

TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

DATE: 2019 Oct 23

FROM: MAYOR MIKE HURLEY

SUBJECT: MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON COMMUNITY HOUSING – TEMPORARY DISSOLUTION

PURPOSE: To temporarily dissolve the Mayor's Task Force on Community Housing.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council dissolve the Mayor's Task Force on Community Housing.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be distributed to the members of the Mayor's Task Force on Community Housing.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Housing affordability remains a significant issue across Metro Vancouver, and Burnaby's residents are experiencing significant challenges such as high cost housing, low supply of affordable housing, lack of full-range housing alternatives, lack of supportive housing options and increased homelessness. On 2018 December 10, Council approved the creation of the Mayor's Task Force on Community Housing with a mandate of providing recommendations to Council on innovative policies, directions and specific initiatives, to increase the supply, diversity and affordability of housing in Burnaby. Burnaby's Corporate Strategic Plan's Vision is that we are a world-class city committed to creating and sustaining the best quality of life for our entire community – as such and with compassion, addressing housing was not a choice, but a foundational and urgent necessity as we strive to achieve our shared vision.

2.0 POLICY SECTION

Goal

- A Safe Community
 - Crime prevention and reduction –
Ensure citizens and businesses feel safe in our community
- A Connected Community
 - Digital connection –
Provide online access to core City services and information

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- Social connection –
Enhance social connections throughout Burnaby
- Partnership –
Work collaboratively with businesses, educational institutions, associations,
other communities and governments
- An Inclusive Community
 - Serve a diverse community –
Ensure City services fully meet the needs of our dynamic community
 - Create a sense of community –
Provide opportunities that encourage and welcome all community members
and create a sense of belonging
- A Healthy Community
 - Healthy life –
Encourages opportunities for healthy living and well-being
 - Community involvement –
Encourage residents and businesses to give back to and invest in the
community
- A Dynamic Community
 - Economic opportunity –
Foster an environment that attracts new and supports existing jobs,
businesses and industries
 - Community development –
Manage change by balancing economic development with environmental
protection and maintaining a sense of belonging
 - City facilities and infrastructure –
Build and maintain infrastructure that meets the needs of our growing
community

3.0 BACKGROUND

In consideration of the immediate and urgent need to address affordable housing, and in recognition that housing is a complex issue, the Task Force composition was diverse and included: renters, businesses, non-profit organizations, and interest groups. Upon appointment, the Task Force was quickly put to work with a biweekly meeting schedule and was supported by City staff and SFU's Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue. The work of the Task Force concluded with the presentation of *The Mayor's Task Force on Community Housing Final Report* to Council on 2019 July 29. Although the submission of the report signifies the completion of the work requested of them, the Task Force will be reappointed and reconvened for an update meeting within 18 months of the final report submission date.

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Minutes for the final Open and Closed Task Force meeting were circulated to all Task Force members and each member was requested to review the minutes for errors and omissions. The City Clerk has confirmed that no corrections were identified, as such the final minutes for the Mayor's Task Force on Community Housing's meetings have been presented to Council for consideration and approval.

The incredible time, effort, energy and passion each member of the Task Force brought to the process gives hope that it is possible to tackle this complex and challenging issue. Through this collaborative process and shared experience, members once thought to be opposing in principle found common ground and understanding, and a collective recognition that housing is an issue that effects all of us in different ways. Ultimately as neighbours, and community members, as businesses and individuals, we all have a role to play in supporting this fundamental right.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

As the responsibilities of the Mayor's Task Force on Community Housing have now concluded, it is recommended that the Mayor's Task Force on Community Housing be dissolved. The Task Force will be reappointed and reconvened for an update meeting in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Hurley', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Hurley
MAYOR

Copy: City Manager
Director Corporate Services
Director Planning and Building
City Clerk