



Council Member Motion
For the Special Council Meeting of August 5, 2015

Date: July 31, 2015

From: Mayor Lisa Helps and Councillor Ben Isitt

Subject: Public engagement on solutions for sheltering and homelessness

Background:

City Council has approved the Action Plan for Housing Supports and City Services for Sheltering in City Parks, and directed staff to explore options for a designated tenting area and seek public input.

Residents of two neighbourhoods that the City identified as possible locations for a designated tenting area, Victoria West and Hillside-Quadra, have expressed strong views in relation to this proposal, with many people suggesting the City should pursue alternate responses to sheltering.

In order to receive further input from the public, and develop an implementation plan for action on sheltering that is widely acceptable to the community, we propose the following motion as an enhancement to the process underway.

Motion:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council directs staff to consult the public on options for all forms of sheltering before Council considers any proposal for a designated tenting area or tent city in any park.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council requests that staff consider forming a time-limited working group of up to 12 people to receive advice on implementation of the Action Plan on Housing Supports and City Services for Sheltering in City Parks, engaging street-involved people, neighbourhood representatives and people with expertise in the fields of social services, housing and community development.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Helps'.

Mayor Lisa Helps

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ben Isitt'.

Councillor Ben Isitt