



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

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**Date:** March 31, 2020  
**From:** Councillor Ben Isitt and Councillor Sarah Potts  
**Subject:** Taking Responsibility for the Provision of Emergency Housing and Supports in Our Community

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**Background:**

The City of Victoria has been advised by public health officials that action is needed to ensure physical distancing and access to health services for street-involved people, in order to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

It is therefore recommended that Council provide direction to staff to activate the Emergency Social Services Team, as provided for in the City of Victoria Emergency Plan, to ensure that every community member has access to lodging and support during the COVID-19 pandemic, with costs to be recovered from Emergency Management BC after the crisis has passed.

**Recommendations:**

That Council directs staff to take the following actions without delay:

- (1) Activate the Emergency Social Services Team, as provided for in the City of Victoria Emergency Plan, to establish emergency reception centres, lodging and support services as needed, to ensure that every community member has the option of accessing indoor emergency housing with supports during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- (2) Establish facilities and procure services to provide emergency reception centres, lodging and supports as needed, including authority to enter into contracts, redeploy City staff and hire temporary employees, with preliminary authorization of up to \$200,000 funded from the 2020 Contingency.
- (3) Account for all costs incurred in relation to the provision of reception centres, lodging and supports, to be recovered from Emergency Management BC after the crisis has passed.

That the City of Victoria calls on other public agencies to maintain essential services for vulnerable populations until viable alternatives are established.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Councillor Isitt

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sarah Potts".

Councillor Potts