcoming pop-up plazas (including linear plazas on Robson Street), various parklets and extended sidewalks
Community safety and street disorder

- Supporting increased security presence in Chinatown in response to rising racism, violence and graffiti

- Reallocation of sanitation resources to address increasing response to unsheltered homelessness and related issues – increased homelessness services outreach, garbage and litter collection, lane flushing, micro-cleaning, power-washing pilot, focused in Downtown South

- Deploying park ambassadors in high-traffic parks

- Hosted seven multi-lingual town halls to facilitate dialogue on community issues/concerns/Covid-19 response

- Anti-Racism Action Plan and Washroom Strategy are both near-term workplan priorities

- Vancouver Coastal Health has increased Spikes on Bikes needle pickup service
Cultural grants

- ~$3.2 million grants disbursed in 2020
- Includes $1.8 million repurposed for Covid-19 recovery and resilience
Open With Care campaign

• Provided design and translation services to the Business Associations of BC Open With Care campaign, encouraging Vancouverites to shop local as businesses reopened, with customer/staff safety top of mind

• Posters, buttons, and floor decals among materials translated into Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Punjabi, Tagalog, and Vietnamese

• Promoted on City website

• Materials available online to download
Advocacy: Digital Main Street, ShopHERE and Bring Back Main Street

- Partnering with a number of business associations to advocate for Digital Main Street and ShopHERE – programs that support independent small business and artists in creating a commercial online presence

- Bring Back Main Street is national research and action campaign to support main street recovery
Advocacy: An expanded Provincial property tax deferment program

- Advocating to expand the provincial property tax deferment program to include all residential, commercial and non-profit agencies that need it
Advocacy: Split assessment through a new commercial sub-class

• Advocating for a split property assessment methodology that would enable the City to lower property taxes on unbuilt density, in order to provide tax relief to small business, art, culture and non-profit sectors
COUNCIL PRIORITY

Increase focus on equity and critical social issues
Social grants and childcare

- $1.3 million social service grants to be disbursed in 2020, an incremental $580,000 to be considered by Council in November 2020

- $0.5 million Childcare Rapid Response grants disbursed July 2020, an incremental $250,000 to be considered by Council in November 2020
  - For both grant streams, focus on communities disproportionately impacted by Covid19, including urban Indigenous people, the Black community and sex workers

- Three new childcare facilities coming online – 162 new spaces for under five year olds, two opening in 2022
Support for people disproportionately impacted by Covid19

• Increased homelessness outreach to individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness – income, housing and supports

• Funded three washroom trailers operated by partners

• Working with Vancouver Coastal Health to implement interventions to mitigate re-escalating opioid crisis

• Translating select City materials into five languages and into plain language, outreach to non-English speakers

• Working with social enterprises to provide low-barrier employment opportunities

• Implementing Equity Decision-Making Tool across organization

• Working with BC Housing to open additional temporary shelters and permanent housing options
Bus-priority measures

- In partnership with Translink, piloting measures to address bus delays – Granville Street, Robson Street, Main Street and Kingsway, and 49th Avenue
  - Extending sidewalks/curbs at bus stops to reduce the need for buses to merge in and out of traffic
  - Changes at intersections to reduce delays to buses and other vehicles
  - New bus lanes to give priority to buses over regular traffic, parking and curbside access
Indigenous peoples and recovery

• Begin to work with the Urban Indigenous People’s Advisory Committee to prioritise City’s response to their report, *Centering Community in the City’s COVID-19 Response*

• In partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health Authority and the First Nations Health Authority, supported the Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council (MVAEC) to create the **Urban Indigenous Pandemic Response Hub** to facilitate public health/Covid-19 information dissemination and to help keep urban Indigenous community connected

• Secured a permanent location for an Indigenous healing/wellness/cultural space

• Supporting MVAEC in developing Urban Indigenous Covid-19 communications strategy
Supporting women through the recovery

• In collaboration with Indigenous communities, advancing *Women’s Legacy Project* – proposed housing and community space that prioritizes Indigenous women and families

• Developing *Sex Worker Safety Plan*, to provide access to safe space, washrooms, employment and training initiatives

• Advancing *UN Safe Cities for Women and Girls Scoping Study*, to better understand and respond to gender-based violence in Vancouver and implement initiatives across the City

• In 2020, allocating 23% of all social grants ($1 million) to programs primarily serving women, plus $2.5 million childcare grants
Alcohol Consumption Pilot Project

- August to October 2020
- People can bring/consume alcohol at four locations
- Primarily an equity initiative to support people without access to private outdoor space
COUNCIL PRIORITY

Accelerate action on climate change
City’s climate emergency action plan Covid-19 intersects

- Added $12 million to climate emergency projects via Capital Plan Recalibration
- Identifying climate-related projects for potential provincial/federal stimulus funding
- Working on a plan to get people back onto transit
- All Climate Emergency Action Plan policies being analysed through an equity/affordability lens
End