



Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 4, 2018

Date: October 1, 2018
From: Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe
Subject: Storage of Belongings

Background:

For many years, the City has recognized that there is a need for a storage facility that assists with those experiencing homelessness. Individuals often need a place to store some of their belongings when they are out looking for housing, employment, attending appointments or even just resting in a park. Through the years it has been difficult to find the ideal location and design.

In our Strategic Plan, Objective 7: Facilitate Inclusion and Community Wellness states that the 2016 action is to: • Continue sheltering solutions work including storage of belongings and alternatives to sheltering in the parks. To assist with this objective, in our budget, Council had set aside one-time funding of \$130,000 for this, \$45,000 for capital and \$85,000 for operating costs.

With the removal of the Supervised Consumption Pod in the courtyard of Our Place, I have asked if Our Place would consider putting in a storage facility in that location. Their Executive Director has come back with a proposal. Please see email and attachments.

“Our Place is prepared to develop a storage facility in our courtyard for people who are experiencing homelessness, so they have an overnight place for their belongings. This is a significant gap in our community. Currently the only place people, without a home or shelter, have to keep their belongings overnight is with them on the street or in a city park. We will be able to accommodate shopping carts, totes, and rolling suitcases for approximately 100 people. There is also a sorting area for people to sort through their belongings. The drawings and budget are attached. There is a budget for opening 6 hours/day as well as 8 hours/day. The 6 hours/day falls within the funds set aside by the city for storage. I have included an 8 hour budget because the similar storage service in Vancouver is open 8 hours/day and the more access people have to their belongings the easier it is to get people to use the service.

We are modeling the initiative after a successful storage facility in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside which has been operating by First United for 8 years. There is a 3 minute video describing their service at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-voq9DyN2tU>.

Recommendation:

Be it resolved that Council approve the release of the set aside funds to Our Place Society to build and manage a storage space in the Our Place Courtyard and that other funders or funds be explored to be able to increase the opening hours to 8 hours a day.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlayne Thornton-Joe".

Councillor Thornton-Joe

List of Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Storage Budget

Attachment 2 – Storage Drawings