



General Purposes Committee

**Anderson Room, City Hall
6911 No. 3 Road**

**Monday, March 3, 2025
4:00 p.m.**

Pg. # ITEM

MINUTES

GP-4 *Motion to adopt the **minutes** of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on February 18, 2025.*



PRESENTATION

1. Barbara Tomasic, Executive Artistic Director, Jane Ferneyhough, Board Chair, Gateway Theatre, to present Gateway Theatre's annual report.

LAW AND COMMUNITY SAFETY DIVISION

2. **APPLICATION FOR A NEW LIQUOR PRIMARY LIQUOR LICENCE - SPARK KARAOKE LTD - 8291 ALEXANDRA RD UNIT 155**
(File Ref. No. 12-8275-30-001) (REDMS No. 7934593)

GP-14

See Page GP-14 for full report

Designated Speaker: Mark Corrado

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) *That the application from Sparke Karaoke Ltd., for a new Liquor Primary Liquor Licence seeking the following capacity, hours of liquor sales, and endorsement terms for a new Karaoke Lounge at the premises located at 8291 Alexandra Road Unit 155, with liquor service, be supported:*
- (a) *A new Liquor Primary Liquor Licence with total person capacity of 150 occupants;*
 - (b) *Proposed hours of liquor sales from Monday to Sunday, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 AM; and*
A Family Foodservice Endorsement to allow minors when accompanied by a parent/guardian until 10 PM, where the service of food will be served from 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM; and
- (2) *That a letter be sent to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch, which includes the information as set out in Attachment 1 to this report, advising that Council recommends the approval of the liquor licence.*



DEPUTY CAO'S OFFICE

3. **SEWER HEAT RECOVERY CENTRAL ENERGY PLANT - CONCEPT DESIGN**
(File Ref. No. 01-0060-20-LIEC1) (REDMS No. 7827724)

GP-29

See Page GP-29 for full report

Designated Speakers: Alen Postolka & Christopher David

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

That, as presented in the staff report titled “Sewer Heat Recovery Central Energy Plant – Concept Design”, dated January 18, 2025:

- (1) *The concept design for the Sewer Heat Recovery Central Energy Plant be approved; and*
- (2) *The Sewer Heat Recovery Central Energy Plant project to be referred to the Major Projects Oversight Committee.*



Pg. # ITEM

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

4. **HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2019–2029: 2024 UPDATE**

(File Ref. No. 08-4057-11-03) (REDMS No. 7937840)

GP-40

See Page GP-40 for full report

Designated Speaker: Chris Duggan

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

- (1) *That the Homelessness Strategy 2019–2029: 2024 Update, as outlined in the staff report titled “Homelessness Strategy 2019–2029: 2024 Update”, dated February 5, 2025, from the Director, Community Social Development, be received for information; and*
- (2) *That the Homelessness Strategy 2019–2029: 2024 Update be distributed to key community partners, local Members of Parliament, local Members of the Legislative Assembly, including the Minister of Health, the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction and the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, and posted on the City’s website.*



5. **BILL 16 – REQUEST TO EXTEND JUNE 30, 2025 DEADLINE TO EXISTING BONUS DENSITY ZONES**

(File Ref. No. 08-4000-01) (REDMS No. 7962815)

GP-83

See Page GP-83 for full report

Designated Speaker: John Hopkins

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That a letter be sent to the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs requesting an extension to Provincial deadlines to allow the continuation of the use of existing density bonusing zones until December 31, 2026, with copies of this letter sent to Richmond Members of the Legislative Assembly.



COUNCILLOR KASH HEED

ADDED 6. **REFERRAL MOTION – PROPOSED POLICY ON THE ROUTINE RELEASE OF CLOSED COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS.**
(File Ref. No.) (REDMS No.)

GP-87

See Page GP-87 for full report

MOTION

This matter be referred to the City Solicitor to examine and report back to Council within 3 months on the feasibility to publicly release all in-camera minutes on the City's website as soon as practicable and once a decision or discussion is no longer required to be secured as confidential.

ADJOURNMENT



General Purposes Committee

Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2025

Place: Anderson Room
Richmond City Hall

Present: Mayor Malcolm D. Brodie, Chair
Councillor Chak Au
Councillor Carol Day
Councillor Laura Gillanders
Councillor Kash Heed
Councillor Andy Hobbs
Councillor Alexa Loo
Councillor Bill McNulty
Councillor Michael Wolfe

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

AGENDA ADDITIONS

It was moved and seconded
That Buy Local Information for Richmondites be added to the agenda as Item No. 3, and that Additional Information on 2025 Health, Social and Safety Grant Applicants be considered as Item No. 4.

CARRIED

MINUTES

It was moved and seconded
That the minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on February 3, 2025, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

1.

General Purposes Committee
Tuesday, February 18, 2025

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

1. OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN TARGETED UPDATE – PHASE ONE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY AND PHASE TWO (NEXT STEPS)

(File Ref. No. 08-4045-30-08) (REDMS No. 7902635)

In response to queries from the Committee, staff noted (i) Phase 2 is anticipated to be completed by the end of June, following the public consultation to consider further refined topic areas and certain policy directions, and (ii) Phase 3 will follow with the preparation of the revised OCP document and Bylaw.

It was moved and seconded

- (1) *That the report entitled “Official Community Plan Targeted Update – Phase One Public Engagement Summary and Phase Two (Next Steps)” dated February 3, 2025, from the Director, Policy Planning, be received for information; and*
- (2) *That staff report back on proposed strategic policy directions related to Housing Affordability, Equity, Environmental Protection and Enhancement and Climate Mitigation and Adaptation as outlined in the report entitled “Official Community Plan Targeted Update–Phase One Public Engagement Summary and Phase Two (Next Steps)” dated February 3, 2025, from the Director, Policy Planning.*

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR CHAK AU

2. ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF THE CANADA-U.S. TARIFF WAR AND REVIEWING RICHMOND’S PROCUREMENT POLICY

(File Ref. No.) (REDMS No.)

Councillor Au provided an overview of the referral motion (attached to and forming part of these minutes as **Schedule 1**) and spoke on the negative impacts of proposed American tariffs on Canadian goods and the response from other municipalities.

2.

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In response to queries from the Committee, staff noted (i) the City has a procurement policy in place guided by the trade treaties (mostly province to province, and do not extend to the United States), and publicly advertised when above certain dollar thresholds, (ii) the Richmond Chamber of Commerce is collecting information and data from businesses across the country to understand the impacts of the potential tariffs on their businesses, in order to form their advocacy positions to senior government and policy makers, (iii) for the past month staff have been actively reaching out to the City's vendors and contractors to get assessments of what the impact might be with respect to potential tariffs from the United States, and (iv) the City has many locally sourced contractors and consultants, with the City's construction program in the range of 75% locally sourced already.

It was moved and seconded

- (1) *Richmond City Council direct staff to review the likely economic impacts of the Canada-U.S. tariff war on local businesses and residents;*
- (2) *City staff review the current procurement policy in light of recent trade developments;*
- (3) *The City of Richmond seek clarification on our trade obligations; and*
- (4) *A report with findings and recommendations be presented to Council for further discussion and potential policy adjustments.*

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR CAROL DAY

3. **BUY LOCAL INFORMATION FOR RICHMONDITES**

(File Ref. No.) (REDMS No.)

Councillor Day provided an overview of the referral motion (attached to and forming part of these minutes as **Schedule 2**) and spoke on ways to encourage residents to support local businesses.

It was moved and seconded

Direct staff to research and highlight options for citizens to buy local in Richmond, and promote the information on the City website, City portals and in City facilities.

CARRIED

3.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

4. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON 2025 HEALTH, SOCIAL AND SAFETY GRANT APPLICANTS

(File Ref. No. 08-4055-01) (REDMS No. 7956007)

It was moved and seconded

(1) As outlined in the report titled “Additional Information on 2025 Health, Social and Safety Grant Applicants”, dated February 11, 2025, from the Director, Community Social Development:

(a) That Parish of St. Alban’s (Richmond) receive additional one-time funding of \$11,416 to support its Hamper and Community Meal Programs in keeping with the terms of the Health, Social and Safety Grant Program Guidelines;

(b) That Church on Five receive additional one-time funding of \$65,000 to support its After Hours Outreach Program in keeping with the terms of the Health, Social and Safety Grant Program Guidelines;

(c) That The Salvation Army receive one-time funding of \$20,000 to support its Mobile Feeding Program in keeping with the terms of the Health, Social and Safety Grant Program Guidelines; and

(d) That Christian Addictions Recovery Ministries Society receive one-time funding of \$2,500 to support its Substance Use Prevention Program in keeping with the terms of the Health, Social and Safety Grant Program Guidelines; and

(2) That the total additional funding of \$98,916 for implementation of these recommendations be funded from the Council Community Initiative Account and that the Consolidated 5-Year Financial Plan (2025–2029) be amended accordingly.

The question on the motion was not called as in reply to queries from Committee, staff noted (i) the additional one-time funding for the Parish of St. Alban’s (Richmond) and the Church on Five will equal the same funding as provided in 2024, (ii) staff will work with grant applicants to reflect the overall funding needs in 2025 and to seek external sources of funding for their application for the 2026 Health, Social and Safety (“HSS”) grant cycle, and (iii) staff are in the process of completing a review of the HSS grant program, which will include an analysis of the HSS grant budget and overall sustainability and equitable distribution of City resources.

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Further discussion ensued with respect to increasing additional one-time funding for certain applicants.

In response to queries from Committee, staff advised (i) HSS grant recipients are required to submit a grant use report each year which describes the outcomes relative to their proposal and how the grant funds were utilized, and (ii) if a grant use report is not submitted, the grant recipient will not be eligible to apply for another grant until they submit that grant use report.

As a result of the discussion, the following **amendment motion** was introduced:

It was moved and seconded

That the motion be amended to increase the additional one-time funding for the Parish of St. Alban's (Richmond) by \$15,000, and Church on Five by \$20,000.

CARRIED

The question on the main motion as amended, which reads as follows:

- (1) *As outlined in the report titled "Additional Information on 2025 Health, Social and Safety Grant Applicants", dated February 11, 2025, from the Director, Community Social Development:*
- (a) *That Parish of St. Alban's (Richmond) receive additional one-time funding of \$26,416 to support its Hamper and Community Meal Programs in keeping with the terms of the Health, Social and Safety Grant Program Guidelines;*
 - (b) *That Church on Five receive additional one-time funding of \$85,000 to support its After Hours Outreach Program in keeping with the terms of the Health, Social and Safety Grant Program Guidelines;*
 - (c) *That The Salvation Army receive one-time funding of \$20,000 to support its Mobile Feeding Program in keeping with the terms of the Health, Social and Safety Grant Program Guidelines; and*
 - (d) *That Christian Addictions Recovery Ministries Society receive one-time funding of \$2,500 to support its Substance Use Prevention Program in keeping with the terms of the Health, Social and Safety Grant Program Guidelines; and*

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- (2) *That the total additional funding of \$133,916 for implementation of these recommendations be funded from the Council Community Initiative Account and that the Consolidated 5-Year Financial Plan (2025–2029) be amended accordingly,*

was then called, and it was **CARRIED**.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded
That the meeting adjourn (4:55 p.m.).

CARRIED

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee of the Council of the City of Richmond held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Mayor Malcolm D. Brodie
Chair

Lorraine Anderson
Legislative Services Associate

ON TABLE ITEM

Date: Feb 18, 2025
Meeting: GP
Item: 2

Schedule 1 to the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting of Richmond City Council held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

From: Biason, Evangel
Sent: February 18, 2025 12:29 PM
To: Biason, Evangel
Subject: FW: On table information

From: "Au,Chak" <CAu@richmond.ca>
Date: February 18, 2025 at 12:04:49 PM PST
To: "Jesson, Claudia" <CJesson@richmond.ca>
Cc: "Brodie, Malcolm" <MBrodie@richmond.ca>, "Lusk, Serena" <slusk@richmond.ca>
Subject: On table information

Additional Information on the motion

In response to the recent trade tensions and the imposition of tariffs by the United States, several municipalities across British Columbia have taken steps to adjust their procurement policies to support local businesses and reduce reliance on American goods.

Vancouver: On February 11, 2025, the Vancouver City Council unanimously passed a motion directing city staff to urgently review all capital projects, suppliers, procurement practices, and trade agreement exposures through a “Buy Local/Buy Canadian” lens. The objective is to develop immediate and long-term strategies that support local businesses and align with national efforts to counteract foreign policies detrimental to the Canadian economy and sovereignty.

In addition to the procurement policy review, the motion mandates the launch of a “Buy Local/Buy Canadian” campaign and the establishment of an internal roundtable to respond swiftly to tariffs and supply chain disruptions. City staff are also tasked with exploring temporary business relief measures, such as permit fee reductions and property tax deferrals, to support local businesses during this period of economic uncertainty.

Victoria: On February 13, 2025, Councillor Dave Thompson introduced a motion for city staff to explore options to avoid purchasing U.S. goods and services, particularly from states supporting the tariffs. The motion also suggested moving away from certain social media platforms and emphasized the importance of diversifying and strengthening the local economy.

Surrey: Mayor Brenda Locke announced the cancellation of a \$740,000 contract with a U.S.-based company, embracing the notion of buying Canadian in light of the tariff threats.

Delta: Councillor Dylan Kruger proposed a motion urging the provincial government to amend procurement legislation, allowing municipalities to prioritize Canadian businesses in their procurement processes.

Burnaby: Mayor Mike Hurley directed city staff to adopt a “buy local and buy Canadian” approach, seeking ways to adjust the city’s procurement policies to support local businesses.

Maple Ridge: On February 11, 2025, the City Council unanimously adopted an action plan aimed at enhancing local economic resilience and supporting Canadian businesses. This plan

includes updating municipal procurement policies to prioritize Canadian-made goods and services, while ensuring compliance with existing trade agreements. Additionally, the city is conducting a cross-departmental review to identify alternative sources for goods and services currently sourced from the U.S., focusing on buying Canadian.

These actions reflect a broader movement among Canadian municipalities to reassess procurement strategies, aiming to bolster local economies and reduce dependence on foreign suppliers in response to international trade challenges.

Aligning Richmond's policies with this approach would not only bolster local businesses but also demonstrate solidarity with provincial and national efforts to safeguard Canada's economic interests

**TO: MAYOR & EACH
COUNCILLOR
FROM: CITY CLERK'S OFFICE**

Schedule 2 to the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting of Richmond City Council held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Carol Day Feb 6th 2025

MOTION:

BUY LOCAL INFORMATION FOR RICHMONDITES

Direct staff to research and highlight options for citizens to buy local in Richmond. Promote the information on the city web site, city portals and in city facilities.

RATIONALE:

With the Tariffs proposed by President Trump becoming a major concern for our citizens it would be a good time to review and improve the information we provide to the public to better inform them about the options they have for buying local.

The City Economic Business office does great work but the public may not be aware of the options that local businesses provide to citizens.

Tourism Richmond has long been promoting the many attributes of Richmond the city could work more closely to create to catalog of local businesses that sell products made here in Richmond.

Local Farm markets, wineries, the fish docks in Steveston are just a few examples that locals may not be aware of and promoting them through the cities information portals would help Richmondites buy local and buy Canadian.



RICHMOND LOCAL FOOD MAP

FIND YOUR FARM FRESH

Discover the abundance of local produce and seafood waiting for you in Richmond. Call ahead or check websites for up-to-date hours and seasonal availability.

PACIFIC. AUTHENTIC. RICHMONDBC



- 1 **Bill Best & Berry's**
Business
4205 Trangle Dr | 604-646-0491
Open daily Mon - Sun
- 2 **Black Berry Farm**
18750 10th Ave, Richmond, BC
6440 No. 5 St., 3600 No. 6 St.,
1020 Richmond Rd. & 910 No. 6 St.
Open daily 9:00am - 5:30pm
- 3 **Canada Bacon Winery**
Specialty & table wine
2901 Burnside Blvd | 604-252-0379
4200 10th Ave
Open daily 10am - 5pm
- 4 **Cap West Farms**
Specialty & table wine
13001 Burnside Rd | 604-244-0488
Open daily 10am - 5pm
- 5 **Cherry Lane Farm**
Variety of fruits & vegetables
855, Burnside Rd | Open daily 10am - 5pm
Email us @ Facebook
- 6 **Country View Winery**
Farm based estate wine
10040 Steveston Hwy | 604-274-9950
1800 Steveston Hwy
Open daily Mon - Sun
- 7 **Eastbrook Organic Farms**
Variety of vegetables & low sugar apple
9750 Blair Road | 278-818-8928
Open daily 9:30am - 5:30pm
- 8 **Food Forward**
15337 Country Rd 13, 604-275-6292
10000 Steveston Hwy | Open daily 10am - 5pm
- 9 **Gal Farm Fresh Produce**
Specialty & table wine
10200 10th Ave
Open daily Mon - Sun
- 10 **GS Farm**
Specialty & table wine
1460 No. 8 St. | Open daily 10am - 5pm
14000 10th Ave
- 11 **HS Market Farms**
Variety of fruits & vegetables
15500 Altona Rd | 604-273-6522
10000 Steveston Hwy | Open daily 10am - 5pm
- 12 **Kowloon St. Kowloon Market**
A variety of local produce & goods
10000 Steveston Hwy | 604-274-0222
10000 Steveston Hwy | Open daily Mon - Sun








To: General Purposes Committee **Date:** January 16, 2025
From: Mark Corrado **File:** 12-8275-30-001/2025-
Director, Community Bylaws and Licencing Vol 01
Re: **Application For A New Liquor Primary Liquor Licence - Spark Karaoke Ltd -
8291 Alexandra Rd Unit 155**

Staff Recommendations

1. That the application from Sparke Karaoke Ltd., for a new Liquor Primary Liquor Licence seeking the following capacity, hours of liquor sales, and endorsement terms for a new Karaoke Lounge at the premises located at 8291 Alexandra Road Unit 155, with liquor service, be supported:
 - a) A new Liquor Primary Liquor Licence with total person capacity of 150 occupants;
 - b) Proposed hours of liquor sales from Monday to Sunday, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 AM; and
 - c) A Family Foodservice Endorsement to allow minors when accompanied by a parent/guardian until 10 PM, where the service of food will be served from 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM; and
2. That a letter be sent to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch, which includes the information as set out in Attachment 1 to this report, advising that Council recommends the approval of the liquor licence.

Mark Corrado
Director, Community Bylaws and Licencing
(604-204-8673)

Att. 3

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Fire Rescue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
RCMP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Building Approvals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO 

Staff Report

Origin

The Provincial Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) issues licences in accordance with the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act* (the Act) and the Regulations made pursuant to the Act.

This report pertains to an application to the LCRB and the City of Richmond by Spark Karaoke Ltd., (hereinafter referred to as “Spark”) for a new Liquor Primary Liquor Licence for a new karaoke lounge and private karaoke box rooms located at 8291 Alexandra Road Unit 155 that specifies the following capacity, hours of liquor sales, and endorsement terms:

- hours of liquor service, Monday to Sunday, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 AM;
- a total person capacity of 150 persons; and
- have a Family Foodservice Endorsement to allow minors when accompanied by a parent/guardian until 10 PM, where the service of food will be served from 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM.

The City of Richmond is given the opportunity to provide written comments by way of a resolution to the LCRB with respect to the liquor licence applications and amendments. For a new Liquor Primary Liquor Licence, the process requires the local government to provide comments with respect to the following criteria:

- the location of the establishment;
- the proximity of the establishment to other social or recreational facilities and public buildings;
- the person capacity and hours of liquor service of the establishment;
- the impact of noise on the community in the immediate vicinity of the establishment;
- and
- the impact on the community if the application is approved.

This report supports Council’s Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #2 Strategic and Sustainable Community Growth:

Strategic and sustainable growth that supports long-term community needs and a well-planned and prosperous city.

Analysis

Location of the Establishment

Spark is proposing to operate a six room Karaoke Box Room establishment as well as a main dining room area with a stage area for patrons to participate in singing along with a dining experience. Spark has been operating a restaurant with a Food Primary Liquor Licence since 2023 with no noted issues. If Spark is approved for a Liquor Primary Liquor Licence, Spark will cancel the Food

Primary Liquor Licence. The site located at 8291 Alexandra Road Unit 155 is zoned Auto-Oriented Commercial (CA) with the following permitted uses relevant to this application: liquor primary establishment, restaurant and recreation, indoor.

The intent of this new liquor primary liquor licensed karaoke will be to allow the clientele to enjoy a full food and beverage experience with Family Foodservice Endorsement to 10:00 PM. Spark expects to cater to tourists, businesses and Richmond residents.

Proximity of the Establishment to Other Social, Recreational and Public Building

There are no schools, parks or other public buildings within 500 meters of proposed location for Zodiac. There are six liquor primary establishments within a 500 meter radius of Spark.

Person capacity and Hours of Liquor Service of the Establishment

The applicant is proposing to operate Spark with a total occupant load of 150 person capacity. The applicant's proposed operating hours of liquor service are Monday to Sunday, 9:00 AM to next day 2:00 AM which is consistent with the City's Policy 9400.

The Impact of noise on the Community in the Immediate Vicinity of the Establishment

The proposed establishment will be located on the ground floor of a one floor building, in an area already impacted by aircraft noise. It is staff's belief that no noticeable increase in noise would be present if the liquor primary licence application is supported. This unit has had a Liquor Primary Establishment in the past operating for many years since 1996 to 2019. This business is currently operating a restaurant with a food Primary Liquor Licence to 2:00 AM. This change to a Liquor Primary Liquor Licence should not deviate from the currently experienced decibel levels. If noise complaints were to arise, the City has the Noise Regulation Bylaw No. 8856 which would apply if necessary.

The Impact on the Community if the Application is Approved

The community consultation process for reviewing applications for liquor related licences is prescribed by the Development Application Fees Bylaw 8951 which under Section 1.8.1 specifies the following:

- 1.8.1 Every **applicant** seeking approval from the **City** in connection with:
 - (a) a licence to serve liquor under the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act and Regulations*;must proceed in accordance with subsection 1.8.2.
- 1.8.2 Pursuant to an application under subsection 1.8.1, every **applicant** must:
 - (b) post and maintain on the subject property a clearly visible sign which indicates:

- (i) type of licence or amendment application;
 - (ii) proposed person capacity;
 - (iii) type of entertainment (if application is for patron participation entertainment); and
 - (iv) proposed hours of liquor service; and
- (c) publish a notice in at least three consecutive editions of a newspaper that is distributed at least weekly in the area affected by the application, providing the same information required in subsection 1.8.2(b) above.

The required signage was posted on September 18, 2024, and three advertisements were published in a newspaper distributed locally on September 18, 2024, September 19, 2024 and September 20, 2024.

In addition to the advertised signage and public notice requirements, staff sent letters to residents, businesses and property owners within a 50 meter radius of the new establishment. On September 18, 2024, a total of 69 letters were mailed out to residents, businesses and property owners. The letter provided information on the proposed liquor licence application and contained instructions to comment on the application. The period for commenting for all public notifications ended October 18, 2024.

As a result of the community consultative process described, the City has not received any responses opposed to this application.

Other Agency Comments

As part of the review process, staff requested comments from other agencies and departments such as Vancouver Coastal Health, the Richmond RCMP, Richmond Fire-Rescue and the Building Approvals Department and the Business Licence Department. These agencies and departments generally provide comments on the compliance history of the applicant's operations and premises. A new Fire evacuation plan was requested by fire and was completed by the business and no further concerns were expressed from any of the agencies or departments regarding this application.

Financial Impact

None

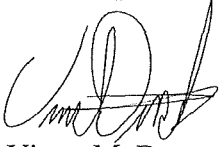
Conclusion

The results of the community consultation process of Spark's proposed Liquor Primary Liquor Licence application was reviewed based on the City and LCRB criteria. The analysis concluded there should be no noticeable potential impact from noise, no significant impact to the community and no comments or views from the neighboring residents, businesses or property

January 16, 2025

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owners. Staff therefore, recommend approval of the application from Spark to operate a Liquor Primary Establishment with liquor service from Monday to Sunday from 9:00 AM to next day 2:00 AM, with an occupant load of 150 persons and with the family food endorsement described in this report.



Victor M. Duarte
Supervisor, Business Licences
(604-276-4389)

VMD:vmd

- Att. 1: Appendix A
- 2: Letter of Intent
- 3: Arial Map with 50 M Buffer Area

Appendix A

Re: Application for a New Liquor Primary Liquor Licence – Spark Karaoke Ltd. – 8291 Alexandra Rd. Unit 155, Richmond BC

1. That the application from Spark Karaoke Ltd., to operate at, 8291 Alexandra Rd. Unit 155, requesting a new Liquor Primary Liquor Licence for a new karaoke box room and lounge, with liquor service, be supported for:
 - a) A new Liquor Primary Liquor Licence for primary business focus of a Karaoke Lounge with a total person capacity of 150 occupants;
 - b) Proposed Hours of Liquor service hours from Monday to Sunday, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 AM;
 - c) A Family Foodservice Endorsement to allow minors when accompanied by a Parent/Guardian until 10 PM, where the service of food will be served from 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM; and
2. That a letter be sent to Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch advising that:
 - a) Council supports the applicants new Liquor Primary Liquor Licence application, and the hours of liquor service with the conditions as listed above;
 - b) The total person capacity set at 150 persons is acknowledged;
3. Council's comments on the prescribed criteria (Section 71 of the Liquor Control and Licencing Regulations) are as follows:
 - a) The impact of additional noise and traffic in the area of the establishment was considered;
 - b) The potential impact on the community was assessed through a community consultation process; and
 - c) Given that this is a new establishment there is no history of non-compliance with this this establishment;
 - d) As the operation of a licenced establishment may affect nearby residents, businesses and property owners, the City gathered the views of the community through a community consultation process as follows:
 - i) Residents, businesses and property owners within a 50 meter radius of the establishment were notified by letter. The letter provided information on the application with instructions on how to submit comments or concerns; and

- ii) Signage was posted at the subject property and three public notices were published in a local newspaper. The signage and public notice provided information on the application with instructions on how to submit comments and concerns.
- e) Council's comments on the general impact of the views of residents, businesses and property owners are as follows:
 - i) The community consultation process was completed within 90 days of the application process; and
 - ii) The community consultation process did not generate any comments and views of residents, businesses and property owners.
- f) Council recommends the approval of the licence application with liquor service to 2AM for the reasons that this new application for a Liquor Primary Liquor Licence is acceptable to the majority of the residents, businesses and property owners in the area and community.



Experts in liquor licensing for the success of your business

APPLICATION FOR A LIQUOR PRIMARY LIQUOR LICENSE

**AT: SPARK KITCHEN + BAR
150 & 155 - 8291 ALEXANDRA ROAD
RICHMOND, B.C.
V6X 1C3**

APPLICANT: SPARK KARAOKE LTD

**LETTER OF INTENT
FOR THE APPLICATION FOR A LIQUOR PRIMARY LICENSE**

Submitted to:

**Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch
4th Floor – 645 Tye Road
Victoria, BC V9A 6X5**

Submitted by:

**Rising Tide Consultants
1620 – 1130 West Pender Street
Vancouver, BC V6E 4A4
p. 604.669-2928
f. 604.669-2920**

INTRODUCTION

This Letter of Intent is provided in support of an Application for a Liquor Primary License submitted to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch and the City of Richmond for Spark Kitchen + Bar located at 150 & 155 – 8291 Alexandra Road, Richmond, B.C. V6X 1C3.

The applicant is requesting approval for a capacity of approximately 139 persons including staff for this liquor primary licensed karaoke lounge. Please see the preliminary floor plans attached to the application for a liquor primary license.

The location has a long history over the decades in operating as a liquor primary licensed establishment. Prior to that it was licensed as a Class "C" Cabaret Licence doing business as Zodiac Cabaret which was a Nightclub/Karaoke Bar. Attached is a copy of the previous liquor primary licence for Zodiac Karaoke Cabaret. The proposed floor plan is essentially the same as the previous Zodiac establishment as per the attached plan.

The applicant currently has a food primary licence number 310543 at the site. This new liquor primary licence will replace this food primary licence. Once the liquor primary licence is issued, the applicant asks that the food primary licence be cancelled. Please see attached a copy of the current food primary licence.

The applicant will ensure that this karaoke establishment will satisfy the requirements of the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch and the City of Richmond in terms of floor plans, design layout, supervision, control and monitoring of the various karaoke rooms.

The licensee will have a video surveillance system throughout the entire establishment. The karaoke rooms will have dedicated and trained servers with Serving It Right, servicing each room to provide and monitor the food & beverage service.

PRIMARY FOCUS/ESTABLISHMENT TYPE

This establishment is close to businesses, hotels and conference facilities near the airport. It will cater to tourists and business people in the area. It will also cater

to the local residents of Richmond who will frequent this establishment. Karaoke entertainment is very popular in Richmond.

The target market will be adults primarily between the ages of 20 to 50 with a variety of occupations who are seeking a karaoke experience in Richmond.

The establishment will have soundproof karaoke rooms of varying size in order to cater to small, medium or larger groups. There is also a stage area where patrons will be able to participate in the singing of karaoke. There is also a dining area in this establishment.

The intent of this liquor primary licensed karaoke establishment is to allow patrons the opportunity to enjoy a full food and beverage experience while having a karaoke and sing-along experience in a friendly atmosphere.

The applicant is also requesting a family food service endorsement with this liquor primary licence. The applicant has a full commercial kitchen at the establishment.

HOURS OF OPERATION

The proposed hours of licensing requested are 9.00 am to 2.00 am Monday to Sunday. These hours are consistent with the hours permitted by the City of Richmond and the Liquor & Cannabis Regulation Branch.

ENTERTAINMENT

The main entertainment at Spark Kitchen +Bar is in the form of Karaoke music and singing combined with a food and beverage experience. The establishment can cater to large or small groups because of the different sizes of the rooms.

FOOD SERVICES

The applicant has a commercial kitchen and will provide food service in the establishment.

COMPOSITION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD

Attached is a site plan showing the location of the establishment. The current zoning of the property is CA – (Auto-Oriented Commercial). This zoning has a permitted use of a liquor primary establishment. The surrounding area is a mixed commercial and retail area. The location was previously licensed with a liquor primary licence that did business for decades as Zodiac Karaoke

NOISE IN THE COMMUNITY AND DISTURBANCES

The applicant has taken measures and ensures they will be in compliance with the noise bylaw of the City of Richmond at all times. Given the location of the proposed establishment, noise will not be a factor in the operation of the venue. The location is in a strip mall with no residents in the area.

The applicant will also work to ensure that any sound is contained to the establishment and does not spill into the neighbouring area. The applicant will ensure that the establishment is compliant with the City of Richmond noise bylaws.

The location has a history of being a liquor primary Karaoke establishment with no noise problems.

The nature of this karaoke lounge operation requires the music levels to be reduced to ensure that the sound is contained inside the specific rooms and there is no sound transferring between rooms.

This proposed liquor primary licensed establishment should not impact negatively on the surrounding area due to the fact that it is located in a commercial area. The busy times of the karaoke lounge are mainly in the evening and do not impact the neighbouring businesses in a negative way. Attached is a photo of the location and the neighbouring businesses.

Noise and the impact on the community are factors the City of Richmond will consider in assessing this application.

LICENSING OPTIONS

The applicant is requesting a Family Foodservice Endorsements to allow minors when accompanied by a Parent/Guardian/Responsible Adult until 10pm. Food service will be available during the hours of 9am to 10 pm.

OTHER FACTORS

The applicant also submits the following additional factors for consideration:

- The applicant's focus is on offering the public the convenience of a karaoke lounge with food service throughout the establishment.
- The proposed establishment will further diversify the hospitality and entertainment venues available to tourists, residents and business professionals in Richmond. It will provide a venue for corporate events, family celebrations and group get togethers for a food and beverage experience.

The location is ideal for tourists and business professionals as it is close to the airport business and the hotels in the area. The location is very convenient for residents and business professionals.

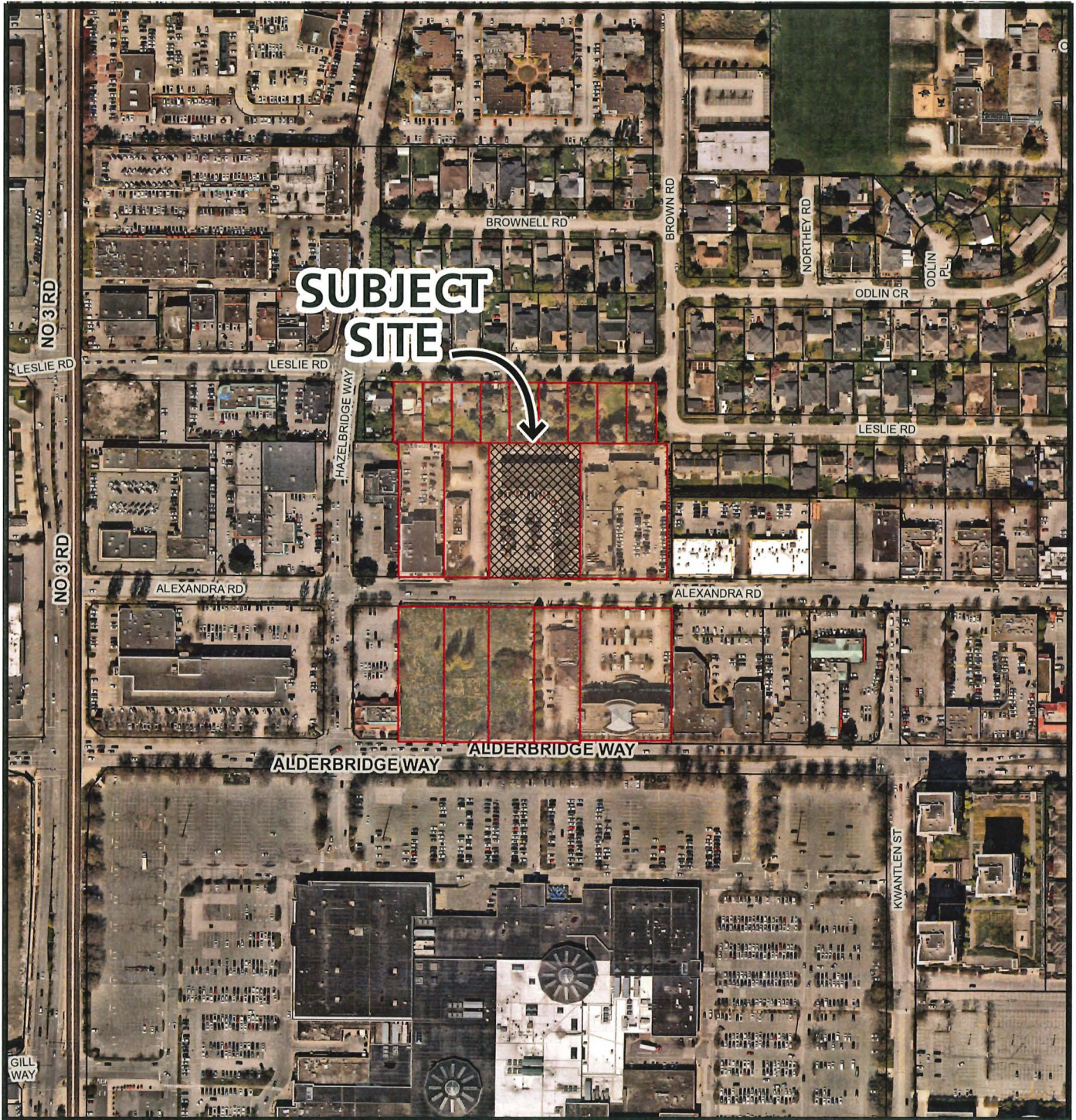
BENEFITS OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT

The applicant's proposed liquor licensed establishment will benefit the community in the following ways:

- Employment opportunities for residents of Richmond and the Lower Mainland.
- Provide an additional source of tax revenue for the Federal, Provincial and Municipal Governments.
- Provide an additional liquor licensed karaoke lounge for the Richmond area for the enjoyment of tourists, local residents and the business community.

All of which is respectfully submitted this 22nd day of July, 2024.

Rising Tide Consultants
1620 –1130 West Pender Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6E 4A4
Tel: (604) 669-2928 Fax: (604) 669-2920



#155- 8291 Alexandra Rd
50 Metre Map

Original date: 10/29/24

Revision Date:

Note: Dimensions are in METRES



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee

From: John Irving, P.Eng., MPA
Deputy CAO
Chief Executive Officer,
Lulu Island Energy Company

Date: February 14, 2025

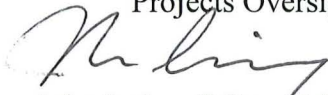
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LIEC1/2024-Vol 01

Re: Sewer Heat Recovery Central Energy Plant - Concept Design

Staff Recommendation



That, as presented in the staff report titled “Sewer Heat Recovery Central Energy Plant – Concept Design”, dated February 14, 2025:

1. The concept design for the Sewer Heat Recovery Central Energy Plant be approved; and
2. The Sewer Heat Recovery Central Energy Plant project to be referred to the Major Projects Oversight Committee.



John Irving, P.Eng., MPA
Deputy CAO
Chief Executive Officer, Lulu Island Energy Company
(604-276-4140)

Att. 3

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE
Policy Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY SMT	INITIALS: 
APPROVED BY CAO 	

Staff Report

Origin

In 2023, Council approved the site location for the Sewer Heat Recovery Central Energy Plant (SHR plant) at 7500 River Road, on the eastern edge of the future Lulu Island Park (the future park). The purpose of this report is to present the concept design of the SHR plant for Council approval.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #2 Strategic and Sustainable Community Growth:

Strategic and sustainable growth that supports long-term community needs and a well-planned and prosperous city.

2.3 Ensure that both built and natural infrastructure supports sustainable development throughout the city.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #3 A Safe and Prepared Community:

Community safety and preparedness through effective planning, strategic partnerships and proactive programs.

3.4 Ensure civic infrastructure, assets and resources are effectively maintained and continue to meet the needs of the community as it grows.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #5 A Leader in Environmental Sustainability:

Leadership in environmental sustainability through innovative, sustainable and proactive solutions that mitigate climate change and other environmental impacts.

5.1 Continue to demonstrate leadership in proactive climate action and environmental sustainability.

Background

District energy systems centralize space heating, cooling and domestic hot water heating production on the neighbourhood scale. The City established Lulu Island Energy Company (LIEC) in 2013, a municipal corporation wholly-owned by the City of Richmond, to deliver district energy initiatives on behalf of the City. The City Centre District Energy Utility (CCDEU) expansion plan approved by Council in 2022, included construction of an energy centre in the Oval Village service area to provide service to LIEC customers utilizing low carbon sewer heat recovery energy.

Following on the success of the Alexandra district energy plant in the Alexandra Neighbourhood Park, the SHR plant will be the first permanent energy plant servicing the City Centre customers, delivering at least 70% of its energy demand primarily by recovering heat from the city's sewers via Metro Vancouver's Gilbert Trunk sewer utilizing sewage heat extraction and heat pump

technology. The SHR plant will replace existing temporary energy infrastructure utilizing natural gas, resulting in an annual reduction of approximately 9,750 tons of community greenhouse gas emissions at full build-out.

Analysis

The concept design stage was an iterative process that started in April 2024 and included numerous engagements with key City departments (Parks Services, Transportation, Policy Planning and Development) and the architecture and landscape architecture design team. The SHR plant's integration into the future park and adjacent urban neighbourhood prompted the architecture team to view the project from a wider lens creating a unique building typology when developing the design. The guiding principles for design development included:

- An inspirational design that signals the inception of the future park in the area, adapting elements from the Middle Arm Open Space Master Plan Concept adopted by Council in 2007;
- Resilience to climate change and future inland dike raising in line with the City's flood protection strategy;
- Integrate design features for the interim condition that can be later incorporated into the future park design;
- Promote attractive, flexible options for open spaces, public art, park programming and public amenities;
- Support access to the park for pedestrians and cyclists; and
- Enhance views towards the Fraser River and mountains.

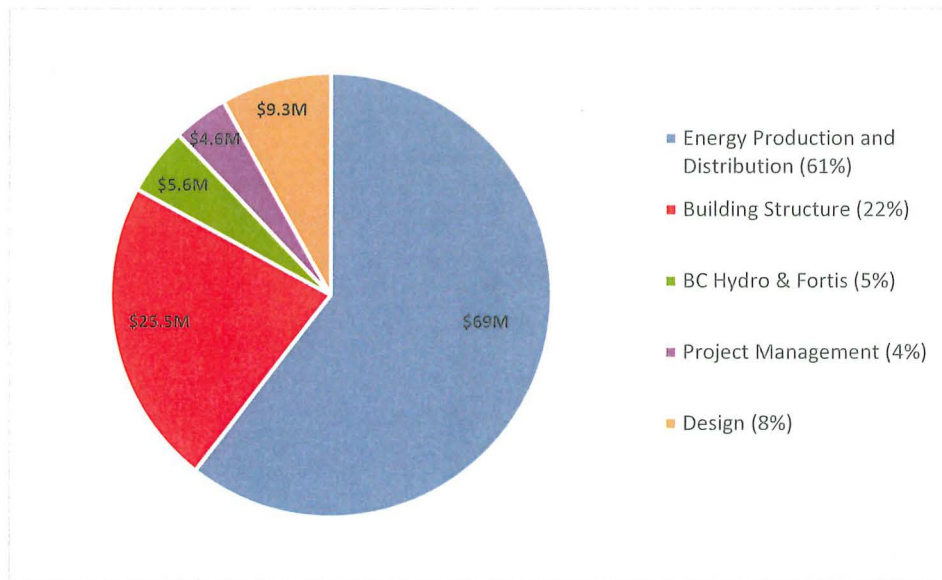
The concept design of the SHR plant is the culmination of the guiding principles noted above and the engagement workshops. Key elements of the design (Attachments 1 to 3) include:

- A contemporary, curvilinear building form that is conceived of as a landmark and a catalyst for the transformation of the surrounding mixed industrial/commercial area;
- Siting on the narrow eastern end of the future park to maximize open space and flexible programming opportunities on the park's central and western portions;
- Hybrid construction that utilizes concrete panels on the building's river side to allow for its partial burial (in coordination with future dike and park improvements), and a corrugated metal façade fronting River Parkway that speaks to the industrial heritage of the location;
- An accessible pathway that provides opportunities for public art murals and educational signage, connecting River Road and River Parkway along the building's west side;
- Signal a transition between the future park space and Urban Centre T5 (residential prohibited) land use areas to the north and east of the future park contemplated in the City Centre Area Plan (CCAP)
- A publicly-accessible green roof (accessed via the future park) that brings ecological and environmental benefits, and aligned with guidelines in the CCAP, provides a riverfront landmark view;
- Publicly-accessible washroom facilities that will eliminate need for additional structures serving this purpose in the future park;

An Advisory Design Panel (ADP) review of the proposed concept was held on October 3, 2024. The Panelists commended the project’s refreshing building typology and the forethought put towards integrating the SHR plant in the future park, and noted that the building, in the interim condition, will enhance the neighbourhood and provide an effective transition between the existing industrial area and the future park with the several opportunities to integrate with and enhance the future park. The Panelists provided unanimous support to move forward with the proposed design. The comments of the ADP will be taken into consideration during the detailed design phase, which include exploring alternative material finishes for the overhead door and incorporating lighting into the building’s exterior walls.

Based on the proposed concept design for the SHR plant, the estimated project cost is \$114M. A cost breakdown is provided in Figure 1. As a part of the detailed design, LIEC staff will conduct further value engineering with aim to reduce project costs.

Figure 1: Cost Estimate Breakdown (\$114 Million)



In summary, the SHR plant will enhance the future park and surrounding community through substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, providing publicly accessible washrooms, elevated views of the river and mountains from the green roof, and opportunities to integrate into the future park elements and landform.

Should Council approve the concept design outlined in this report, LIEC staff will proceed with detailed design development, including consideration of ADP recommendations regarding the proposed facility’s form and character. It is anticipated that minor adjustments to the drawings presented in Attachments 1 and 2 will be made as the detailed design proceeds to ensure the project remains on budget and meets operational and stakeholder needs. Facility construction is scheduled to commence in 2026, with site preparatory works scheduled to commence early Summer 2025 in order to facilitate the scheduled on-site facility construction activities. The plant is scheduled to be placed in-service late Fall 2028.

LIEC is a wholly-owned municipal corporation, whose projects are delivered outside of the City's funding sources and capital delivery program. However, considering the estimated project costs and to mirror the accountability and transparency of City capital delivery, the LIEC Board of Directors requests Council to consider referring this project to the Major Projects Oversight Committee.

Financial Impact

None. CCDEU projects are fully financed by Corix and the Canada Infrastructure Bank under the CCDEU Project Agreement. LIEC was awarded a \$6.2 Million CleanBC Communities Fund grant towards the SHR plant and Metro Vancouver has authorized up to \$20 Million in funding towards the project for the design and construction of the required sewage connection and conveyance infrastructure.

Conclusion

The proposed concept design of the SHR plant has been crafted through rigorous engagement and iteration to provide a climate-resilient, forward-looking design that integrates with the interim and future conditions of the area. Council approval of the recommended concept design is required in order to complete the concept development stage and proceed with the detailed design stage. The SHR plant will provide reliable, low-carbon heating services for the customers in the CCDEU service area.



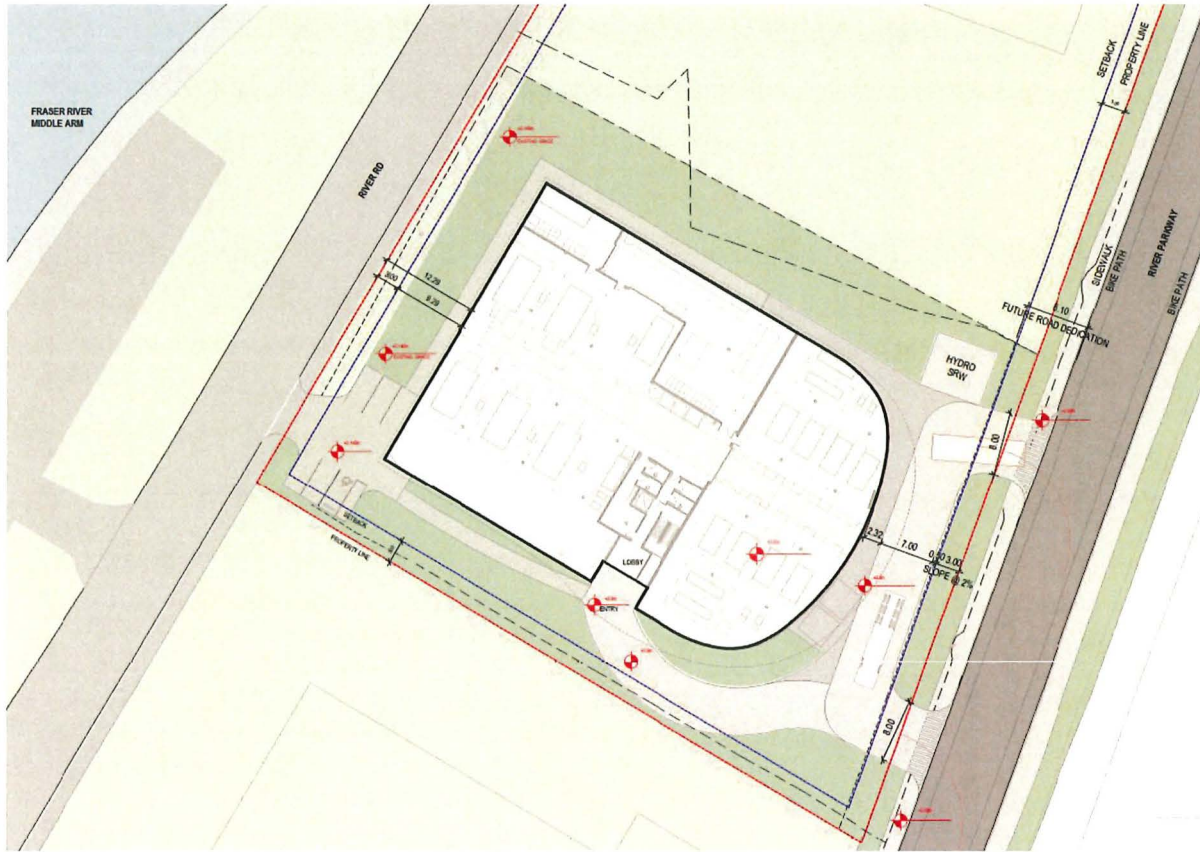
Glenn Sakamoto, P.Eng, PMP
Project Manager, Lulu Island Energy Company
(604-204-8528)

GNS:gns

- Att. 1: Sewer Heat Recovery Central Energy Plant – Site Plan
- 2: Sewer Heat Recovery Central Energy Plant – Renders (Interim)
- 3: Sewer Heat Recovery Central Energy Plant – Renders (Future Vision)

Attachment 1 – Sewer Heat Recovery Central Energy Plant – Site Plan

Figure 1: SHR Plant – Site Plan



Attachment 2 – Sewer Heat Recovery Central Energy Plant – Renders (Interim)

Figure 1: SHR Plant – Northwest Perspective (Interim Condition)



Figure 2: SHR Plant – North Perspective (Interim Condition)



Figure 3: SHR Plant – River Parkway Perspective (Interim Condition)



Attachment 3 – Sewer Heat Recovery Central Energy Plant – Renders (Future Vision)

Note: Future vision renders are intended for high level illustrative purpose to convey the scale of the SHR plant in the context of the future Lulu Island Park. Details of the park will be developed through the Lulu Island Park masterplan.

Figure 1: Future Vision – Northeast Aerial Perspective



Figure 2: Future Vision – SHR Plant Northwest Aerial Perspective



Figure 3: Future Vision – SHR Plant River Parkway Perspective



Figure 4: Future Vision – SHR Plant Park Pathway Perspective



Figure 5: Future Vision – Park User Perspective Facing Northwest





To: General Purposes Committee

Date: February 5, 2025

From: Kim Somerville
Director, Community Social Development

File: 08-4057-11-03/2025-Vol 01

Re: Homelessness Strategy 2019–2029: 2024 Update

Staff Recommendations

1. That the Homelessness Strategy 2019–2029: 2024 Update, as outlined in the staff report titled “Homelessness Strategy 2019–2029: 2024 Update”, dated February 5, 2025, from the Director, Community Social Development, be received for information; and
2. That the Homelessness Strategy 2019–2029: 2024 Update be distributed to key community partners, local Members of Parliament, local Members of the Legislative Assembly, including the Minister of Health, the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction and the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, and posted on the City’s website.

Kim Somerville
Director, Community Social Development
(604-247-4671)

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Community Bylaws	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Parks Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Community Safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Corporate Communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Facilities & Project Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Housing Office	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
RCMP Administration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Recreation & Sport Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

Since its adoption on September 9, 2019, the City of Richmond Homelessness Strategy 2019–2029 (Homelessness Strategy) has guided the City’s actions and collaborative approach with the community to reduce and prevent homelessness in Richmond.

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress made in the implementation of the Homelessness Strategy in 2024.

This report supports Council’s Strategic Plan 2022–2026 Focus Area #6 A Vibrant, Resilient and Active Community:

6.1 Advance a variety of program, services, and community amenities to support diverse needs and interests and activate the community.

6.4 Support vulnerable populations through collaborative and sustainable programs and services.

This report also supports the City of Richmond’s Homelessness Strategy Strategic Direction #5 Communicate, Research and Monitor Homelessness:

5.6 Report out annually on the progress of the Homelessness Strategy 2019–2029.

Analysis

The number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Metro Vancouver, including in Richmond, has increased according to Homeless Counts that have taken place across the region at regular intervals since 2002. Individuals typically experience homelessness due to complex and multifaceted reasons including untreated mental and physical health conditions, unaddressed substance use and addiction, and intergenerational and chronic experiences of poverty. These factors, accompanied by high housing costs in the Lower Mainland, have led to an increase to the number of people experiencing homelessness in the region.

The City of Richmond and its partners are committed to collaborative and integrated work to reduce the number of people in Richmond who do not have a safe and affordable home to call their own. In order to do this, the City is taking action to prevent and reduce poverty in Richmond, increase affordable housing options and the appropriate supports for those who need them, and foster the well-being of its residents, including those who are vulnerable or experiencing challenges in their lives.

Richmond’s Homelessness Strategy is guided by a vision that, by 2029, “homelessness in Richmond is rare, brief and non-recurring.” To achieve this vision, the strategy outlines five strategic directions:

1. Prevent pathways into homelessness;
2. Support residents who are experiencing homelessness;
3. Provide pathways out of homelessness;

4. Foster collaboration and community building among community partners; and
5. Communicate, research and monitor homelessness.

Under these strategic directions, the Homelessness Strategy identifies 32 actions with associated timelines to be completed over a 10-year period. At the end of 2024, halfway through the Strategy's intended time frame, 24 of the 32 actions have been initiated and are either complete or in progress.

Homelessness Strategy 2019–2029: 2024 Highlights

Throughout 2024, the City, government partners and community service providers have made progress towards a more integrated system of services for those who are experiencing homelessness and have supported individuals who have been unsheltered to transition into safe and affordable housing that meets their needs. The Homelessness Strategy 2019–2029: 2024 Update (Attachment 1) provides an overview of key achievements undertaken or advanced in 2024. These highlights include:

- In 2024, the City developed a Homelessness Outreach Program and hired two Homelessness Outreach Workers to support individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Richmond. The Outreach Workers provide community-based street outreach to people experiencing homelessness, work directly in the community to meet clients wherever they are located in Richmond and support referrals to housing and other relevant programs and services.
- The City created four new Bylaw Officer positions to complement the City's response to homelessness, including two Bylaw 1 Officers and two Bylaw 2 Officers. The new Bylaw 1 Officers respond to people living in their vehicles, including camper vans and recreational vehicles (RVs), and the new Bylaw 2 Officers respond to people experiencing homelessness who are living outdoors. These new positions work closely with the Homelessness Outreach Team and focus on building rapport with people experiencing homelessness, using an enforcement approach only when necessary.
- The Richmond Integrated Outreach Team and the Homelessness Outreach Worker Network were both formed in 2024. These two groups play an important role in creating a more integrated system of services for individuals experiencing homelessness in the community. The Integrated Outreach Team is engaged in interagency case planning for clients who have provided informed consent to have their information shared between member agencies and who would benefit from being served by multiple organizations. The Outreach Worker Network provides a venue for sharing resources, referral options and service details, and supports relationship building, cooperation and communication amongst member organizations.
- The Drop-in Centre and Shower Program at the Brighthouse Pavilion, a City-owned facility, continued to operate throughout 2024. Funded by the province through the UBCM Strengthening Communities' Services grant from December 2021 to March 2024, the City took on the responsibility of funding this program in April 2024. Currently operated by Turning Point Recovery Society, the Drop-In Centre offers critical resources, referrals and services for people experiencing homelessness in the community, including

access to shower and laundry facilities, lunches and supports with referrals to housing and other services.

- During the 2023/24 and 2024/25 winter seasons, additional temporary services and shelter options have been made available for people experiencing homelessness in the community. In 2023/24, these included expanded hours of operation at the Drop-in Centre at Brighthouse Pavilion and expanded operations of the two Warming Centres at the Brighthouse Pavilion and the South Arm Outdoor Pool building. In 2024/25, two nightly Temporary Winter Shelter options are available at the Brighthouse Pavilion and the South Arm Outdoor Pool building for individuals experiencing homelessness. These services are supported by funding from the City and BC Housing and operated by The Progressive Housing Society. Temporary winter services complement the permanent shelter beds at Richmond House Emergency Shelter. The current capacity of the shelter is 55 beds following the conversion of 10 extreme weather response spaces to permanent beds at the end of the 2023/24 winter season.

In addition to these key highlights, the Homelessness Strategy 2019–2029: 2024 Update includes additional achievements related to the five strategic directions. A complete list of the 32 actions outlined in the Homelessness Strategy and the status of each is provided in Attachment 2. Copies of the Homelessness Strategy 2019–2029: 2024 Update will be distributed to key partners, including local members of Parliament and local members of the Legislative Assembly, and posted on the City’s website, pending Council’s approval.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The Homelessness Strategy 2019–2029 outlines the City’s commitment to continuing to use its role as a leader to respond to the needs of Richmond residents at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness. Since its adoption, the strategy has guided the actions of the City and its partners in reducing and preventing homelessness in Richmond. The Homelessness Strategy Update report outlines the progress made with advancing actions in the strategy in 2024.



Chris Duggan
Manager, Community Social Development
(604-204-8621)

- Att. 1: City of Richmond Homelessness Strategy 2019–2029: 2024 Update
2: Homelessness Strategy 2019–2029 – 2024 Status of Actions



CITY OF RICHMOND
**HOMELESSNESS
STRATEGY**

2019–2029

2024 UPDATE



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INTRODUCTION

The City of Richmond and its partners are committed to collaborative and integrated work to reduce the number of people in Richmond without a safe and affordable home to call their own. In order to do this, the City is taking action to prevent and reduce poverty in Richmond, increase affordable housing options with appropriate supports for those who need them, and foster the mental health and well-being of its residents, especially those who are vulnerable or experiencing challenges in their lives. This approach aligns with priorities in City Council's Strategic Plan 2022–2026 focused on the creation of a vibrant, active and resilient community that supports the diverse needs of residents and vulnerable populations through collaborative and sustainable programs and services.

Access to safe and affordable housing is the most critical factor in circumstances surrounding homelessness, especially when combined with a Housing First approach. Housing First involves moving individuals who are actively experiencing homelessness, particularly those who experience chronic homelessness, from the street or emergency shelters into stable and long-term housing, with supports, as quickly as possible. Stable housing increases quality of life and enhances opportunities to access services to address issues often faced by individuals who are unsheltered including substance use and untreated mental and physical health issues.

Reducing the number of people who are without permanent and appropriate housing, and enhancing access to the supports necessary to stabilize their lives and maintain housing, directly aligns with both the Richmond Homelessness Strategy (2019-2029) and the Richmond Affordable Housing Strategy (2017-2027). In addition, the City's 2021–2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Reduce and Prevent Poverty in Richmond further complements these strategies by guiding actions aimed at connecting people at risk of poverty to community resources that meet immediate needs and builds capacity for their futures. These strategies advance the City's actions aimed at reducing and preventing homelessness while also increasing a range of affordable housing options along the housing continuum in Richmond.

The City of Richmond Homelessness Strategy (2019–2029), adopted by City Council on September 9, 2019, is an action-oriented framework that guides City and stakeholder involvement in homelessness initiatives. The Homelessness Strategy is driven by the following vision statement:

By 2029, homelessness in Richmond is rare, brief and non-recurring. Richmond is an inclusive community that works in collaboration to provide a continuum of housing and support services.

To achieve this vision, the strategy outlines five strategic directions:

1. Prevent pathways into homelessness;
2. Support residents who are experiencing homelessness;
3. Provide pathways out of homelessness;
4. Foster collaboration and community-building among community partners; and
5. Communicate, research and monitor homelessness.

Under these strategic directions, the Homelessness Strategy identifies 32 actions with associated timelines to be completed over a 10-year period. The City of Richmond has now reached the halfway point in implementing the Homelessness Strategy and excellent progress has been made on the actions outlined. At the end of 2024, 24 of the 32 actions have been initiated and are either complete or in progress. Over the next five years the City is committed to continuing its leadership role to make homelessness in Richmond rare, brief and non-recurring. While any one level of government alone cannot solve homelessness, the City continues to play a leadership role and has taken significant steps, in collaboration with key community partners, to invest in an immediate response to homelessness and homelessness prevention.

The number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Metro Vancouver, including Richmond, has increased according to Homeless Counts that have taken place across the region at regular intervals since 2002. In addition to the number of people without a home, the array of situations which have resulted in homelessness and the unique circumstances of individuals who are unsheltered are more complex than in the past. Homelessness, and the ability to secure housing, is more difficult due to the increased prevalence of mental health challenges, substance use, the toxic drug supply and the rising high cost of living in the Lower Mainland.

The following section provides an overview of key initiatives taken by the City and its partners in Richmond over the past year. More information about the Homelessness Strategy, previous Homelessness Strategy Update Reports and additional homelessness resources are available on the City's website.



GOVERNMENTS AND SERVICE PROVIDER ROLES

Preventing, reducing and responding to homelessness involves a wide array of responsibilities, services and partnerships across all three levels of government, multiple Ministries, Crown Corporations, sectors and health authorities. No one entity has oversight over all aspects of homelessness or can address the full scope of need for individuals who are experiencing homelessness. There are currently areas that overlap, significant gaps and areas where entities, often local governments, provide services and supports that are outside their jurisdiction in order to ensure support for vulnerable members of their community. This complex and dynamic set of factors further complicates a challenging issue. An overview of government and service provider roles is outlined below.

City of Richmond

The City of Richmond has reinforced its commitment to ensuring supports are available for individuals who are experiencing homelessness in Richmond in 2024. Through partnerships with senior levels of government and the private and non-profit sectors, the City is working to create and sustain the appropriate mix of housing and supportive services for the community's diverse population, including residents experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Recognizing that senior levels of government have the primary responsibility for providing funding for homelessness prevention programs, shelters, affordable housing and other services for individuals experiencing homelessness, the City is committed to remaining a local leader that works with community organizations to ensure that addressing homelessness in Richmond continues to remain a priority.

Specifically, these roles include:

- **Advocate:** The City works with community organizations to advocate to senior levels of government for funding and programs that work to prevent and reduce homelessness, offer seasonal and year-round emergency shelters and ensure that supports related to basic human needs, including access to meals, washrooms and showers, are available in Richmond.
- **Service Provider and Funder:** In the absence of funding from senior levels of government to sufficiently support outreach, drop-in and hygiene services and emergency shelter, the City has funded initiatives to address these needs in the community.
- **Analyst:** The City monitors local data and best practice research regarding homelessness to update its policies and plans to respond to current and emerging trends.
- **Communicator:** The City uses best practice research to raise awareness, educate and promote human dignity and respect for all community members, to convey the benefits of inclusive and mixed income neighbourhoods and to reinforce the necessity to create a compassionate, non-judgmental response to experiences of homelessness.

- **Supporter:** The City assists non-profit housing and service providers by facilitating collaboration, enabling capacity building, and providing financial and in-kind supports.
- **Partner:** The City collaborates and partners with senior levels of government, and the private and non-profit sectors to develop a mix of options along the housing continuum.
- **Planner:** The City gathers information, research and feedback on community needs regarding residents at risk of or experiencing homelessness in order to create policy and implement actions that support housing and homelessness focused services in Richmond.
- **Convenor:** The City brings diverse groups together including non-profit, faith-based and community organizations as well as senior levels of government to share information, collaborate and coordinate well-planned responses to homelessness.

In addition to working with service providers, faith-based organizations and senior levels of government, City facilities, including libraries and community centres, continue to provide safe spaces where residents experiencing homelessness are able to connect socially with others, receive information about supports and services available in Richmond and spend time indoors to reduce the impacts of extreme weather.





The Province of BC

The Province's *Belonging in BC: A Collaborative Plan to Prevent and Reduce Homelessness (2022–2025)* outlines strategic goals, commitments and actions, including the creation of more homes to support individuals and families experiencing homelessness and new coordinated, multidisciplinary actions to reduce encampments. The Province has a number of Ministries and Crown Corporations who fund or deliver services to individuals experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness as outlined below.

BC Housing

BC Housing is the provincial Crown Corporation responsible for providing funding and programs related to emergency shelter, supportive and affordable housing and homelessness. BC Housing funds various services, including emergency, seasonal and Extreme Weather Response shelter operations, homelessness prevention, outreach supports and services, and supportive and complex care housing projects for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. BC Housing is a partner with the City of Richmond in the provision of shelter and supportive affordable housing programs in Richmond and the two entities strive to work together and combine resources such as land, buildings, capital and operating funding to deliver much needed programs and services for individuals who are or have been unsheltered in Richmond.

Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction's (MSDPR) Community Integration Team plays an important role connecting vulnerable individuals, including those experiencing homelessness, with financial assistance and community supports. Services provided by MSDPR include assistance locating shelter spaces, case management and coordination of referrals to other services and support to access a range of government benefits. MSDPR, in partnership with the City and other organizations, offers these supports through direct outreach in the community to individuals who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Richmond's public spaces.

Ministry of Health and Vancouver Coastal Health

The Ministry of Health and Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) are key partners in the delivery of services to those who may not have access to housing. Through programs and services, including the Richmond General Hospital and Urgent Care Centres, Mental Health and Substance Use Central Intake, Anne Vogel Clinic, the Cognitive Assessment and Rehabilitation for Substance Use Program (CARSU), and the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) and Substance Use Outreach Teams, VCH staff offer client-centred treatment, harm reduction and recovery-oriented services to support individuals with their physical and mental health and/or substance use. Due to the concurrent nature of mental health challenges or substance use for individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness, VCH is an important partner in the continuum of facility-based and outreach support services in Richmond. In 2024, the Province dissolved the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and absorbed services and supports from that Ministry into the Ministry of Health placing greater responsibility for this area within a single Ministry.

Strengthening Communities' Services Grant Program

Through the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Strengthening Communities' Services Grant Program, the province provided funding to support local governments and First Nations to respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness in their communities, while keeping both individuals and communities safe and healthy. By March 31, 2024, a total of \$3.35 million of funding through this grant program was invested in Richmond community-led projects. This funding has supported services such as outreach and mental health supports, a drop-in program for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness to support access to referrals for needed services, meals, showers and laundry, and temporary overnight shelter spaces during the winter season.

The Government of Canada

The federal government released *Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy* in 2019. The Reaching Home program prioritizes data-driven homelessness plans that aim to reduce and prevent homelessness at a local level. Funding to implement the Reaching Home program throughout the Greater Vancouver region has been allocated to Lu'ma Native Housing Society, the designated community entity responsible for administering the program across the region. Reaching Home mandates that funded communities develop and implement community-driven homelessness plans, coordinated access to services, and homelessness management information systems that drive data-informed decisions to improve programs. In Richmond, Turning Point Recovery Society is currently the designated community entity responsible for administering Reaching Home's short-term rent support services.

In 2024, Richmond continued the implementation of projects funded by two federal government grant programs. The programs, administered by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), include the Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) and the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF). The RHI program provides funds to support the construction of affordable housing for populations who are vulnerable and in need of housing that would not otherwise be provided in the private market. The City of Richmond received \$9.1 million to support the construction of 25 units of housing for women and women with children who are at risk of homelessness. The project is also being supported with capital and operating funding from BC Housing in addition to contributions provided by the City. The project will be completed in the first quarter of 2025. The HAF grant program supports the construction of more homes through expediting and streamlining of local development approvals and offsetting the costs incurred by those who build housing. In 2024, the City was allocated \$8.9 million in HAF funding to help fast-track the review of affordable rental housing and market rental housing developments. The City is eligible for a further \$8.9 million per year in 2025, 2026 and 2027.



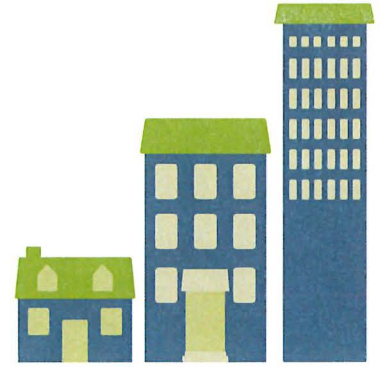
Non-Profit, Social Service and Faith-Based Organizations

Non-profit, social service and faith-based organizations, their staff and community volunteers play a critical role in supporting the needs of residents experiencing homelessness. These organizations deliver critical shelter, outreach and supportive services to clients to help navigate and access services, identify individual goals and priorities, promote independence, achieve housing stability, and ultimately participate fully in the community. Outreach, drop-in and shelter programming provided by these organizations supports clients by working with them to develop individualized plans to help them advance their own goals and priorities while addressing any unique barriers to accessing appropriate types of housing. Among the tangible services provided are:

- Referrals to government programs, healthcare and mental health services;
- Supportive programming including life and employment training skills;
- Community meals and food delivery;
- Access to washroom facilities, hot showers and laundry;
- Street outreach to individuals sheltering outdoors or in vehicles;
- Social and community connection;
- Provision of affordable housing units; and
- Assistance in finding appropriate affordable housing units.

In addition to these important services, the non-profit sector continues to provide valuable insight into the needs and priorities of the individuals they support in the community.



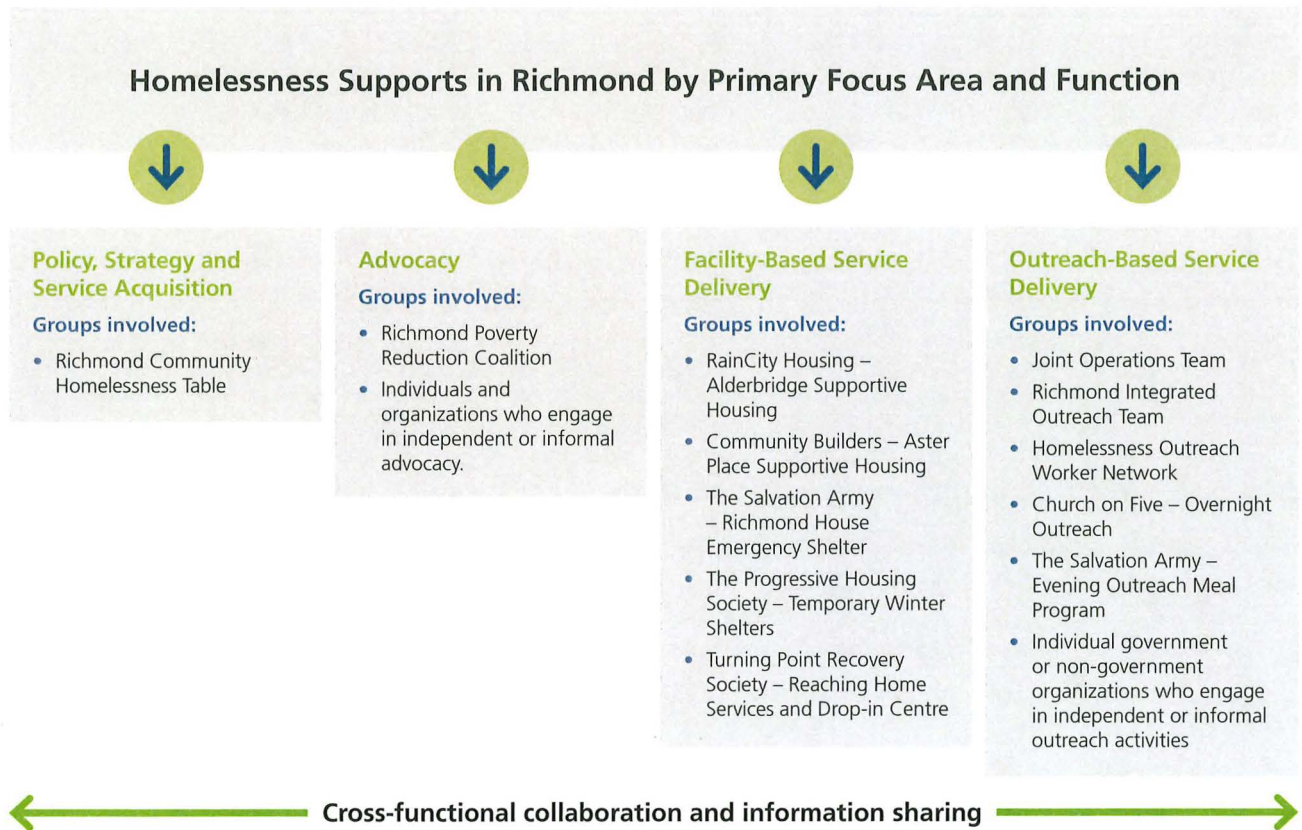


HOMELESSNESS IN RICHMOND IN 2024

Service Integration and Collaboration

There is currently a diverse range of individuals, groups and organizations focused on various aspects of Richmond’s response to homelessness including advocacy, service delivery, food initiatives, direct outreach, referral and social supports. These individuals, groups and organizations all play a critical role in responding to the day-to-day needs of those experiencing homelessness in Richmond by working together to support people to have access to safe, affordable housing. Collaboration and information sharing by the many groups are vital to delivering a comprehensive range of programs and supports while also avoiding duplication and focusing valuable time where it can be most effective. Figure 1 outlines the primary functions of groups in Richmond that provide supports to individuals experiencing homelessness.

Figure 1: Homelessness Supports in Richmond



In 2024, two new, important groups were formed that have enhanced service navigation and integration of individualized, client-centred planning and community outreach amongst the broad range of organizations providing services to individuals experiencing homelessness in Richmond. The Richmond Integrated Outreach Team and the Homelessness Outreach Worker Network enable a more integrated approach to providing support to individuals who are unsheltered. In addition, this has enabled the community to better estimate and plan for the number of individuals who are actively homeless or currently unsheltered at any given time. This enhanced integration is a direct outcome of the creation of these new groups and work will be carried out in collaboration with the City of Richmond’s new Homelessness Outreach Program and the Richmond Homelessness Table. The purpose, scope and current membership of each group is outlined in Table 1.



Table 1: Current Richmond Homelessness-related Groups

Name	Members
<p>Richmond Community Homelessness Table</p>	<p>The table provides advice related to the implementation of the Homelessness Strategy in addition to identifying emerging issues, best practices, opportunities and policy changes. The table aids in identifying support service and housing gaps, and provides strategic advice and professional guidance regarding new initiatives that meet the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness in Richmond.</p> <p>The membership of the table is comprised of the City, Richmond-based, government-funded, non-profit organizations that directly deliver support services and/or housing services to people experiencing homelessness in Richmond and government entities that directly support these programs. Organizational representatives are intended to be Executive Directors or similar leadership, decision-making roles.</p> <p>Current members include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Housing; • City of Richmond; • Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction; • Vancouver Coastal Health; • Chimo Community Services; • Community Builders; • RainCity Housing; • The Salvation Army; and • Turning Point Recovery Society.
<p>Richmond Integrated Outreach Team</p>	<p>The team is engaged in interagency case planning regarding clients who have provided informed consent to share information between member agencies and who would benefit from being served by multiple programs or services. The purpose of the team is to reduce duplication, provide consistency and support individuals to secure appropriate housing, ultimately reducing the number of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Richmond.</p> <p>Membership consists of staff from organizations who are either non-profit operators or government agencies with a mandate to support homelessness and who work directly in a case management role with clients. In addition, all member organizations must have privacy infrastructure and consent practices in place. All agencies are directly involved in homelessness services in Richmond.</p> <p>Current members include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Richmond – Homelessness Outreach Team; • Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction – Community Integration Team; • The Progressive Housing Society – Temporary Winter Shelters at the South Arm Outdoor Pool building and Brighthouse Pavilion; • The Salvation Army – Richmond House Emergency Shelter; • Turning Point Recovery Society – Reaching Home Services and Drop-in Centre; and • Vancouver Coastal Health – Substance Use Outreach, Assertive Community Treatment, Transitions Program and Housing Teams.
<p>Homelessness Outreach Worker Network</p>	<p>This network provides a venue for sharing resources, referral options and service details, and supports relationship building, cooperation and communication between individuals engaged in outreach activities in Richmond.</p> <p>Participation is open to any individual, group, organization or government agency that is directly involved in the delivery of street outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness in Richmond.</p> <p>Current members include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Richmond – Homelessness Outreach Team (Co-chair); • Vancouver Coastal Health – Substance Use Outreach and Assertive Community Treatment Teams (Co-chair); • Church on Five – Overnight Outreach; • Individual Outreach Volunteers; • Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction – Community Integration Team; • Parish of St. Albans – Outreach; • The Progressive Housing Society – Temporary Winter Shelters at South Arm Outdoor Pool and Brighthouse Pavilion; • The Salvation Army – Richmond House Emergency Shelter and Evening Outreach Meal Program; • Turning Point Recovery Society – Reaching Home Services and Drop-in Centre; and • Union Gospel Mission – Outreach.

Many organizations and individuals play a role in supporting individuals who are unsheltered or precariously housed in Richmond. The organizations and groups listed are composed of a broad spectrum of service providers who strive to work together, share information and collaborate. The current system of homelessness supports in Richmond, which was significantly enhanced in 2024, provides a range of opportunities for individuals and organizations to share experiences, provide input and work together towards the best outcomes for individuals accessing their services. In 2024, these groups and organizations have directly contributed to enhanced services, expanded outreach capacity and positive outcomes for people experiencing homelessness in Richmond.

Expanded City Initiatives

Throughout 2024, the City continued to implement initiatives to respond to homelessness in Richmond and to identify and secure the resources necessary to support this work. Over the past several years, the City has made significant contributions to support individuals experiencing homelessness and has continued to strengthen its coordinated approach throughout all areas of the organization to respond to and, where possible, reduce homelessness in the community. In recent years, the City has broadened its sphere of influence by expanding services to address community needs that are not provided by senior levels of government or community organizations. These resources currently offered by the City include enhanced winter services such as warming centres in the 2023/24 winter season, the development and implementation of a Homelessness Outreach Program, funding for a drop-in centre and shower program, and use of City spaces to deliver some of these services.

There are a number of examples of expanded City initiatives that began in 2024. Following approval of the 2024 Operating Budget by City Council, the City developed a Homelessness Outreach Program and hired two Homelessness Outreach Workers to support individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Richmond. As part of their role, the Outreach Workers provide community-based street outreach to people experiencing homelessness and are available during the day, evening and on weekends. Furthermore, the Outreach Workers work directly in the community to meet clients wherever they are located in Richmond, giving people access to supports, information and assistance without having to travel to a specific location. It is anticipated that the outcome of this work will reduce the need for more complex interventions from law enforcement and first responders, and reduce service delivery impacts on other City departments. The two new Outreach Workers are part of the Homelessness Team in the Community Social Development Department, which includes a Manager and Program Manager, and complements a larger City interdepartmental team that works together to respond to homelessness in the community.

In 2024, as part of the City's Operating Budget, the City hired four Bylaw Officers to support the City's response to homelessness, including two Bylaw 1 Officers and two Bylaw 2 Officers. The role of the new Bylaw 1 Officer positions is to respond to people living in their vehicles, including camper vans and RVs, and the role of the new Bylaw 2 Officer positions is to respond to people



experiencing homelessness who are living outdoors. These new positions work closely with the Homelessness Outreach Team and focus on rapport building with people experiencing homelessness, using an enforcement approach only as needed.

The Drop-in Centre and Shower Program at the Brighthouse Pavilion, a City-owned facility, continued to operate throughout 2024. Funded by the province through the UBCM Strengthening Communities' Services grant from December 2021 to March 2024, the City continued to fund this program through the 2024 Operating Budget starting in April 2024. The Drop-In Centre and Shower Program are currently operated by Turning Point Recovery Society, a local non-profit service provider, and offer critical resources, referrals and supports for people experiencing homelessness in the community, including access to shower and laundry facilities, lunches and service navigation referral supports.

During the winter season, additional supports and shelter spaces have been made available for people experiencing homelessness in the community. During the 2023/24 winter season, with the support of City Council, the Drop-in Centre at Brighthouse Pavilion expanded its days and hours of operation to 12 hours per day, seven days per week. To help support individuals from being exposed to the cold, wet or snow overnight, the City also expanded the operations of the Warming Centres located at the Brighthouse Pavilion and the South Arm Outdoor Pool building during the 2023/24 season. These programs operated 12 hours per night, every night, instead of only operating on nights of extreme winter weather. During the 2024/25 winter season, there are two nightly Temporary Winter Shelter options for individuals experiencing homelessness. The Temporary Winter Shelter at the Brighthouse Pavilion offers 15 spaces and is funded by the City and BC Housing. The Temporary Winter Shelter located at the South Arm Outdoor Pool building has 20 spaces and is funded exclusively by BC Housing. Both of these shelter options are open every night over the course of the winter season and are operated by The Progressive Housing Society.

In an ongoing effort to connect community members to resources which can reduce poverty and prevent homelessness, the City, in partnership with the Richmond Public Library, continued to host monthly Community Services Pop Ups and launched the Community Services Connectors Program. The Pop Up events provide low-income Richmond residents with consistent access to a wide variety of social service supports and resources from approximately 15 different community organizations. The Connectors Program provides peer-led navigational supports to residents in areas outside the city centre and outside of typical business hours.

Through these substantial enhancements to City services, the City's capacity to respond to homelessness in Richmond continues to increase. By working together, in a collaborative, cross-functional way, the City and its partners continue to deliver a range of important, high quality initiatives to support individuals experiencing deep poverty and complex situations that have resulted in homelessness.

Completion of the Union of BC Municipalities Strengthening Communities' Services Grant

In 2024, the City concluded a number of noteworthy initiatives made possible by \$3.35 million in provincial funding received through the UBCM Strengthening Communities' Services Program Grant. This work took place between December 2021 and March 2024. These initiatives addressed homelessness in multiple ways including improving the well-being of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Richmond, improving the coordination of supports among service providers, and increasing staff capacity to use a trauma-informed approach to work with unhoused Richmond residents. A brief description of the initiatives that continued in 2024 is provided below.

1. Drop-in Centre at Brighthouse Pavilion

This initiative supported the operation of a Drop-in Centre for people experiencing homelessness, and provided operating funding for the non-profit service provider, Turning Point Recovery Society. The Drop-in Centre continues to play an important role by providing enhanced homelessness services and referrals, basic counselling supports, access to computers and the internet, and a daily lunch program.

2. Shower Program at Brighthouse Pavilion

This initiative provided funding for Turning Point Recovery Society to operate a Shower Program for people experiencing homelessness. The Shower Program continues to provide access to shower and laundry services; replacement clothing; and access to toiletries and personal hygiene supplies.

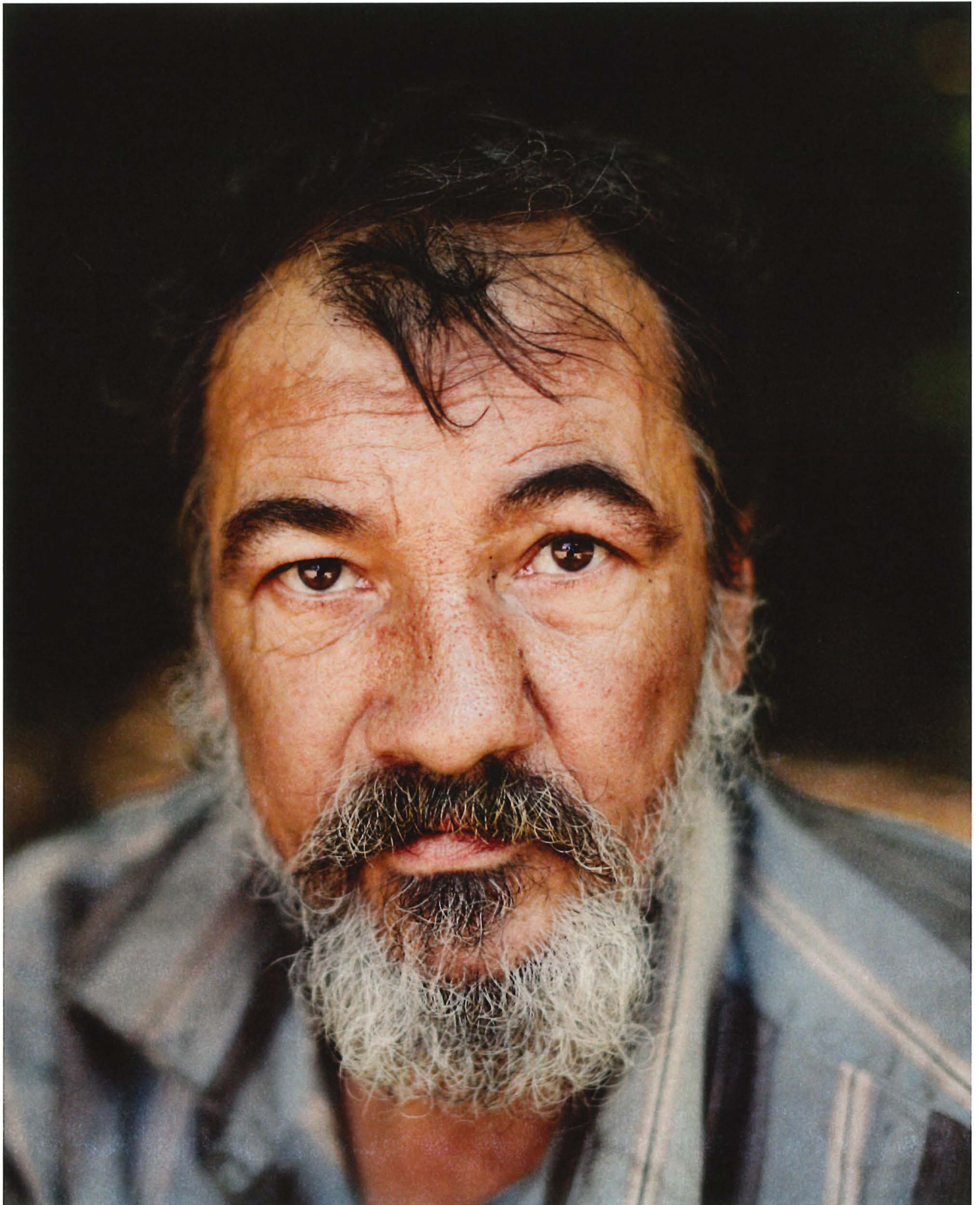
3. Enhanced Winter Services

This initiative supported the operation of Winter Warming Centres over the 2023/2024 winter season at both the South Arm Outdoor Pool building and at the Brighthouse Pavilion. These spaces continue to be used as places for individuals experiencing homelessness to rest and have warm drinks and snacks overnight during the winter months.

4. City Training Program

This initiative initially included the development of a two-part custom staff-training program to support City employees and partner organizations to provide trauma-informed and inclusive customer service. These courses, which were developed in partnership with the Homelessness Services Association of BC, continue to be offered through the City's Human Resources Department.

Funding received from the UBCM grant allowed the City and its partners to implement a wide range of initiatives to address homelessness in the community over a 27-month period. When grant funding concluded in March 2024, many of the initiatives it had supported continued as noted through alternative funding sources or in a modified format, continuing to provide ongoing benefits to the community. For example, programs such as the Drop-in Centre and Shower Program continue to operate through the City's operating budget, with other programs such as the Winter Shelters continue to operate through other funding sources. See Appendix A for a table outlining the outcomes of each of the grant initiatives and the continuation of these initiatives following the conclusion of UBCM grant funding.



HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY HIGHLIGHTS IN 2024

Strategic Direction 1: Prevent Pathways into Homelessness

The City and community partners are committed to taking a proactive approach to homelessness prevention. Prevention practices include reducing structural barriers (such as low income and lack of affordable housing options), providing intervention measures for households at risk of experiencing homelessness (such as rent supplements), and providing supportive housing and services for people who have experienced homelessness to help stabilize their experience and break the cycle of homelessness. This strategic direction aligns with the City of Richmond Affordable Housing Strategy and the City of Richmond Market Rental Policy, and aims to create affordable rental options across the housing continuum. Prevention also involves coordinated local outreach and intake processes to help reduce barriers to navigating and accessing critical supports and services before a crisis deepens. From a municipal standpoint, the role of the City is to ensure the appropriate mix of housing options are available to meet the housing needs of vulnerable residents and to facilitate collaboration among community partners to develop prevention services.

Actions and Achievements

- In 2024, the construction of the Pathways Affordable Housing development, a six-storey, 80-unit affordable housing building, commenced. Located on City-owned land at 5491 No. 2 Road, the project is a partnership between the City, BC Housing and Pathways Clubhouse Society of Richmond. The development will offer affordability at three levels including affordable market rental, rent-geared-to-income, and deep subsidy units, which will help provide housing stability for low-income residents who cannot afford market rental housing, including those who are experiencing or are at risk of experiencing homelessness. Construction completion is targeted for the end of 2027.
- In 2024, construction of the affordable housing project on City-owned lands at 4831 Steveston Highway began. This project is funded by \$9.1 million funding from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) Rapid Housing Initiative program in addition to capital and operating funding from BC Housing. The City has contributed the land for this project. The development will provide 25 units of affordable housing for women, including women with children, experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. Turning Point Housing Society, a non-profit housing operator with a long-standing connection to Richmond, will manage the building. The project is targeted for occupancy in early 2025.



- In 2024, the City, in partnership with the Richmond Public Library and community service providers, held monthly Community Services Pop Ups at the Brighthouse Library. The Pop Ups, which received honorable mention at the 2024 Union of BC Municipalities Community Excellence Awards, provided 941 Richmond residents with the opportunity to access a wide variety of supports and resources from a range of community organizations. These resources included information about accessing affordable rental housing, mental health and substance use resources, community food supports and support to access government benefits.
- The City and Richmond Public Library launched the Community Services Connectors Program in 2024 to provide increased navigational supports to residents in areas outside the city centre and outside of typical business hours. This program includes two components: weekly peer-led drop in sessions to help residents navigate social service and government systems, and workshops facilitated by local community organizations focused on topics relevant to low-income Richmond residents. A total of 370 individuals participated in the Connectors Program in 2024.
- In 2024, the City transitioned the Affordable Housing section of the Community Social Development Department into a stand-alone Housing Office and committed additional resources to advance initiatives that will help deliver housing along the housing continuum. The Housing Office will continue the work previously initiated in the Affordable Housing section, through funding received through the federal government's Housing Accelerator Fund and will oversee the development of non-market housing intended to serve those who require supports to maintain housing stability. In addition, the Housing Office will work with homebuilders to leverage private sector residential development to secure low income, moderate income and market rental housing. The City of Richmond is recognized as a leader in bringing housing options to the community and with additional resources, new opportunities are being explored to address the growing and diverse needs of Richmond residents.



Strategic Direction 2: Support Residents who are Experiencing Homelessness

As each person's experience of homelessness is unique, communities require a variety of different services and supports to meet the diverse needs of residents experiencing homelessness. Richmond continues to strengthen its network of homelessness service providers that offer coordinated, compassionate, non-judgmental access to necessary programs and services to increase stability, health and safety for residents experiencing homelessness. Under this strategic direction, the City's role is to facilitate partnerships and collaboration among service providers and continue to advocate to senior levels of government for sustainable resources to support the complex needs of this population.

Actions and Achievements

- In response to the increased number of individuals experiencing homelessness and increasingly complex challenges related to homelessness in Richmond over the past several years, the City developed a Homelessness Outreach Program and hired two Homelessness Outreach Workers. In addition, the City expanded the supports available through the Community Bylaws and Licencing Department with the hiring of four new Bylaw Officers, which were approved in the City's 2024 Operating Budget. The two new Homelessness Outreach Workers provide community street outreach to people experiencing homelessness during the days, evenings and weekends and provide support and referrals to individuals located throughout the city. The four new Bylaw Officers respond to people experiencing homelessness in the community, including individuals living in their vehicles and those living outdoors.
- In March 2024, the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Strengthening Communities' Services Grant program funding concluded. Between 2021 and 2024, the City implemented a range of programs and services to support Richmond residents experiencing homelessness using the \$3.35 million in provincial funding received through this grant. More information about the grant achievements and outcomes is outlined in the introductory section of this document and in Appendix A.
- The City's Homelessness and Emergency Programs teams worked closely together in 2024. This included ensuring that community outreach workers received resources on how to respond to extreme heat events and air quality advisories, and were aware of the adverse impacts on individuals who are sheltering outside, have other health conditions or may use a range of substances. In addition, these two teams worked closely together in anticipation of the Chilcotin landslide debris flow reaching Richmond in order to monitor the potential impact on individuals experiencing homelessness. This included monitoring areas where individuals experiencing homelessness could be sheltering or accessing the shoreline and potentially placed at risk should this event



have had damaging effects when it reached Richmond. Planning for this event included consideration of the needs, locations and risks for individuals experiencing homelessness, which could then be conveyed to the Richmond Outreach Worker Network. Through this approach, staff were able to quickly disseminate information and ensure that no individuals were at risk of injury from this event. This experience will help inform future operations and emergency responses in Richmond to ensure that the needs of individuals who may be sheltering outside are considered and addressed when preparing for disasters or community wide-emergencies.

- Between May and December 2024, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness who were connected to and accessed services through the new Richmond Integrated Outreach Team, increased from 52 individuals in the month of May 2024 to 75 individuals in the month of December 2024. This increase in individuals connected to the team demonstrates the success of this joint case management initiative in supporting individuals to access multi-agency supports. It is important to note that these numbers reflect the cumulative caseload once those who are no longer actively experiencing homelessness are removed from the list and also includes individuals who are informally or precariously housed. Of the 75 individuals connected to this team in December 2024, 61% of people were experiencing unsheltered homelessness, such as people sleeping on the street or in tents, 15% of people were living in a vehicle and 18% of people were informally or precariously housed, however were not considered to be unsheltered. During this same period, 77 people exited from unsheltered homelessness in Richmond, including 51% who moved into housing or supportive housing, 19% who entered into a treatment or detox program and 10% who left Richmond or reunified with friends or family. Furthermore, in December 2024, 51% of individuals involved with the team had an identified housing plan that they were working towards.
- In 2024, the City continued to work closely with many organizations, including the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (MSDPR), Richmond RCMP and Vancouver Coastal Health, to provide coordinated outreach to connect individuals experiencing homelessness with critical supports and services in the community. This included work with the Richmond RCMP Detachment's dedicated Vulnerable Persons Unit (VPU) whose mandate includes outreach to individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness. In 2024, VPU conducted outreach in partnership with these other organizations on 47 occasions.

- The City’s Joint Operations Team (JOT) currently serves as the primary group to coordinate and respond to concerns, complaints or issues that have an intersection with homelessness. This inter-agency team consists of City representatives from Community Bylaws, Building Approvals, Community Social Development, Community Safety Administration, Parks Operations, Richmond Fire Rescue, Richmond RCMP, RCMP Vulnerable Persons Unit (VPU), BC Emergency Health Services, MSDPR and Vancouver Coastal Health. In 2024, the JOT provided an integrated response to 19 complex homeless files. Sixteen of these files were successfully closed as the individuals involved moved on to other areas or other forms of shelter or housing.
- The Drop-in Centre and Shower Program for individuals experiencing homelessness located in the Brighthouse Pavilion building and operated by Turning Point Recovery Society, continued operations in 2024. These services operated Monday to Friday during the day and provided daily meals, access to computers and the Internet, service navigation and referrals, as well as shower and laundry services to Richmond residents experiencing homelessness. From January to March 2024, the core services of the Drop-in Centre and Shower Program operated with provincial funding through the UBCM Strengthening Communities’ Services Grant. From December 27, 2023 to April 15, 2024, the City provided additional funding to expand services and the Drop-in Centre extended operations to seven days per week, 12 hours per day. On April 16, 2024, the program reverted back to its previous hours and days. Following the end of UBCM grant funding at the end of March 2024, the City funded the ongoing operations of the Drop-in Centre and Shower program. Information on the services delivered is outlined in Tables 2,3 and 4.

Table 2: Brighthouse Drop-in Centre Visits by Month in 2023 and 2024

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
2023	454	490	547	398	562	531	552	680	568	887	902	747	7,318
2024	1,053	804	778	512	383	303	370	370	315	405	357	506	6,156

Table 3: Lunches Served at the Brighthouse Drop-in Centre by Month in 2023 and 2024

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
2023	983	941	841	631	900	968	770	1,018	755	640	920	708	10,075
2024	806	625	702	581	498	515	655	534	444	526	412	440	6,738

Table 4: Showers Provided at the Brighthouse Drop-in Centre by Month in 2023 and 2024

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
2023	118	93	108	137	169	173	105	173	142	138	142	88	1,586
2024	83	68	67	46	44	35	51	55	53	51	63	92	708



- On October 17, 2024, Homeless Connect, a community-led event coordinated by volunteers, faith-based organizations and community service providers, took place in Brighthouse Park and at the Caring Place. During the event, individuals experiencing homelessness could access a hot breakfast, haircuts, foot care, hearing tests, flu shots and receive hygiene kits, take away snacks and pet supplies. The event involved approximately 20 organizations that provided resources and information throughout the event and leadership from the Richmond Poverty Reduction Coalition. The City of Richmond’s Homelessness Outreach Team, Community Bylaws and Recreation and Sport staff participated to support the event’s success. The event was attended by 42 guests in total with 22 of these identifying as seniors aged 51–60+ years.
- In 2024, four City facilities, City Centre Community Centre, South Arm Community Centre, Minoru Centre for Active Living and Minoru Arena, remained open on Christmas day to ensure safe, warm spaces were available for residents 365 days a year. Individuals who may be experiencing homelessness or have unstable or inconsistent housing continue to access Richmond’s community centres throughout the year including throughout the holiday season when many other programs are closed. In addition, the Drop-in Centre also remained open on all statutory holidays in December to ensure that support and resources continued to be available.
- Winter Shelter Options for the 2023/24 winter season - The temporary options available for overnight shelter for people experiencing homelessness were comprised of one Winter Warming Centre and one site offering combined Winter Warming Centre and Extreme Weather Response Shelter services.

Winter Warming Centres: During the 2023/24 winter season, Turning Point Recovery Society operated two Winter Warming Centres, one at Brighthouse Pavilion and the other at the South Arm Outdoor Pool building. At the start of the season, each centre provided 15 spaces on nights of extreme winter weather, provincially funded through the UBCM Strengthening Communities’ Services Grant. In December 2023, the City provided additional funding to expand services at both locations to operate every night until April 15, 2024. In addition, the capacity increased to 21 spaces at the South Arm Outdoor Pool building. A summary of the usage is outlined in Table 5.

Table 5: Winter Warming Centre (WWC) Usage October 2023 to April 2024

Location	Dates	Average Individuals Per Night	Total Visits
WWC at Brighthouse Pavilion	October 15, 2023 to April 15, 2024	13	1,914
WWC at South Arm Outdoor Pool Building	November 28, 2023 to April 15, 2024	14	1,625
Total Visits			3,539

Extreme Weather Response Shelter: During the 2023/24 winter season, the City continued to work with BC Housing and The Salvation Army to support the operation of the community’s permanent shelter, Richmond House Emergency Shelter. During this time, an additional 10 Extreme Weather Response spaces were provided at Richmond House, which were available on nights of extreme winter weather. At the end of the winter season, BC Housing and The Salvation Army confirmed that these additional 10 spaces would be permanently funded, increasing operations to 55 permanent shelter beds. With these additional spaces, Richmond House provides a total of 55 permanent shelter beds, three meals a day, showers, laundry facilities, and assistance in locating housing, services and recreational opportunities for individuals experiencing homelessness in Richmond.

- *Winter Shelter Options for the 2024/25 winter season* - There are two Temporary Winter Shelters available for overnight shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness in Richmond, operated by The Progressive Housing Society, an experienced shelter and housing provider in Metro Vancouver. Temporary Winter Shelters are low-barrier shelters open every night during the winter season that provide cots, snacks and beverages, washrooms and shower access to clients.

The Temporary Winter Shelter at the South Arm Pool building provides 20 spaces for men and women and is open every night between November 10, 2024 and mid-April 2025. The Temporary Winter Shelter at the South Arm Pool building is funded by BC Housing. Between November 10 and December 31, 2024, there were a total of 789 visits to the shelter with an average of 15 individuals a night.

The Temporary Winter Shelter at the Brighthouse Pavilion provides 15 spaces available every night between November 19, 2024 and mid-April 2025. The City and BC Housing have both contributed funding to the operation of this program. Between November 19 and December 31, 2024, there were a total of 404 visits to the shelter with an average of 9 individuals a night. A summary of shelter and warming centre options is outlined in Table 6.



Table 6: Shelter and Warming Centre Options in Richmond, Winter 2023/24 and Winter 2024/25

Facility and Programs	2023/24	2024/25
Richmond House Emergency Shelter and Extreme Weather Response Spaces	Capacity was 45 permanent shelter beds funded by BC Housing. Additional 10 weather-activated spaces, which provided overnight, warm space on nights of extreme weather were available until April 15, 2024 funded by BC Housing.	Increased capacity to 55 permanent shelter beds funded by BC Housing. No additional weather-activated spaces.
Warming Centre and Temporary Winter Shelter at South Arm Outdoor Pool	Winter Warming Centre with expanded access of up to 21 mats open on nights of extreme weather from November to December 2023, and open on a nightly basis from December 2023 to April 15, 2024.	Temporary Winter Shelter with 20 beds open on a nightly basis from November 10, 2024 to mid-April 2025. Funded by BC Housing.
Warming Centre and Temporary Winter Shelter at Brighthouse Pavilion	Winter Warming Centre with up to 15 mats open on nights of extreme weather from November to December 2023, and open on a nightly basis from December 2023 to April 15, 2024.	Temporary Winter Shelter with 15 beds open on a nightly basis from November 19, 2024 to mid-April 2025. Funded by the City of Richmond and BC Housing.
Drop-in Centre at Brighthouse Pavilion	Expanded access to a daily warm space. Open Monday to Sunday from 8am to 8pm until April 15, 2024.	Open Monday to Friday from 8am to 4pm until January 2025 when hours expanded to 8am to 8pm for the duration of the winter season.

Strategic Direction 3: Provide Pathways out of Homelessness

Individuals are best able to transition out of homelessness when a range of types of housing and support services are available. The Housing First approach prioritizes moving people from homelessness into housing and then providing individualized supports and services as needed. This approach provides stability, which allows individuals to easily access resources and attend to their physical and mental health, education or employment goals. The City works with service provider organizations to coordinate service delivery and to advocate to the provincial and federal governments for increased funding for shelters and affordable housing in Richmond.

The increase in homelessness over the past several years, combined with the increased complexity of individual needs, requires expanded affordable housing and housing with supports. A lack of a range of housing options in the community prevents movement along the housing continuum and creates a significant barrier for individuals seeking to transition out of homelessness. Significant work continues in Richmond on the expansion of this continuum of housing. A summary of the current options is outlined in Table 7.

Actions and Achievements

- The Homelessness Outreach Workers engaged in one-on-one, individualized case planning with individuals in the community who were experiencing unsheltered homelessness and helped to connect them to resources and referrals including facilitating access to income assistance or other government benefits, rental subsidies or rent banks, and housing. Since the inception of the Homelessness Outreach Program in April 2024, a total of 81 people have received individualized assistance and referrals and 12 individuals have been supported to obtain housing or enter treatment through the involvement of the Outreach Workers.
- The new Richmond Integrated Outreach Team, a collaborative interagency group, successfully supported 77 people to exit from unsheltered homelessness in Richmond, including 51% who moved into housing, 19% who entered into a treatment or detox program and 10% of people who left Richmond or reunified with friends or family. In December 2024, 51% of individuals involved with the team had a housing plan that they were working towards.

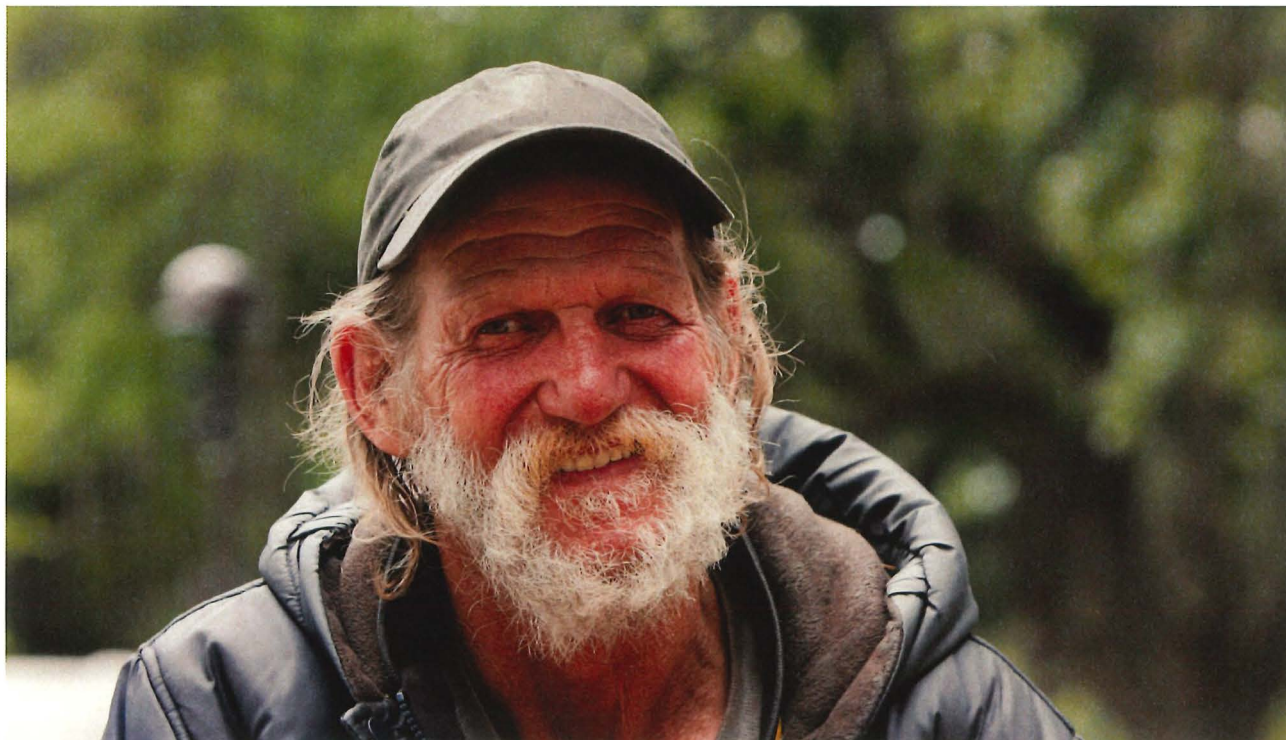


Table 7: Continuum of Supportive and Affordable Housing Options in Richmond

Program or Service	Recent Initiatives
Alderbridge Supportive Housing	40 units – Occupied These rental homes include supportive services such as breakfast and a hot meal each day, life-skills training, access to primary health and mental health services and 24 hour on-site staff.
Aster Place Supportive Housing	40 units – Occupied These rental homes include supportive services such as breakfast and a hot meal each day, life-skills training, access to primary health and mental health services and 24 hour on-site staff.
Pathways Non-Market Housing	80 units – Under construction The 80 unit building will provide a mix of housing options including 24 studios, 36 one-bedroom units, 15 two-bedroom units and five three-bedroom units. Five per cent of the units will be fully accessible for people living with disabilities and rent will be geared to low-income and moderate-income households. Construction began in 2024. Anticipated occupancy in 2027.
Rapid Housing Initiative Affordable Housing Project – Steveston Highway and Railway Avenue	25 units – Under construction The 25 unit building will include 15 studios and 10 two-bedroom units for women and women with children who have low-income. Construction began in 2024. Anticipated occupancy in 2025.

Strategic Direction 4: Foster Collaboration and Community-building among Partners

Homelessness is a complex and multifaceted issue that cannot be resolved by one level of government or organization alone. Collaboration among government agencies, homelessness service providers and individuals with lived experience is essential to meeting the needs of residents experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Working together to coordinate services, share information and align resources is the most efficient and cost-effective means of meeting community need and enhancing community-based service delivery capacity. The City's role related to this strategic direction includes providing leadership for a Community Homelessness Table, Outreach Worker Network and Integrated Outreach Team, which connect relevant key homelessness service providers, support collaboration and alignment on an ongoing basis, and reduce the duplication of services.

Actions and Achievements

- In 2024, the City provided a total of \$138,693 towards homelessness and food security-related initiatives through the Health, Social and Safety (HSS) Grants.
- The City provided one-time, additional funding to three Richmond organizations to enhance their food programs security initiatives. These organizations also received funding through the HSS Grants. This funding included:
 - \$54,560 to Church on Five to support its After Hours Outreach Program delivering hot meals and essential items to the homeless population in Richmond;
 - \$12,210 to Parish of St. Alban's to continue to operate various meal programs supporting people living on low income and those experiencing homelessness; and
 - \$24,097 to Pathways Clubhouse towards a meal program providing its members with healthy meals at affordable prices.
- The Richmond Community Homelessness Table, comprised of government agencies and government-funded community-based homelessness service providers, met regularly throughout 2024. The Table's primary role continues to be the provision of a strategic venue for collaboration amongst intergovernmental partners and government-funded service providers in order to advance cross-sectoral initiatives and policies.



- The Homelessness Outreach Worker Network was formed in 2024 and provides an opportunity for outreach workers across Richmond to gather, network and share information in order to build relationships, share resources and ultimately, better support individuals experiencing homelessness. This group has met on a monthly basis since June 2024 and is open to any individual, group, organization or government agency that is directly involved in the delivery of street outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness in Richmond. Current members include the City of Richmond Homelessness Outreach Team and Vancouver Coastal Health who coordinate the meetings, as well as other organizations and individual volunteers that provide outreach services to people experiencing homelessness in the community.
- In 2024, leadership and supervisory staff from several City departments, Community Associations and Societies, the Richmond Public Library and the Richmond Olympic Oval received enhanced support resources and information in order to deliver consistent, person centred, customer service for individuals who may be experiencing homelessness within their areas of focus. This work will continue in 2025 with the development of a Supervisory Toolkit to support leadership staff to implement staff engagement, education and discussion through readings, activities and scenario-based questions that can be used individually, in staff meetings or in small groups to extend the knowledge and skills of front line and customer facing staff.
- Advocacy to senior levels of government continued in 2024. Richmond has a need for additional shelter spaces and a mix of housing options along the housing continuum, enhanced outreach from other government entities, and increased access to mental health and substance use support including detox and treatment options.
- To further support individuals experiencing homelessness, the City updated and disseminated resources to improve access to information and referrals. This information included the Homelessness Resource Guide, a new crisis support mini-reference card, information on the drop in centre and shower program, information on low cost/no cost meals, locations of drinking fountains and details on how to access warming centres or shelters. In addition, through regular coordinated outreach conducted by members of the Joint Operations Team and the Homelessness Outreach Team, vulnerable individuals received this information as well as referrals to a range of programs to address housing, physical or mental health issues, substance use treatment and harm reduction supports.

Strategic Direction 5: Communicate, Research and Monitor Homelessness

Richmond is committed to creating an inclusive community for all residents. Because homelessness is not always visible, many residents may not be aware of the needs and circumstances of fellow community members who are experiencing homelessness. Where there is a lack of understanding, there can be misconceptions and stigma, which can act as barriers for individuals experiencing homelessness in accessing critically needed services and housing options. The City's primary role in this strategic direction is to promote opportunities to increase awareness and understanding relating to homelessness. Enhancing public awareness helps to foster a more welcoming, inclusive and safe community for all residents. Ensuring that the City and local service providers are up-to-date with information related to Richmond's residents experiencing homelessness helps to equip partners with the necessary information to align resources and effectively advocate to senior levels of government to meet Richmond-specific needs.

Actions and Achievements

- The City continued to liaise with local service providers to monitor ongoing trends related to homelessness, particularly the changing needs of individuals experiencing homelessness. Information regarding estimated rates of homelessness, as well as the characteristics and identified needs of individuals experiencing homelessness in Richmond informed the City's advocacy with senior levels of government throughout 2024.
- In 2024, the City offered two virtual targeted awareness and education programs that are a continuation of programs initially funded using UBCM grant funding.
 - *City Staff Homelessness Training*: By the end of 2024, 434 City staff have completed the virtual, self-paced Level 1 training course 'Working with People Experiencing Homelessness'. This training program was developed by City staff in partnership with the Homelessness Services Association of British Columbia (HSABC).
 - *Community Conversations*: In 2024, the City finalized an online self-guided community dialogue series. This is hosted on the City website and is available to the Richmond community. The series, entitled *Home: A Community Conversation on Homelessness*, provides the opportunity for community members from diverse backgrounds to be educated about the complexities and common misunderstandings associated with the circumstances and experiences of homelessness.
- October 13–19, 2024 was proclaimed Homelessness Action Week in Richmond. The Proclamation included recognition that effective action to reduce homelessness and promote social inclusion requires all levels of government to work with individuals, non-profit organizations, Indigenous and community groups and private sector representatives to find solutions that will bring down barriers that hold people back, deliver supports that lift people up and make Richmond better and more inclusive for everyone.



CONCLUSION

The Homelessness Strategy is guided by the vision that:

By 2029, homelessness in Richmond is rare, brief and non-recurring. Richmond is an inclusive community that works in collaboration to provide a continuum of housing and support services.

During this past year, the collaborative actions described in this report contributed towards achieving the Homelessness Strategy's vision. In 2024, the City, other government agencies, local service providers and individual members of the community continued to work together to make notable progress towards addressing the strategic directions and actions identified in the Council-adopted Homelessness Strategy. Over the first five years of the Homelessness Strategy, substantial progress has been made to advance the actions and, to date, 24 of the 32 actions have been initiated and are either complete or in progress.

While significant progress was made towards achieving a number of actions outlined in the Homelessness Strategy, homelessness remains a critical and growing issue in the community. The City of Richmond is committed to using its role as a leader to respond to the needs of Richmond residents at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness. Richmond-based service providers are well connected, understand the unique needs of members of the community who are experiencing homelessness and continue to build capacity to meet their evolving needs. In 2025, the City will continue to advocate to senior levels of government for affordable housing and supports for vulnerable Richmond residents who are experiencing homelessness towards the goal of ending homelessness in Richmond.



APPENDIX A

UBCM Grant Initiative Outcomes and Program Continuation

Name of Initiative	Initiative Outcomes	Status
Drop-in Centre at Brighthouse Pavilion	December 2021–March 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21,442 lunches served • 12,620 drop-in centre visits 	Funding continued through City operating budget, program remains operational.
Shower Program at Brighthouse Pavilion	December 2021–March 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,668 showers provided • 80 ponchos, 60+ rain jackets and rain suits, and hundreds of pairs of socks, sweat suits and underwear distributed 	Funding continued through City operating budget, program remains operational.
Enhanced Winter Services	December 2021–March 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,490 visits to the Winter Warming Centres at Brighthouse Pavilion and the South Arm Outdoor Pool building 	For the 2024/2025 winter season, BC Housing funded a Temporary Winter Shelter with 20 spaces and the City and BC Housing co-funded a second Temporary Winter Shelter with an additional 15 spaces.
City Training Program	October 2022–July 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 434 staff completed the Level 1 training • 155 staff completed the Level 2 training 	The Level 1 Training is available online for City staff as a self-directed training course, initiative continues.

Name of Initiative		Initiative Outcomes	Status
Homelessness Clinical Support	<i>The VCH Clinical Support Program</i>	October 2021–July 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 clients were housed • 18 Vulnerability Assessment Tools were completed for clients applying to Aster Place Supportive Housing 	VCH secured sustainable funding to continue the program, initiative continues.
	<i>The Salvation Army's Clinical Support Program</i>	April–August 2023: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 clients received 26 oral care treatments • Clients were provided with medical equipment including wheelchairs, other mobility aids and personal hygiene supplies 	Program concluded.
	<i>Turning Point's Clinical Support Program</i>	May–August 2023: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 189 people received haircuts • Nine people received foot care • Two people received critical dental services • One person received updated prescription and glasses • Eight people participated in art therapy • Clients were provided with medical supplies and mobility supports 	Program concluded.
Discharge Planning and Referral Process		Recommendations were provided for improving Richmond's discharge planning for people experiencing homelessness	Ongoing collaboration amongst community service providers and VCH continues without UBCM funding.
Community Awareness and Dialogue		Spring 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three dialogue sessions engaged 73 participants Spring 2023: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six sessions engaged 134 participants 	A virtual, self-guided version of the Community Awareness and Dialogue sessions is final and is available on the City website.
Food Outreach Program		October 2021–July 2023: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An average of 146 unique clients served per month • 24,642 meals delivered to individuals in critical need 	Food outreach programs continue to operate in the community funded through various not-for-profit organizations and community grants, including the City's Health, Social and Safety Grant program.



City of Richmond

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GP – 79

Homelessness Strategy 2019–2029 – 2024 Status of Actions

The following table provides a status update on the actions defined in the Homelessness Strategy as of December 31, 2024.

Legend

Status of Actions	
Not yet initiated	Work towards this action has not yet begun.
In Progress	Work towards addressing this action is underway.
Complete	Work towards this action has been accomplished.
Ongoing	Work towards this action has been initiated and will be continuous.

Timeframe and Status of Actions		
Strategic Direction 1: Prevent pathways into homelessness		
Action	Timeframe	Status
1.1 Continue to create affordable housing rental options across the housing continuum.	Ongoing	Ongoing
1.2 Facilitate the creation of a collaborative homeless prevention program in Richmond.	Short-term	In Progress
1.3 Work with Vancouver Coastal Health and other community partners to explore opportunities to enhance wrap-around supports to increase housing stability.	Ongoing	Ongoing
1.4 Explore solutions for discharge planning practices for individuals leaving Richmond-based institutions.	Medium-term	In Progress
Strategic Direction 2: Support residents who are experiencing homelessness		
Action	Timeframe	Status
2.1 Ensure accurate and up-to-date information on supportive services is available.	Short-term	Complete
2.2 Coordinate a Front-line Service Provider Working Group to coordinate support for individuals experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness.	Short-term	Complete
2.3 Secure permanent space and sustainable operating funding for an enhanced drop-in program for individuals experiencing or at-risk of homelessness.	Short-term	In Progress
2.4 Enhance coordination of food programs and outreach for residents experiencing homelessness.	Ongoing	Ongoing
2.5 Advocate to senior levels of government to secure funding for the Extreme Weather Response Program or a Winter Shelter.	Short-term	Complete

2.6 Monitor outreach services available in the community and advocate to senior levels of government for additional resources as needed.	Ongoing	Ongoing
2.7 Explore the use of City spaces as Warming Centres.	Short-term	Complete
2.8 Dedicate appropriate resources in order to enhance service provision at City facilities for individuals experiencing homelessness.	Ongoing	Ongoing
2.9 Continue to refine the City's approach to responding to individuals experiencing homelessness on City-owned property.	Ongoing	Ongoing
2.10 Explore opportunities to address storage needs for people experiencing homelessness.	Medium-term	In Progress
2.11 Create shelter and transitional beds for youth experiencing homelessness in the community.	Short-term	Not yet initiated
2.12 Explore opportunities to address the need for culturally-appropriate supports, services, and housing for people experiencing homelessness.	Ongoing	Ongoing
Strategic Direction 3: Provide pathways out of homelessness		
Action	Timeframe	Status
3.1 Enhance the existing coordinated access and referral system in Richmond.	Medium-term	Ongoing
3.2 Work with service providers to create a Supportive Housing Action Plan.	Short-term	In Progress
3.3 Explore the potential of creating a Housing First program in Richmond.	Short-term	In Progress
3.4 Secure funding and a permanent site for supportive housing in Richmond.	Short-term	In Progress
3.5 Ensure that emergency housing services focus on achieving long-term housing options.	Ongoing	Ongoing
Strategic Direction 4: Foster collaboration and community-building among community partners		
Action	Timeframe	Status
4.1 Dedicate appropriate staff resources for homelessness service coordination at the City of Richmond.	Short-term	Complete
4.2 Develop a Community Homelessness Table for collaboration among agencies working to prevent or addressing homelessness.	Short-term	Complete
4.3 Engage with residents with lived experience when designing and implementing significant policies or programs related to addressing homelessness in Richmond.	Ongoing	Ongoing
4.4 Continue the annual Health, Social and Safety Grants to support local homelessness services.	Ongoing	Ongoing
4.5 Monitor and pursue funding opportunities for support services for residents at-risk of or experiencing homelessness.	Ongoing	Ongoing

Strategic Direction 5: Communicate, research and monitor homelessness

Action	Timeframe	Status
5.1 Implement a local data system to track trends and the changing needs of individuals experiencing homelessness.	Short-term	In Progress
5.2 Provide training regarding homelessness service provision to City and community partner staff working in City facilities.	Short-term	Ongoing
5.3 Raise awareness and educate the community of the factors contributing to homelessness and the benefits of affordable housing and supportive services.	Short-term	In Progress
5.4 Work with community partners to ensure volunteer opportunities are communicated to the public.	Ongoing	Ongoing
5.5 Advocate to senior governments regarding the changing needs of people experiencing homelessness in Richmond and the need for additional funding.	Ongoing	Ongoing
5.6 Report out annually on the progress of the Homelessness Strategy 2019–2029.	Ongoing	Ongoing



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee

Date: February 19, 2025

From: John Hopkins
Director, Policy Planning

File: 08-4000-01/2025-Vol
01

Re: **Bill 16 – Request to Extend June 30, 2025 Deadline to Existing Density Bonusing Zones**

Staff Recommendation

That a letter be sent to the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs requesting an extension to Provincial deadlines to allow the continuation of the use of existing density bonusing zones until December 31, 2026, with copies of this letter sent to Richmond Members of the Legislative Assembly.

John Hopkins
Director, Policy Planning
(604-276-4279)

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Development Applications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Housing Office	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

In December 2023, the Province enacted legislation that significantly transformed planning legislation. This included Bill 44 (small-scale multi-unit housing), Bill 46 (introduction of amenity cost charges [ACC] and expansion of development cost charges), and Bill 47 (transit oriented areas [TOA]). This was followed up in April 2024 by Bill 16, which introduced inclusionary zoning tools and established a new framework for density bonusing. The Bill 16 legislation indicated a deadline of June 30, 2025 to update all existing zoning bylaws that have density bonus provisions for compliance. To date, comprehensive policy guidelines have not been released by the Province, which has made implementation difficult to achieve by the stated deadline.

Background

Bill 16, in combination with Bill 46 and Bill 47, will fundamentally change the development-financing framework. In particular, the legislation addresses the following items:

1. The allowance to secure affordable housing through inclusionary zoning instead of through a density bonusing framework as was required prior to the adoption of Bill 16;
2. Revisions to the density bonusing tool that prohibits the use of density bonusing within the minimum densities established for TOA as prescribed by Bill 47;
3. The ability for local government to require site-level infrastructure, including road dedication, and transportation demand management measures; and
4. The ability to adopt a Tenant Protection Bylaw for rental sites undergoing redevelopment.

Analysis

Density bonusing is meant to be used in connection with the new inclusionary zoning legislative tool. However, the inability to use the traditional density bonusing tool within the minimum density for TOAs is a major concern as this is a policy tool that the City has historically relied upon for affordable housing and non-residential amenities (e.g., child care facilities, community centres).

Density bonusing is an existing tool that local governments use to provide a developer with the option to build to a higher density in exchange for providing affordable housing or public amenities. Since the adoption of the City Centre Area Plan in 2009, it has been predicated on utilizing density bonusing for securing affordable housing and non-residential amenities through the rezoning process. However, based on the Provincial housing legislation, the density bonusing tool can only be used above the minimum allowable densities in TOAs which incorporates most of the City Centre area.

In Richmond's context, applying density bonusing in a TOA (areas within 800 m of a Canada Line station as established by Bill 47) is severely limited as building heights are limited due to the Airport Zoning Regulations, resulting in little opportunity to achieve any density above and beyond the minimum allowable densities in the TOA areas. The City will need to have a coordinated approach with Bill 46 given the impact on the Village Centre Bonus, which has been used to

successfully secure the construction and delivery of City facilities such as community centres and child care facilities within the City Centre.

City staff are also preparing updates to the Official Community Plan (OCP) to incorporate Bill 44 and Bill 47, and the Council endorsed Interim Housing Needs Report by December 31, 2025, as mandated by the Province. There is logic in completing the land use policy framework through the OCP review first prior to updating the Zoning Bylaw and other related bylaws to incorporate Bill 16.

City staff recently met with staff from Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs in January 2025 to discuss the preparation of the Provincial policy guidelines for Bill 16. During that meeting, Ministry staff indicated that the Provincial policy guidelines are not expected to be released until the end of February or early March 2025. City staff, along with staff from other local governments, requested that the arbitrary deadline of June 30, 2025 be extended to allow for the use of density bonusing while other development financing tools such as ACC's and inclusionary zoning are put into place, and the required amendments to local OCPs are adopted. Preparation of these bylaw amendments take careful consideration, and without the proper guidelines in place, local government is not able to draft bylaws.

The following outlines key barriers associated with the current June 30, 2025 implementation deadline:

- **Richmond Specific Challenges:** While Bill 47 and Bill 16 do not preclude the use of density bonusing, the City is fundamentally unable to exceed the densities specified in the Minimum Density Framework as prescribed by the Province, and in some cases, will be significantly challenged to achieve minimum specified densities and heights.
- **Magnitude of Impact:** The City secures numerous amenities through density bonusing, including low-end market rental, market rental units, and city-owned facilities (e.g., child care facilities, community centres). The City's successful density bonusing program prioritizes transparency and is embedded in policy (e.g., land use plans) and in applicable zoning districts and other zoning bylaw provisions. Also, area plans (e.g., Hamilton, West Cambie and Steveston) include optional defined density bonusing programs (e.g., Steveston Village Heritage Conservation Area program) that have been used to facilitate the construction of amenities or preservation of heritage features. The changes in legislation require fundamental changes to the City's land use planning and implementation framework.
- **Layered Analysis and Approvals:** The scheduled release of the Provincial policy guidelines on finance tools and inclusionary zoning guidance in March 2025 does not provide sufficient time to undertake and complete the complex sequential analysis that is required. Further, with the current review of the OCP to be completed by the Provincially mandated deadline of December 31, 2025, the June 30, 2025 deadline should be shifted to the end of 2026 at the earliest.
- **Consideration of Instream Applications:** There are currently 11 rezoning applications within TOAs that have received third reading and have secured construction of city-owned facilities and/or contributions towards various community amenities through density bonusing. There are a further 15 rezoning applications within TOA that are

currently under technical review. There are also 52 rezoning applications outside TOAs that have received third reading and 67 under technical review. The transition from a density bonusing structure to a new regulatory and financial regime focused on inclusionary zoning and ACCs must be carefully considered, transparent and fair. The lack of clarity and guidance from the Province has created uncertainty for those developments where a changing of the requirements and rules mid-stream has potentially significant impacts on the viability of the projects moving forward.

Based on the above, staff are recommending an extension to December 31, 2026 to incorporate amendments to the City's Zoning Bylaw and other related bylaws and policies on density bonusing. This extension would provide time for the Province to provide the necessary policy guidance to allow the City to develop a revised density bonusing program, an ACC bylaw, and inclusionary zoning to support the City's transition from density bonusing. This extension would allow additional time for instream applications to work through the rezoning process and develop in accordance with their current commitments. This extension would also be a natural transition from a newly adopted OCP.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Bill 16, in combination with Bill 46 and Bill 47, collectively mandates the City to restructure the entire development financing system which largely relies on density bonusing. The legislation effectively eliminates these funding sources, to be replaced by ACCs, density benefits and inclusionary zoning. The Province indicates that policy guidelines on how to create and implement ACCs, inclusionary zoning and density benefits would be provided. With the exception of an interim guidelines released in 2024, the comprehensive policy document is not expected until March 2025. This provides little time to prepare a revised approach to density bonusing by the mandated deadline June 30, 2025. This deadline is also out of line sequentially with the mandate to update OCPs by the end of December 2025 to incorporate Bill 44 and 47.

Staff recommend that a letter be sent to the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs requesting extension to Provincial deadlines to allow the continuation of the use of existing density bonusing zones until December 31, 2026, with copies of this letter sent to Richmond Members of the Legislative Assembly.



John Hopkins
Director, Policy Planning
(604-276-4279)

JH:cas

Subject: Referral Motion – Proposed policy on the routine release of Closed Council resolutions.

Member of Council: Kash Heed

Meeting: General Purposes Committee

Notice Provided on: February 27, 2025

For Consideration on: March 3, 2025 in accordance with Procedure By-law No 7560

Background

Openness and transparency are fundamental to a well-functioning democracy. While Council is obligated to conduct certain City business in camera, as dictated by the Community Charter, it is good practice to publicly disclose the minutes of those discussions and decisions once they are no longer confidential.

For an issue to be discussed in a Closed Council meeting, it must satisfy at least one of the criteria outlined in section 90 of the Community Charter. These criteria include topics such as labor relations, personnel issues, land sales, litigation, negotiations, and similar matters. The Charter also mandates that prior to any Closed meeting, a resolution must be publicly endorsed, declaring that the meeting will be Closed and detailing the reasons for public exclusion for each topic in accordance with section 90. Although a process exists for addressing matters within Closed meetings, there is no established procedure for routinely bringing items back into the public domain as Council has the discretion to present recommendations and reports at Open meetings. Additionally, public requests for the release of Closed meeting documents can be submitted under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, though this is not a standard practice.

Due to the lack of a systematic approach to review previously adopted Closed recommendations and reports, issues addressed in Closed meetings frequently remain undisclosed, even if their original justification for confidentiality is no longer valid.

Currently, we only practice public disclosure of Closed resolutions in limited circumstances, such as for annual appointments to various external organizations and advisory bodies. To align with the public's demand for enhanced transparency in government and to foster accountability and accessibility, Council should consider adopting a policy for the routine release of Closed resolutions when the need for confidentiality has lapsed.

Motion

This matter be referred to the City Solicitor to examine and report back to Council within 3 months on the feasibility to publicly release all in-camera minutes on the City's website as soon as practicable and once a decision or discussion is no longer required to be secured as confidential.