



**Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 12, 2020**

Date: November 9, 2020
From: Councillor Thornton-Joe, Councillor Alto, and Councillor Potts
Subject: Funding for Sanctuary Youth Centre

Background:

In 2019, the City provided additional funding to increase the hours at the Sanctuary Youth Centre.

Currently, there are mainly two organizations that provide drop in for homeless youth. They are the Youth Empowerment Society and the Sanctuary Youth Centre. The Youth Empowerment Society has programs such as the Alliance Drop In that runs Monday through Thursday 12:30pm-7:30pm and Friday 12:30pm-2:30pm. The Sanctuary Youth Centre supplements the gap by opening Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 3:00-6:00pm. Last year, upon meeting with the staff of The Sanctuary, it was identified that if there was the ability to stay open longer, youth would not have to leave their location and to find a place to keep warm until the Out of the Rain Shelter opened at 9pm. Also, by providing funds they were able to open during extreme weather in the day for some hours to get youth out of the cold. The City provided the funding and it was seen as a success. When the facility is open, they have access to washrooms, showers and food.

Sanctuary Youth Centre is a drop-in centre for street entrenched and at-risk youth between the ages of 14 and 22. Located in the basement of Church of Our Lord in downtown Victoria, Sanctuary serves as a safe place for some of the most vulnerable people in our city.

Recommendations:

That staff report back on availability of funding to provide \$27,490 to fund the Sanctuary Youth Drop In for an additional 3 hours on days that they are currently open and to provide funds for a day shelter in the event of extreme weather.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Charlayne Thornton-Joe.

Councillor Thornton-Joe

Handwritten signature of Councillor Alto.

Councillor Alto

Handwritten signature of Councillor Potts.

Councillor Potts

Attachments:

1. Attachment 1 – Email from the Executive Director, Sanctuary Youth Centre
2. Attachment 2 – Spreadsheet
3. Attachment 3 – Screen Shots