



Governance and Priorities Committee Report

For the Meeting of January 22, 2015

To: Governance and Priorities Committee **Date:** January 16, 2015
From: Katie Hamilton, Director, Citizen Engagement
and Strategic Planning
Subject: Market Sounding for Fire Department Headquarters – Fire Station # 1

The purpose of this report is to update Council that a 10-week market sounding will be initiated the week of January 21, 2015 to gauge the community's interest in collaborating with the City of Victoria to renovate or replace the headquarters for the Victoria Fire Department.

Staff are hoping for an expanded deliberation of non-traditional partnerships or opportunities, in options of replacing or renovating the Fire Department headquarters with an approach to efficiency of operations, costs and maximum value to the taxpayer. To date, information on siting options, impacts to service delivery through location and preliminary investigation of options on Fire Department programming were conducted through the project-planning phase. Potential information achieved through this process will allow for a more wholesome evaluation of the project in its entirety.

This is not a formal request for proposals. The market sounding will be promoted widely with the intent of inviting conversations with individuals and organizations curious or interested in partnering opportunities. Opportunities to view the site and building will be arranged for those individuals or organizations that may have an interest. Property maps, details and contact information, are available to all interested parties as part of the process.

Fire Station No.1 is the administrative headquarters for the Victoria Fire Department and is one of the three stations that serve the citizens of Victoria. The building is strategically located at 1234 Yates Street and includes the Department's fuelling station and fire fighting apparatus, emergency communications and dispatch, fire prevention and investigation, administration offices including Victoria Emergency Management Agency. It also includes the fleet mechanical facility, which provides servicing to external agencies as well. The operation is 24/7 with fire suppression staffing on duty at all times.

Constructed in 1958, Fire Station No.1 has undergone numerous renovations. Assessment reports indicate the building is reaching the end of its lifespan and is in need of renovation or replacement.

Recommendation:

To receive this report for information and direct staff to report back to Council at conclusion of the market sounding process.

Respectfully submitted




Paul Bruce
Fire Chief



Katie Hamilton
Director, Citizen Engagement and Strategic Planning

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:

Date:


January 16, 2015