

April 16/20 CAO Remarks

Good Morning Mayor and Council.

Today marks my 5th COVID update at Committee of the Whole and with it a change in information sharing going forward.

Currently we are providing Council with an update daily, the Mayor is doing a daily Facebook address and we are issuing a daily press release with the pertinent information and updates.

Based on these updates, I will not be providing a weekly update at Committee but will provide additional updates as requested.

Emergency Operations Centre

We are continuing to triage all COVID-19 related City responses through the EOC with daily check ins at 2pm for the entire EOC and various working group calls at other times during the day. EMBC has now joined our community resilience call and will be providing planning support to Island Health and BC Housing as they move forward on planning for those without health and housing supports in our community.

Staffing

We continue to reach out to our managers and supervisors to provide information and updates related to COVID and we are also advancing departmental work based on the budget amendments and direction from last week's Committee of the Whole.

Park Monitoring

The City is responsible for the management of dozens of parks, recreational pathways and trails as well as over 450 kilometres of sidewalks. Over 30% of the City's total land area is dedicated to recreational or mobility uses. As such, staff are developing a package of targeted interventions within our parks, trails and public highway which have the biggest potential to support the overarching Provincial "stay at home" and "stay local" health advice but which at the same time are commensurate to the level of need and which are appropriate for the Victoria context.

Over the weekend we launched this outreach through recreation and fire staff who were stationed along Dallas Road, in Beacon Hill Park and on our local beaches. If you haven't had a chance visit our social media channels to check out some great shots of our staff working alongside residents to continue to be able to enjoy the outside areas of our city.

Further information will be coming to Council in the coming weeks consistent with updated information from the Provincial Health officer.

Updates on Sheltering and supports for our vulnerable population

Topaz Park

Over the weekend, the responsibility for the management of Topaz Park was taken over by BC Housing with the Coalition to End Homelessness providing staffing, logistics and site management. Island Health is providing health and harm reduction support to the site.

900 block of Pandora

Island Health and BC Housing are assessing the needs of the individuals on Pandora and are coordinating shelter and health supports to move people inside.

Starting on Good Friday, showers were reopened at Our Place and 100 individuals had showers. In addition, a mobile shower unit was delivered to the site which is in the process of being installed.