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# CITY OF KELOWNA

## MEMORANDUM

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**Date:** December 16, 2005  
**File No.:** 0360-20  
**To:** City Manager  
**From:** Director of Planning and Corporate Services  
**Subject:** St. Paul Street Supportive Housing Project

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**Background:**

At the Council Meeting of Monday, December 12, 2005, Kelowna City Council endorsed the following principles:

1. *The Provincial Government and its agencies (BC Housing and Interior Health) have developed a supportive housing project for Kelowna. The City is not the proponent for this project but has participated in the search for a site;*
2. *The City is committed to implementing a supportive housing project as soon as practicable;*
3. *BC Housing and Interior Health are the professionals and should be prepared to answer all questions about the operation of the project, including questions on the harm reduction model, operator agreements, experience from similar projects, etc.;*
4. *The process for choosing an operator will take at least 90 days. This time should be used to receive all public input on the proposal, including suggestions for viable alternatives to the proposal that the public might generate. Input from health professionals and others with experience in operating similar facilities should also be sought. Further information from projects implemented elsewhere should also be obtained;*
5. *The partners will review the proposal and public and professional input on the proposal after an operator is identified and has had time to participate in the review, and make a recommendation on the best location for a supportive housing project in Kelowna. Council will then reaffirm its decision on participation in the project through the provision of land. Regardless of location, Council will want to be assured the facility is operated appropriately, to meet neighbourhood and community concerns;*

Council also resolved that:

- *A Review Committee be struck to review public input on the supportive housing project, including suggestions on suitable locations for the proposed or future projects;*

- *AND THAT the Director of Planning & Corporate Services report back at the Regular Meeting of December 19, 2005 with a recommendation as to the mandate and representation of the Review Committee which is to comprise staff from the partner agencies and public representation from the town centres;*
- *AND THAT the Review Committee report back to the partners and Council once an operator for the facility is determined (a minimum of 90 days from today);*
- *AND FURTHER THAT Council then make a decision on a location for the Supportive Housing Project.*

### **Recommended Actions:**

Following the meeting of December 12, 2005 staff reviewed the principles and direction of Council. Staff would like to refine the principles to reflect the discussion of Council and clarify both the history of the project and the responsibilities of the partners.

### **Recommended Guiding Principles:**

1. Homelessness, Mental Health and Addictions are a complex spectrum of problems impacting urban centres throughout the world and will take the combined leadership and resources of the federal, provincial and local governments, as well as the community, to address.
2. The Premier's Task Force has provided the City of Kelowna with a unique opportunity to begin to "Break the Cycle of Homelessness" and move beyond "bricks and mortar funding". The funding or the opportunity for future partnerships may be contingent on the success of this initiative.
3. The Provincial Government and its agencies (BC Housing and Interior Health) have developed a model for supportive housing for Kelowna based on best practices developed by Health Canada and the responsibility of the City of Kelowna is to provide an appropriate site based on the requirements of the service model.
4. BC Housing and Interior Health are the professionals and should be prepared to answer all questions about the operation of the project, including questions on the harm reduction model, operator agreements, experience from similar projects, etc. Regardless of location, Council will want to be assured the facility functions as a good neighbour.
5. The City is committed to implementing a supportive housing development on the best site possible, as soon as practicable, recognizing the community need and the volatile nature of construction costs.

6. The process for choosing an operator will take at least 90 days. This time should be used to receive further public input regarding viable alternatives to the St. Paul Street location that the public might generate.
7. The committee will operate according to a detailed Terms of Reference based on the above guiding principles.

### **The Site Review Committee:**

A Site Review Committee made up of the existing partners supplemented with members of the community will be struck; it is recommended that the Committee be made up of the following members:

1. City of Kelowna Staff
2. B.C. Housing
3. Interior Health-Mental Health representative
4. Interior Health-Addictions representative
5. DKA-representative
6. Chamber of Commerce-representative
7. Residents Association-Downtown Area (North end or KSAN)
8. Residents Association-Other Town Centre
9. Homelessness Steering Committee
10. Other Social Agency
11. Citizen At Large

### **Tasks:**

1. Review the existing site criteria and provide appropriate weightings. The partners (IH, BC Housing and the City) must agree to any proposed changes to the criteria.
2. The Site Review Committee will then review the existing site and any viable alternatives provided by the public in relation to the criteria. The chosen operator will be provided an opportunity for input into the review and the final recommendations.
3. The Committee will report back to the funding partners including City Council regarding the recommended site on or around March 13<sup>th</sup>, adjusting the time to allow for input from the chosen operator.