COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

For consideration at the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on November 18, 2026

9. Housing With Supports: Improving Public Safety by Tackling Root Causes

Submitted by: Councillor Orr

WHEREAS

1. The February 26, 2025, motion titled, "Temporarily Pausing Net-New Supportive Housing Investments in Vancouver to Prioritize Replacing Existing Stock and Promoting Regional Equity", directed staff to pause City contributions of land or funding for homelessness response supportive housing until "progress [was] made in increasing the supply of homelessness response supportive housing across the region;"

2. This pause of net new supportive housing investment has created undue strain on new development of critical infrastructure;

3. Vancouver is currently in the midst of a homelessness crisis with the homeless population rising year after year;

4. The restriction of supportive housing developments needlessly exacerbates the issues of the lack of supportive and social housing;

5. Increasing supportive housing also has benefits for public safety and public health such as:

    a. A decrease in police calls;

    b. A decrease in minor offense arrests, and homelessness related arrests;

    c. Significant decrease in emergency room visits;

    d. Lower emergency service reliance;

    e. Lower expenditure on public health; and

6. Supportive housing also has a lower expenditure per person per year than the current available avenues.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

A. THAT Council direct staff to report back on the impact of the temporary ban on City contributions of land or funding for homelessness response supportive housing developments focusing on:

   a. Broader regional trends in response to the ban, specifically in relation to any “increas[es] [of] supply of homelessness response supportive housing across the region;”

   b. Impacts on overall regional equity in the distribution of supportive housing units;

   c. Progress on the replacement of SRO units and supportive housing stock that require significant renovation or replacement; and

   d. Potential correlative effects on the overall population of people experiencing homelessness, particularly between sheltered and unsheltered populations.

B. THAT Council direct staff to report back on the potential impacts of repealing the temporary ban, with focus on:

   a. The immediate impact on pending developments;

   b. The process of replacement for SRO units and supportive housing stock targeted by the original motion;

   c. Overall regional distribution of homelessness response supportive housing developments;

   d. Future efforts to secure provincial and federal funding for homelessness response supportive housing developments; and

   e. Changes in trends around the increasing number of unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness in Vancouver and Greater Vancouver.

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