

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

For consideration at the Standing Committee meeting of City Council on February 26, 2025.

1. Consultation with the Ministry of Housing and BC Housing at a Public Meeting

Submitted by: Councillor Bligh

WHEREAS

1. Council unanimously approved a plan to acquire 105 SROs with support from the provincial and federal governments;^[1]
2. 15 months ago, Council unanimously approved a motion to UPLIFT the Downtown Eastside, which committed to updating the DTES Area Plan to deliver “a greater number of housing including market rental, social and supportive housing units in the DEOD to meet the needs of residents”, options to create more below-market commercial spaces and a direction to harmonize the city’s definition of supportive and social housing with the provinces definition, more opportunities to provide housing choices;^[2]
3. A proposed freeze (“freeze”) discussed recently at the Save Our Streets Forum appears to contradict those goals and suspend net new supportive housing construction indefinitely, which will decrease the supply of housing available to Vancouverites once projects currently underway are complete;
4. Less supportive housing for low-income Vancouverites will likely increase homelessness, mental health illness, addictions, and crime;
5. The Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs, with support from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, have been working with the City to acquire new supportive housing units; and
6. This freeze discourages new investment in housing in the city.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT Council direct City staff to invite a delegation from the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs (“GoBC”) and/or the CEO of BC Housing and BC Housing staff to a meeting of Council, with considerations to go In-Camera as necessary, to discuss implications of a freeze on net new supportive housing on or before February 26, 2025;

FURTHER THAT staff work with GoBC and BC Housing to determine how many supportive housing units would need to be built in Vancouver and across Metro Vancouver to end chronic homelessness and in which municipalities those units are needed and report back to Council.

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^[1] <https://council.vancouver.ca/20201007/documents/pspc1a.pdf>.

^[2] <https://council.vancouver.ca/20231129/documents/pspcA4.pdf>