



City of Richmond

Report to Council

To: Richmond City Council

Date: June 12, 2009

From: Joe Erceg, MCIP
General Manager, Planning and
Development

File: 06-2270-01/2009-Vol 01

Re: Resolution on Affordable Housing for Submission to the 2009 Union of British
Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Convention

Staff Recommendation

That Council approve the following resolution for submission to the 2009 Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Convention:

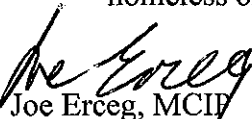
WHEAREAS the provision of and access to affordable housing is vital to support the health and well-being of individuals, as well as the sustainability of vibrant and diverse communities.

WHEREAS the changes in senior government funding and the withdrawal of Federal funding for new social housing developments has placed constraints on the construction of new affordable housing units, combined with demand pressures on the existing stock of adequate affordable housing, and ongoing tight rental market conditions has meant that there are nearly 133,100 British Columbians who rent and who are in core housing need.

AND WHEREAS leadership, sustained funding, and strong partnerships are required to increase the supply and diversity of affordable housing across British Columbia:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM urge the Provincial government and Federal government to work with community partners to develop a National Affordable Housing Strategy which includes provisions that respond to the specific needs of British Columbians; and which provides the necessary long-term funding to support the construction of the full range of affordable housing choices needed in communities across the Province;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UBCM urge the Provincial government to continue to show leadership on this issue through the provision of on-going funding to meet the housing needs in communities across the Province as well as in ensuring that adequate housing and supports are in place to better meet the needs of those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.



Joe Erceg, MCIP

General Manager, Planning and Development (604-276-4083)

Att. 2

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY						
ROUTED TO:		CONCURRENCE		CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER		
Policy Planning		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>		<u> <i>be Eric</i> </u>		
REVIEWED BY TAG		YES	NO	REVIEWED BY CAO	YES	NO
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>JK</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<i>JK</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

The Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness (RSCH) has asked Lower Mainland municipalities to support and sponsor a resolution on affordable housing, prepared by the RSCH, for submission to the 2009 UBCM Convention (Attachment 1). The purpose of this report is to recommend that Council approve the proposed resolution for submission to the 2009 UBCM Convention.

Analysis

The proposed resolution asks the UBCM to urge the Provincial and Federal government to develop a National Affordable Housing Strategy and to provide the necessary long-term funding required to support the construction of a range of affordable housing choices across the Province.

The proposed resolution further asks the UBCM to urge the Province to continue to exhibit leadership through the provision of funding for housing and supports, including for the homeless and those at risk of homelessness.

These requests are consistent with the approved 2007 Richmond Affordable Housing Strategy, which recognizes the need for senior government funding and involvement in the development of various affordable housing options. These requests are also consistent with Council's endorsement of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) National Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness, endorsed by Council on October 15, 2008 and is consistent with the associated correspondence resulting from said endorsement, including a letter sent to the UBCM on October 23, 2009 (Attachment 2).

The City of Richmond is a member of the RSCH, along with numerous other Lower Mainland municipalities, other levels of government and community organizations. The potential coordinated support of several Lower Mainland municipalities in a request to the UBCM sends a strong and united message to the UBCM and has the potential to make a strong impact and influence on the Federal and Provincial governments.

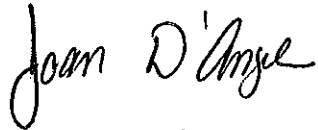
It is therefore recommended that the City of Richmond support the RSCH's initiative and adopt the proposed resolution. Given that the proposed resolution is meant to be regional in nature and is targeted to a Provincial organization (UBCM), it is further recommended that the resolution be adopted as is and without a specific reference to the City of Richmond. Should other municipalities also pass the proposed resolution without change, it would be combined as a joint submission by the UBCM's resolutions committee.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact.

Conclusion

The RSCH's request of support and sponsorship of a proposed resolution for submission to the 2009 UBCM Convention is consistent with the approved 2007 Richmond Affordable Housing Strategy. Staff therefore recommend that Council approve the proposed resolution.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joan D'Angola". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joan D'Angola
Affordable Housing Coordinator
(604-247-4946)

JD:



*Greater Vancouver Regional Steering
Committee on Homelessness*

*c/o Homelessness Secretariat, Metro Vancouver
4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada V5H 4G8
Telephone 604 451-6065 Fax 604 436-6960*

Mayor and Council

June 3, 2009

Re: Proposed Affordable Housing Resolution for the 2009 UBCM Convention

On behalf of the Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness (RSCH), we are writing to all Metro Vancouver municipal Councils to support and sponsor the attached resolution on affordable housing for consideration by the 2009 Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) convention. We believe that this resolution builds on the policy paper titled "*Affordable Housing and Homeless Strategy*" that the UBCM endorsed at its convention last year.

The Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness is a 40-member group with representatives from all levels of government, non-profit agencies, municipalities, and advocacy groups that has been at the forefront of the fight against homelessness in Metro Vancouver since 2000. During this period, our work has centred on generating a co-ordinated, collaborative approach to alleviating and eliminating homelessness in our region through the implementation of the Regional Homelessness Plan: *Three Ways to Home*. The plan focuses on three key elements of a comprehensive solution to homelessness — affordable housing, adequate income, and support services.

While we recognize and welcome the increased level of provincial investments in emergency services, outreach and supportive housing facilities over the last three years, we know that more still needs to be done, especially if we are to achieve our ultimate objective which is not just manage homelessness, but end it. To achieve this, we know that we must increase the supply of affordable housing as well as provide adequate income and support services to those in need. Increasing the supply of affordable housing will require increased housing investments from the Federal and Provincial governments, as well as political leadership from across all levels of government. It will also require a coordinated plan that includes input from all key stakeholders along with appropriate levels of funding. These are the measures that are set out in our resolution and that we are hoping that your Council and the UBCM will endorse.

We appreciate your Council's consideration and support for this proposed resolution, and look forward to working together to increase the supply of affordable housing and ending homelessness in our region.

Sincerely,

Alice Sundberg and Susan Papadionisiou
Co-Chairs, Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness



*United Way of the
Lower Mainland*

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

WHEAREAS the provision of and access to affordable housing is vital to support the health and well-being of individuals, as well as the sustainability of vibrant and diverse communities.

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City of RICHMOND

6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond, B.C. V6Y 2C1
Telephone: (604) 276-4123
Fax No: (604) 276-4332

MALCOLM BRODIE
MAYOR

October 23, 2008

Gary MacIsaac
Executive Director
Union of British Columbia Municipalities
60 - 10551 Shellbridge Way
Richmond, BC V6X 2W9

Dear Mr. MacIsaac:

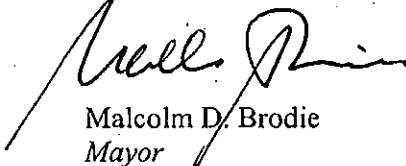
Re: Endorsement of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) National Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness

This is to advise that Richmond City Council, at its meeting held on Wednesday, October 15, 2008, considered the above matter, and adopted a resolution which stated that the City supports the Federation of Canadian Municipalities National Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness, with acknowledgement that the proposed housing targets should be considered minimum targets, given the need in the Metro Vancouver area. A copy of the letter to the FCM, the resolution adopted by Richmond City Council, and the accompanying staff report is attached for your information.

Furthermore, to fully eliminate the current housing shortfalls and meet ongoing annual needs, the City of Richmond asks the UBCM to request the Provincial Government to increase current levels of Provincial funding for both affordable housing and homelessness, by significant amounts, starting now.

If you require additional information on this matter, please contact the City's Affordable Housing Coordinator, Joan D'Angola, at 604-247-4946.

Yours truly,



Malcolm D. Brodie
Mayor

pc: The Honourable Linda Reid
MLA Olga Ilich
MLA John Yap
MP John Cummins
MP Alice Wong


RICHMOND
Island City, by Nature