



**Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 9, 2020**

Date: April 8, 2020
From: Councillor Ben Isitt
Subject: Action for Humanitarian Relief for People who are Homeless

Recommendation:

That Council endorse the following resolution and direct staff to act on it with immediate effect, and forward copies to the Chief Medical Health Officers for Vancouver Island and BC, the Premier, Solicitor General and provincial Minister of Housing, and Members of the Legislative Assembly representing constituencies in the Capital Region:

Resolution: Action for Humanitarian Relief for People who are Homeless

WHEREAS the Chief Medical Health Officer for Vancouver Island, Dr. Richard Stanwick, advised the City of Victoria and other public agencies on March 17, 2020 that these entities had four (4) days to identify a sheltering solution for street-involved people in the 900-block of Pandora Avenue to avoid an outbreak of COVID-19 within that vulnerable population;

AND WHEREAS twenty-three (23) days have passed since Dr. Stanwick provided this advice to the City, the Vancouver Island Health Authority and the BC Rental Housing Management Corporation (BC Housing);

AND WHEREAS emergency sheltering options established by the City and Provincial agencies in approximately 120 motel rooms and a temporary sheltering area at Topaz Park are insufficient to meet the demand for emergency lodging and supports for approximately 200-300 street-involved people in the City of Victoria;

AND WHEREAS the City of Victoria Emergency Plan provides for the direct provision of emergency lodging and supports during emergencies;

AND WHEREAS Provincial agencies including BC Housing and the Vancouver Island Health Authority have not demonstrated the capacity to act on the Chief Medical Health Officer's advice;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Victoria act immediately on the advice of Chief Medical Health Officer for Vancouver Island and deploy resources and municipal facilities to provide the option of emergency lodging and supports for all street-involved people in the City of Victoria without any delay, aiming for cost-recovery from Provincial agencies after the crisis;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Victoria requests Ministerial approval to declare a State of Local Emergency, for the purpose of procuring facilities, personnel and supplies to provide emergency lodging and supports for street-involved people in the City of Victoria during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Isitt', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Isitt