

Appendix A
***Action Plan for Housing, Supports and City Services
for Homeless People Sheltering in City Parks***

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2015-2016 Housing Initiatives

Initiative	Actions	Status	Recommendation
1. Temporary Housing Initiatives	a. Increase the supply of emergency shelter spaces in the region. (260 beds year round)	BC Housing funding approved for 20 new rent supplements. Will free up 20 beds in the emergency housing supply.	Support Coalition strategy to reduce demand for shelter beds by placing homeless people directly into housing. Write to Provincial government to raise awareness of issue and request additional funding and supports.
		40 adult shelter mats and 35 youth shelter mats are closed during summer months.	Support Cool Aid Society in seeking \$112,000 in funding to open 40 adult emergency mats between May and October.
		Funding needed to these 75 emergency mats between April and November.	Support Out of the Rain program in seeking funding of \$40,000 to open 35 youth emergency mats for September 2015 and April/May 2016.
	b. Creating new forms of micro-housing	Workshop on micro-housing villages has stimulated interest and dialogue about this model.	Identify and support a local group that wishes to implement a micro-housing village by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Helping to identify a site - Provide a project grant - Support site with City services
	c. Regulating Overnight Sheltering in Specific Locations	Homeless persons may take shelter in any City park when there are no shelter beds available.	Establish a specific location within a park for a temporary sheltering location: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seek a partner to manage site - Develop and approve a budget - Support with services

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<p>2. Advocacy for Permanent Housing & Supports</p>	<p>a. Proposals for New Transitional & Supportive Housing</p> <p>b. Social and Health Service Supports</p>	<p>GVCEH (Coalition) partners have developed a Priority Housing Project List (PHPL) to prioritize supportive and affordable housing projects.</p> <p>Coalition report "Creating Homes, Enhancing Communities" published with analysis of homeless populations' needs.</p> <p>City Strategic Plan supports establishing a safe consumption site and other health services</p>	<p>Support the Priority Housing Project List, and fund projects that apply for Victoria Housing Reserve capital funding.</p> <p>Facilitate timely processing of applications for funded PHPL projects.</p> <p>Support Coalition recommendations in <i>Creating Homes, Enhancing Communities</i> report.</p> <p>Continue to support Coalition with City funding (\$100,000) and staff support.</p> <p>Support Island Health and their partners to establish a safe consumption site.</p>
<p>3. Continue to research alternative short-term housing options.</p>	<p>a. Review other temporary, alternative housing sites/models employed in PNW cities (E.g. Seattle, Portland).</p> <p>b. Assess needs of local homeless population and potential suitability for temporary, alternative housing models.</p> <p>c. Evaluate City micro-housing and temporary sheltering initiatives outlined in (2).</p>	<p><i>Creating Homes, Enhancing Communities</i> report published that provide useful insight into homeless populations' needs</p>	<p>Review experiences from these models and apply insights to Victoria models.</p> <p>Evaluate implementation of micro-housing and temporary sheltering options in Victoria.</p>

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2015 Operational Initiatives

Initiative	Actions	Status	Recommendation
1. Storage Project for homeless' belongings	a. Explore potential service arrangements with downtown social service providers to create a storage facility for homeless persons' belongings.	Budget of \$45,000 approved. Staff initiating project discussion with potential partners.	Establish site(s) by July 2015. Evaluate 2015 project and make recommendations for 2016 budget.
2. Additional Social Service Outreach	a. Work in partnership with BC Housing, social services providers and Island Health to increase outreach resources for homeless people. - add a social support outreach position on a pilot basis to accompany BLS/VicPD to assess needs / direct homeless people to services	BC Housing, Island Health and Cool Aid Society are creating 20 new rent supplements to open up transitional housing and shelter spaces.	Fund a six month outreach position to provide immediate support to homeless individuals, assess need level and refer to required services. - \$35,000 for six month pilot
3. Monitoring & Clean-up	a. Designated special clean-up and garbage disposal team that works closely with Police and Bylaw Officers (additional resources)	Requires funding approval to initiate seasonal hiring - Ready for mid-June	Approve seasonal special clean-up crew - 2 person crew, May to October, 7 days - \$100,000 total additional cost
	b. Review improved access to washroom facilities Review additional garbage and sharps' bins in key locations	Costs identified. Funding approval required. Locations TBD.	Fund additional washroom services from 2015 contingencies to November 30 th . - \$85,000 for washrooms - \$65,000 for portable toilets Evaluate and make recommendations for the 2016 budget.
	c. Install signs in Parks to increase awareness/support compliance. Develop overnight sheltering information materials increase awareness, support compliance and direct people to shelter housing & services.	\$5,000 funding required Underway.	Install signs in specific parks - \$5,000 cost. Distribute information materials to shelters and homeless people in parks.
	d. Continue Bylaw Officer & VicPD compliance monitoring (some additional salary funding required)	Bylaw Officers adopted new work schedule for 7 day service. Additional funding for BO salaries required to support 7 day service level (~\$47,000)	Fund Bylaw Officer salary expense to maintain 7 days per week monitoring. - \$47,000 for 2015 only.
	e. Consider incentives for bylaw compliance	Under development	Support small incentives to acknowledge cooperation with VicPD and City.
	f. Apply sheltering exemption only to homeless people	Ready to implement - No further approval needed	Improve messaging to itinerant campers respecting sheltering exemption.
4. Amend Parks Bylaw	a. Limit areas within parks where overnight sheltering is permitted b. Limit continuous park occupation c. Improve authority to close park for restoration d. Identify parks where sheltering is not permitted	Bylaw amendments drafted	Council consider adopting proposed bylaw amendments to improve City management of parks.
5. Compliance Strategy	a. Develop options for a progressive compliance strategy for the most problematic sheltering activities	Tools available that require support of Council.	Support compliance strategy for problematic sheltering activities.