



Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 14, 2023

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** December 6, 2023
From: Mayor Alto, Councillor Loughton, Councillor Thompson
Subject: Pandora Boulevard Washroom

BACKGROUND

Service providers, public health officials, local residents and businesses, and unhoused boulevard residents agree there is a pressing need to provide access to washroom facilities on or near the 900 block of Pandora boulevard.

Providing support services for unhoused people is a provincial responsibility. The Provincial Government's *Belonging in BC* strategy emphasizes that the province will provide opportunities for unhoused people to access essential services like washrooms, with recognition that these basic human needs must be met before people can reasonably access and use other support services.

While our collective priority is to relocate people from the boulevard on Pandora Avenue to adequate supportive housing, coordinating that movement must be done one person at a time to ensure that each found home responds to the unique needs of each person. The City's support for the Pandora Caretaker project, and our park relocation coordinator funded by the City through a partnership with Pacific Housing, continues to make progress towards housing everyone on the boulevard, but that work – and the work of many other agencies and individuals – takes time. Meanwhile, there is an immediate need to provide basic washroom services for folks still resting on the boulevard. In the absence of any alternative facility, housed residents and business owners report frequent incidents of people urinating and defecating in public places and on private property. The dignity of boulevard residents, and the public health of everyone, is compromised. A staffed washroom on Pandora would help alleviate this situation, for the benefit of all Victorians.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council request that the mayor write to the Provincial Ministers of Housing, Social Development and Poverty Reduction, and Health, and to the leadership at BC Housing and Island Health, copying local medical health officers, to request that

- (a) the province provide a temporary washroom on the 900 block of Pandora Avenue as an immediate solution to the challenges noted above, and
- (b) the province either staff the washroom or provide funding for a non-profit service provider organization to staff it.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Mayor Alto.
Mayor Alto

Handwritten signature of Krista Loughton.
Councillor Loughton

Handwritten signature of Dan Thompson.
Councillor Thompson