

City of Maple Ridge

COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING AGENDA

June 19, 2018

5:30 p.m.

Council Chambers, 1st Floor, City Hall

ADDENDUM

(Issued June 15, 2018)

5.0 *CORRESPONDENCE*

5.1 Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – BC Housing and Salvation Army Proposal

Letter dated June 14, 2018 from Selina Robinson, Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing pertaining to a Maple Ridge Council decision on the BC Housing and Salvation Army proposal for a supportive housing development and shelter on Burnett Street.

Note: Item 5.1 Upcoming Events will be renumbered to Item 5.2

Checked by: _____

Date: _____



June 14, 2018

Ref: 237806

Her Worship Mayor Nicole Read
and Members of Council
City of Maple Ridge
11996 Haney Place
Maple Ridge BC V2X 6A9

Dear Mayor Read and Councillors:

I am writing to express my disappointment with your recent decision to turn down the BC Housing and Salvation Army proposal for a supportive housing development and shelter on Burnett Avenue, and to outline several options for a path forward.

Since forming government in July 2017, we have been committed to working with the City of Maple Ridge to address homelessness. Everyone agrees that the current situation is not sustainable, and the proposal for supportive housing on Burnett Avenue was an opportunity to provide desperately needed homes and support services for some of the most vulnerable residents of Maple Ridge. Unfortunately, its rejection will further delay these homes and services.

In rejecting this proposal, statements were also made about the need for a new model of housing. In fact, our government has already implemented a new model in our approach to homelessness, which is what has been proposed for your community. This new supportive housing model, Rapid Response to Homelessness, combines stable housing with 24/7 supports for residents that are delivered by skilled operators working in partnership with local health authorities, including Fraser Health. Since the program was announced last September, more than 1,700 units have begun development through partnerships with a number of communities across the province.

Our government remains committed to providing the housing needed by people without homes in your community as well, but providing that housing will require a willing partner in the local government. The Province – with the support of your local MLAs – has provided significant resources to assist you in addressing the housing needs in your community.

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In addition to the properties we have purchased on Burnett Avenue and Royal Crescent, the offer of both capital and operating funding for supportive housing, and the offer of capital funding for an affordable rental building for families and seniors in Maple Ridge, other actions have included:

- Doubling the shelter capacity at the Salvation Army site;
- Partnering with Fraser Health in the development of the Intensive Case Management team including access to 40 rent subsidies;
- Increasing outreach capacity for Alouette Addictions including additional staffing and rent subsidies;
- Expansion of the Alouette Heights program, including the introduction of Coast Mental Health to operate the housing program;
- Resources for the operation of a winter shelter program with Hope for Freedom; and
Ongoing resources to mitigate the impact of the St. Anne camp on the community, including resources for garbage collection, daily security, washrooms, warming tent, meal programs and peer-led programming.

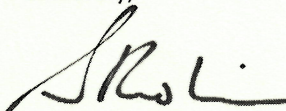
Beyond these resources, BC Housing and its partners have also always been willing to engage members of the public through open council meetings and community information sessions, so people in your community can ask questions and learn more about the proposed developments.

The site on Burnett Avenue was selected after an exhaustive search by BC Housing. Given your council's recent decision to reject the proposed housing there, our expectation now is that Maple Ridge identify one or more suitable locations for supportive and affordable housing options that you would be willing to support as a council. The Province will maintain its commitment to fund both the supportive housing building and the affordable family/seniors housing on sites that you bring forward. This commitment will still include both 100 percent of the capital and 100 percent of the operating costs required to deliver the supports needed by residents.

In the interim, I have tasked BC Housing to complete the 55-unit temporary modular development on Royal Crescent as quickly as possible to provide the homes needed by people experiencing homelessness in Maple Ridge, including residents of the St. Anne's camp located on city owned and controlled property. As with all of our supportive housing projects, this site will include the supports that residents need to stabilize their lives and move into more permanent housing. In addition to the supportive housing offered through this program, we also remain committed to building affordable rentals for seniors and families in Maple Ridge.

How quickly we are able to move forward with this housing now rests in your hands as a council. As soon as you have identified suitable sites that you would be willing to support, we will be ready to act to provide these much-needed homes. Please be assured that the necessary provincial resources are there to address the housing needs in your community and we remain committed to working with you.

Sincerely,



Selina Robinson
Minister

Her Worship Mayor Nicole Read
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pc: Honourable Lisa Beare
MLA, Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows

Bob D'Eith, MLA
Maple Ridge-Mission

Dr. Victoria Lee, Chief Medical Health Officer
Fraser Health Authority