

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

For consideration at the Standing Committee meeting of City Council on July 23, 2025

5. Improving Public Safety by Protecting Supportive Modular Housing

Submitted by: Councillor Orr

WHEREAS

1. The City has a duty to protect the health, safety, and well-being of all residents, including vulnerable populations experiencing homelessness;
2. Evidence consistently shows that chronic homelessness is associated with [higher rates of emergency service calls](#), including fire, police, and paramedic responses, as well as increased risk of both [victimization](#) and [criminalization](#) for people who are homeless;
3. Vancouver's Supportive Modular Housing sites provide cost-effective and dignified shelter with on-site health and social supports, [reducing the strain on emergency services](#) and [improving outcomes](#) for individuals in need of support;
4. Supportive modular housing can last for 30-40 years, and it is more cost effective to maintain and protect existing housing than to replace it with new shelter rate construction;
5. There are very few appropriate options to move supportive modular housing residents into if their buildings close, and when appropriate housing is found, it means that unit is no longer available for someone who is still currently homeless;
6. There is a rapidly growing number of Vancouver residents who desperately need social housing they can afford, including over 3,200 people on social assistance who are currently without a fixed address;
7. The Vancouver Zoning Bylaw states in Section [11.3.4.3](#): "A development permit for temporary modular housing must be limited in time to a maximum of 5 years, unless otherwise extended in writing for up to an additional 5 years by the Director of Planning."; and
8. Land leases for about 600 units of modular housing will expire by 2031 unless Council changes the bylaw to allow the housing to stay longer.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to bring forward for Council's consideration as soon as possible a referral report to amend the Zoning Bylaw to allow supportive modular housing to remain on its current sites for the life of the building.

- B. THAT when a supportive modular building has to be moved because the site has another imminent use, the city will make every effort, including considering city-owned lots and parking lots, to move the existing modular buildings to a new site.

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