



## Governance and Priorities Committee Report

For the meeting of May 21, 2015

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**To:** Governance and Priorities Committee    **Date:** May 14, 2015  
**From:** Robert Woodland, Director of Legislative & Regulatory Services  
**Subject:** Action Plan for Housing, Supports and City Services  
for Homeless People Sheltering in City Parks

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### Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to advise the Governance & Priorities Committee of a two-week delay in the presentation of a report on the *Action Plan* noted above.

The lack of adequate housing opportunities for homeless people in Victoria has resulted in many taking shelter in City parks. These sheltering activities are having a number of impacts on City parks and resources, and the community. Council directed staff to develop strategies that would address the housing needs of homeless people as the primary means to reduce the need for and impacts from sheltering activities in City parks. The Council resolution from April 16, 2015 is attached for reference.

A City staff team that includes Victoria Police are drafting a report for Council's consideration recommending a number of initiatives in an *Action Plan*. The report was expected to be completed for the Governance & Priorities Committee meeting on May 21, 2015.

New information about cooperative, low-barrier alternative housing was presented to the City by two groups from Oregon at workshops held May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. These alternative housing models may provide a viable option for a segment of Victoria's homeless population. Staff understand that Council may wish to have a more detailed understanding of how the City might approach this model, including the City's role, the role of partner organizations and potential sites. To enable this more detailed review of this option for the *Action Plan* additional time is needed. Staff will review and report on options in the context of the overall *Action Plan* to the Governance & Priorities Committee meeting on June 4, 2015.

### Recommendation

That Council receives this report for information.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "RW", followed by a large, stylized flourish.

Robert Woodland  
Director of Legislative & Regulatory Services

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:

Date:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M", followed by a large, stylized flourish.  
May 14, 2015

## REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES

### **2. Governance and Priorities Committee – April 2, 2015**

#### **1. Use of Parks & Green Spaces for Overnight Shelter**

It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Alto,

1. That Council:

- a. Re-affirm the City's commitment to a Housing First strategy, partnering with the federal and provincial governments and housing providers to increase the supply of new housing with supports to reduce and eliminate homelessness, and;
- b. That the City continues to take on an active advocacy role in pushing the provincial and federal governments to fulfil their duty to adequately fund housing, mental health and addiction services, in the region;

2. Direct staff to report on a priority basis on options for increasing the supply of temporary shelter and housing in the city, including micro-housing options, based on best practices in other communities, to provide alternatives in the near-term to unregulated, overnight shelter, including working with the province to increase the number of shelters beds to 260 year round.

Carried Unanimously