

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT
FROM THE MEETING HELD MAY 7, 2020

For the Daytime Council meeting of May 7, 2020, the Committee recommends the following:

L.1 Council Member Motion - Ensuring Housing Options with Supports for Everyone

That Council request that the Mayor write, on behalf of Council, to the Premier of British Columbia, the Solicitor General and the Ministers of Housing, Health, and Mental Health and Addictions, copying Members of the Legislative Assembly representing constituencies in the Capital Region and the executive leadership of BC Housing and Island Health, as follows:

1. Thanking the Provincial Government for their decisive action to provide indoor sheltering with support services for people currently sheltering at Topaz Park and Pandora Green.
2. Requesting that the Provincial Government offer the provision of temporary housing options with supports of all unhoused people in the Capital Region, with no one to be evicted back to the street, as a step towards ending chronic homelessness and providing safe, secure, adequate, and affordable homes for all, while ensuring that there is an equitable distribution of housing across the region and equitably across neighbourhoods.
3. Requesting that safer supply services be instituted without delay including ensuring appropriate staffing levels, 24-hour supports and that support services staff are trained in the provision of harm reduction. Further, requesting that BC Housing and other agencies utilize the expertise of local peer-run and peer-informed harm reduction services while providing supports.

L.3 Council Member Motion: Request for Clarity on Rent Relief Measures and Businesses Falling Through the Cracks

1. That Council request the mayor to write to the federal government to request clarity on a priority basis on details as to how the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program will work, so that tenants and landlords can work together to make plans to take advantage of this important program.
2. That Council request that the mayor write to the federal government to request consideration of financial relief for small businesses who are unable to reach agreement with their landlord or are ineligible for CECRA and for small businesses in the hospitality sector – such as event and wedding planners – who have fallen through the cracks of existing programs and whose services will be required once larger gatherings are permitted in the future.

L.2 Council Member Motion - Development Permit with Variances Application No. 00106 for 1700 Blanshard Street

1. That Council waive the standard practice of holding an opportunity for public comment for this application but direct staff to continue other standard practices related to sign posting and public notification, including a request for written commentary to come back to Council for consideration prior to issuing the Development Permit with Variances.