

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

DATE: 2016 October 31

FROM: DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION AND
CULTURAL SERVICES
DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 16000-20

SUBJECT: PUBLIC ACCESS TO SHOWERS

PURPOSE: To provide information on a request from the Society to End Homelessness in Burnaby on current access to showers in Burnaby.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the Committee receive this report for information.
2. **THAT** a copy of the report be forwarded to Wanda Mulholland of the Society to End Homelessness in Burnaby.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

At its meeting on 2016 June 01, the Social Planning Committee received a delegation from Wanda Mulholland of the Society to End Homelessness in Burnaby regarding access to showers for persons who are homeless. The Society requested that the City work with the Society in the development of access to showers. In response, the Committee referred the delegation's presentation to staff for a report. This report provides information on the Society's request and information on current public access to showers in Burnaby facilities.

2.0 THE SOCIETY TO END HOMELESSNESS' REQUEST

The Society to End Homelessness in Burnaby is a newly formed society working to bring together community and government representatives to identify and address the issue of homelessness in Burnaby. It has identified access to showers as a challenge for the homeless population. It notes that good hygiene impacts people's self-confidence and the quality of social interactions with other people. Those without regular access to showers can experience many challenges. For example, a lack of

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From: Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Director Planning and Building
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good hygiene can impact people's health and their ability to find jobs or attend job interviews, meet prospective landlords, commence a job training program, or feel comfortable in a group. The Society adds that some homeless people are able to "blend in" enough to use a public shower but this is not an option for other homeless individuals.

In 2015, the Society was awarded a grant from the Burnaby Hospital Foundation to support an Outreach Health Fund that focuses on nutrition, access to transit and access to showers for homeless people. Since then, the Society has explored options to provide access to showers including discussions with Recreation staff at the City. In the presentation to the Social Planning Committee, the Society requests a commitment from the City to work with the Society in the development of access to showers for homeless individuals.

3.0 ACCESS TO SHOWERS AT CITY FACILITIES

As noted in the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services 2016-2017 Program and Service Fee Schedule, any patron attending a centre may gain access to showers - for \$1.00. Staff at most centres report that there are two or three homeless patrons who use shower facilities each week. In discussions with the Society, and in response to several previous requests of this nature, Recreation staff have consistently maintained that the nominal fee provides sufficient access to shower services for a variety of community needs associated with each centre. Therefore, in relation to the Society's request, it is recommended that existing service levels be maintained for public shower access to all facility patrons.

The Society's offer to provide information, training and support to City staff at facilities in better understanding homelessness and in working with homeless patrons is welcomed and will be explored further.



Dave Ellenwood, Director
PARKS, RECREATION AND
CULTURAL SERVICES



Lou Pelletier, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

CMC/MM/sa/lw/tc

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