

TO: MAYOR & COUNCILLORS

FROM: COUNCILLOR LEE

SUBJECT: 3020 GILMORE DIVERSION BC HOUSING PROJECT

PURPOSE: To seek Council approval to proactively address issues related to service provisions, community integration, and effective allocation of City resources associated with shelter operations at 3020 Gilmore Diversion.

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS BC Housing had purchased the two-storey office building at 3020 Gilmore Diversion in Burnaby in March 2025 and is planning to create a new permanent shelter at this site;

WHEREAS according to the 2025 Homeless Count Data the majority of unsheltered individuals did not identify addiction nor substance use as the primary cause of homelessness;

WHEREAS a petition with nearly 4000 signatures opposing a shelter at this site has been delivered to the City of Burnaby and BC Housing;

WHEREAS the petitioners are concerned that since this shelter may accept active drug users it may bring serious safety, crime, and public-disorder risks to the neighbourhood;

WHEREAS shelter operations may generate off-site impacts that increase demand on municipal services; and

WHEREAS Council has a responsibility to manage public safety, neighbourhood livability, and the effective use of City resources;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. prior to occupancy approval of the 3020 Gilmore Shelter, Council requests that BC Housing and the project operator to submit, to the satisfaction and approval of the City, both:
 - a) a Good Neighbour Plan; and

- b) an Operational Management Plan,

developed with appropriate consultation of surrounding residents and community stakeholders, addressing measures to mitigate off-site impacts and anticipate demands on municipal services;
- 2. Council requests BC Housing consider the designation of 3020 Gilmore Diversion as a High-Barrier shelter which provides accommodation to unsheltered individuals who pass background checks and are abstinent from alcohol or drugs; and
- 3. Staff report back to Council on the progress of these requests.

REPORT

Potential off-site impacts associated with shelter operations at 3020 Gilmore Diversion might require additional operational and management plans.

Previous experiences have shown that shelters can place increased demand on municipal services and affect neighborhood livability and public safety.

Given these concerns, this is to seek Council approval to proactively address issues related to service provision, community integration, and the effective allocation of City resources.

The recommendation also reflects the importance Council places on meaningful consultation with local residents and stakeholders to ensure that any measures implemented will be responsive to community needs and help mitigate the anticipated impacts on the surrounding area. Furthermore, the consideration of a High-Barrier shelter designation is intended to balance the provision of much-needed accommodation for unsheltered individuals with the need to maintain a safe environment for both shelter residents and the broader community.

Respectfully submitted,

COUNCILLOR LEE