



For the Governance and Priorities Committee meeting of January 21, 2016

Date: Thursday, January 14, 2016

From: Mayor Helps

Subject: Mayor Helps Activity Update to Council and the Public

Background on the Process

Last fall Council began the practice of reporting on issues and activities undertaken as part of appointments to other bodies. Council's first reporting was done verbally, in a time-limited way, at a public meeting. After discussion, Council felt that this format would be best supplemented by receiving a short written report from each councillor and the Mayor to be included on the public agenda. This will increase transparency and information sharing. Members of Council work very hard on many issues with a diverse range of bodies and stakeholders in between the time we spend at Council meetings and Committee meetings of Council. This new reporting structure is meant to capture some of that work.

Mayor Helps Appointments and Activities

In addition to being mayor, my appointments are as follows. I sit on the Capital Regional District (CRD) board and I chair the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee (CALWMC). I also sit on the Capital Regional District Hospital board, the CRD Finance Committee, the CRD Integrated Waste Management Task Force, and the CRD Housing Corporation. I am Co-Chair of the Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board and Co-Chair of the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness. I have structured my report not according to appointment but rather to focus on the three areas where I have focussed the majority of my time and energy in the past year (2015) and past quarter (Q4 2015) and where I will focus my time and energy in 2016.

Economic Development

In November 2015, Council voted to become a member of a new, regional economic development entity and appointed me as the City's member to that organization. Since November, I have been working hard with my colleagues from across the region to get this new organization ready for incorporation and launch. We have developed a constitution and bylaws (see attached for your information) and worked to ensure that the purposes of the new society reflect the goals and aspirations of the region, including support for entrepreneurs and small businesses to increase their ability to prosper and create jobs. We have struck a Nominating Committee for the Board of Directors to which I have been appointed, and have put out a call for Directors as well as for an Executive Director (postings can be found here: <http://www.yyjprosperity.ca/jobs/>) As of Monday January 11th, 12 out of 13 local governments in Greater Victoria have joined the South Vancouver Island Economic Development Association (SVIEDA).

In addition to a regional focus on economic development, I have been working hard with the City's Manager of Strategic Relations and Business Development, Deputy City Manager, Councillor Lucas and our partners at ViaTec, UVIC, the Downtown Victoria Business Association, the Urban Development Institute, the Alacrity Foundation, the Capital Investment Network and others to organize "A Capital Mission". From February 17 – 19 we will be hosting a delegation of 30-60 people from the San Francisco Bay Area. The goals of the mission are to connect high net worth

investors from the Bay Area with Victoria's start-up and tech community and to showcase the innovation coming out of Victoria and British Columbia. In addition we'll be profiling Victoria's human capital/talent through our three post-secondary institutions, drawing attention to prominent new and renewed developments both commercial and residential, highlighting our superb quality of life, and showcasing the City's meeting/conference attributes as well as our fantastic cultural institutions.

Wastewater Treatment

As chair of the CALWMC, I have been dedicating much time and energy to this project. In the past two months we've been working hard as a committee to ensure that we have enough information on the proposed option sets for wastewater treatment in the core area to engage the public in a meaningful way. At its January 13th meeting, the CALWMC voted to begin public engagement on the option sets. Provincial legislation makes clear that the region's ability to borrow for wastewater projects without an Alternative Approval Process requires that the public consultation be meaningful and robust and that the public has an opportunity to influence the decision. As CALWMC chair, much of my time in the coming months will be spent working to support this public engagement process and continuing to broadcast opportunities for public input via www.coreareawastewater.ca and other mechanisms. In addition to working at the CALWMC with my colleagues, I have been working hard to build relationships with funders at both the Provincial and Federal levels, including meeting with Minister Sohi, the Minister of Communities and Infrastructure when I was in Ottawa in December.

Housing

As Co-Chair of the Coalition to End Homelessness I have taken a very active role in initiating and overseeing a governance review of that organization. I have chaired the Coalition's Governance Review Committee and overseen the work of a Community Review Team, which was engaged last fall to take a fresh look at the Coalition to ensure focus and direction going forward. A draft report was delivered to the Coalition's Leadership Council (Board of Directors) in December and sent to the Governance Review Team to come up with a decision-making framework. The Leadership Council will meet in early February to discuss the recommendations with the aim of making the Coalition poised and ready to lead as a key partner in the CRD's Housing First Strategy.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Helps", written in a cursive style.

Mayor Helps