



**Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 2, 2020**

Date: March 31, 2020

From: Councillor Ben Isitt

Subject: On-Demand Delivery / Dispatch of Goods and Services on a Non-Profit Basis

Background:

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated containment measures have demonstrated the value of providing on-demand delivery / dispatch of goods and services on a non-profit basis. In particular, food, grocery and pharmaceutical delivery services offered by private retailers have been inadequate to meet community needs during the pandemic.

There are also major disadvantages with emerging for-profit, on-demand delivery platforms, which often extract revenues (and economic opportunities) from local communities to large national and transnational corporations. These emerging on-demand delivery platforms often impose onerous terms on local business and also present major risks to the fair treatment of employees, the economic viability of local providers, and compliance with Workplace Safety, Employment Standards, public health and consumer safety requirements.

The City of Victoria now has the opportunity to serve as a catalyst for the creation of a non-profit alternative to the current for-profit model of on-demand delivery / dispatch of goods and services (for services including take-out food delivery, pharmaceuticals and so-called "ride sharing").

It is therefore recommended that Victoria City Council signal to the local Information Technology (IT) community and to the retail sector the City's intent to jointly develop a non-profit platform for on-demand delivery / dispatch of goods and services. A partnership is proposed to develop a "Made-In-Victoria" on-demand delivery / dispatch app, to be operated on a non-profit basis and replicable to other communities, to provide a uniformly reliable and fair platform for on-demand delivery / dispatch of goods and services, alongside less-than-optimal for-profit models.

Recommendation:

That Victoria City Council signals to the local Information Technology community and to the retail sector the City's intent to jointly create a non-profit platform for on-demand delivery / dispatch of goods and services – a "Made-In-Victoria" on-demand delivery / dispatch app, to be operated on a non-profit basis and replicable to other communities, to provide a uniformly reliable and fair platform for on-demand delivery / dispatch of goods and services, and ensure full compliance with Workplace Safety, Employment Standards, public health and consumer safety requirements.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ben Isitt".

Councillor Isitt