

DATE OF MEETING JANUARY 9, 2023

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**SUBJECT TEMPORARY EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION - SUMMARY OF 2021 COUNCIL MOTIONS AND REPORTS**

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report:**

To provide Council with a summary of the 2021 Council motions and reports regarding temporary emergency accommodation options for Nanaimo.

## **BACKGROUND**

During the 2022-DEC-19 Regular Meeting, Council received a delegation from Joanne Dallman regarding the Tiny Home Project, as a proposal to address homelessness in Nanaimo. Note that in 2021, Council considered the provision of emergency accommodation, similar to the Cowichan Model, and decided not to proceed. Following a discussion at the 2022-DEC-19 meeting, it was determined that the 2021 reports and motions related to this topic be discussed at the 2023-JAN-09 Governance and Priorities Committee meeting. |

## **DISCUSSION**

On 2021-FEB-01 Council passed the following motion:

*“That a report be prepared as quickly as possible outlining options for implementing a temporary emergency accommodation program, similar to the Cowichan Housing Model, in Nanaimo and the report include:*

- 1. The capital costs for 2-3 pilot locations and potential funding sources;*
- 2. The estimated monthly operation costs, potential funding sources, and potential operators; and,*
- 3. Any opportunities for community collaboration; and comment from appropriate city departments, the RCMP and community agencies.”*

On 2021-APR-19, Council was presented a report (see Attachment A) about the Cowichan Housing Model that included information regarding operational requirements, opportunities for community collaboration, construction requirements, potential capital costs, and operating costs for the provision of temporary cabin structures as emergency accommodation. The report included feedback from the Fire Rescue Department, RCMP, Island Health, BC Housing and the Nanaimo Homelessness Coalition regarding the proposal. At the 2021-APR-19 meeting, Council passed the following motion:

*“A Request for Expression of Interest be developed for the management and operation of two temporary emergency shelter sites, provided by the City based on*

*the Cowichan shelter Model, to shelter up to 24 people who are awaiting placement in BC Housing dwelling units, that a report be prepared for Council that identifies City properties available to accommodate the two emergency shelter sites on a temporary basis and that the initiative and associated costs be funded for one year from the Housing Legacy Reserve.”*

City staff completed the request for Expression of Interest process for the management and operation of two temporary emergency shelter sites, and reported to Council as directed at in-camera meetings, to respect the potential negotiation process; however, at the 2021-JUL-26 in-camera meeting Council passed the following motion:

*“That Council not proceed with issuing a Request for Proposal for two temporary cabin-style emergency shelters.”*

## **CONCLUSION**

In 2021, research and review was completed by Staff to provide Council with options for the use of temporary cabin-style structures for emergency housing in Nanaimo. This included reviewing operational and construction requirements, capital and operating costs, and identifying potential operators and City-owned sites. At that time, Council decided not to proceed with this model.

Since that time, the City, under the Strengthening Communities Services Program Grant, worked with Snuneymuxw First Nation to establish temporary emergency modular housing (12 units) on reserve. If Council wishes to further consider temporary emergency housing, including the Tiny Home model, Staff suggest further exploration be conducted at a future Governance and Priorities Committee where delegates can be invited, and updated budgets and opportunities can be presented.

## **SUMMARY POINTS**

- On 2021-FEB-01, Council passed a motion directing Staff to outline options for implementing a temporary emergency accommodation program, similar to the Cowichan Housing Model in Nanaimo.
- Staff completed the required review and on 2021-JUL-26 Council decided not to proceed with issuing a request for proposal for two temporary cabin-style emergency shelters on two sites in Nanaimo.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

ATTACHMENT A: 2021-APR-19 Information Report

### **Submitted by:**

Lisa Brinkman  
Manager, Community Planning

### **Concurrence by:**

Dale Lindsay  
General Manager, Development Services /  
Deputy CAO