

THE CORPORATION OF THE  
**CITY OF WHITE ROCK**  
CORPORATE REPORT



**DATE:** December 5, 2022

**TO:** Mayor and Council

**FROM:** Anne Berry, Director, Planning & Development Services

**SUBJECT:** City of White Rock Emergency Daytime Warming Centre Update Report

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**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council direct staff to coordinate with Engaged Communities Canada Society so that the city's emergency daytime warming centre remains operational daily through to March 31, 2023, regardless of the daytime temperature.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council direction to operate the city's emergency daytime warming centre on a daily basis, regardless of the daytime temperature.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION**

<b>Motion # &amp; Meeting Date</b>	<b>Motion Details</b>
2022-281 June 27, 2022	THAT Council endorse the City's Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Strengthening Communities' Services 2022 Grant application and indicate willingness to provide overall grant management. Motion CARRIED (6 to 0)
2022-364 September 20, 2022	THAT Council: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Affirm single sourcing and authorize the awarding of a contract for services to Engaged Communities Canada Societies for the operation of a daytime warming shelter and associated services for the period of November 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023, in the amount of \$450K; and</li><li>2. Authorize the preparation and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Engaged Communities Canada Societies for the period of November 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023, for the operation of the daytime warming shelter.</li></ol> Motion CARRIED (6 to 0)
2022-423 October 17, 2022	THAT Council receive the October 17, 2022, corporate report from the Director of Financial Services, titled "White Rock Financial Plan

	(2022-2026) Bylaw, 2022, No. 2428, Amendment No. 3, 2022, No. 2443”.  Motion CARRIED (6 to 0)
2022-429 October 19, 2022	THAT Council give final reading to "White Rock Financial Plan (2022-2026) Bylaw, 2022, No. 2428, Amendment No. 3, 2022, No. 2443".  Motion CARRIED (6 to 0)

**INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

On September 20, 2022, Council authorized the awarding of a contract for services to Engaged Communities Canada Society (the Operator) for the operation of a temporary emergency daytime warming shelter (the Centre) (intended for those experiencing homelessness) during the period of November 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023. On November 9, 2022, the Centre began its operations at Centennial Park for the winter 2022/ 2023 season. Currently, based on the experiences learned during the six-week trial period in February/ March 2022, the Centre operates under the following conditions:

- Minimum 3 day notice to open provided by the city to the Operator.
- Must operate a minimum of 7 consecutive days once the Centre has been opened by the Operator.
- Opening and closing of the Centre is determined based on daytime temperatures that are zero Celsius or “feels like” zero Celsius.
- Operation of the Mount Olive emergency weather shelter.

Subsequent to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Operator, the Mount Olive emergency weather shelter is now operational nightly, regardless of the weather conditions.

To date the Centre has been open November 9 to November 18, closing from November 19 and reopened on November 28. The site is unattended when closed. During the recent closure period, Centre guests were still attending at the location on a daily basis, requiring Centre staff to be in attendance on site to discourage guests from the location, and to advise them of possible alternative locations and to provide access to food and other services. Closure information is typically disseminated by word of mouth to Centre guests as access to information is limited for many experiencing homelessness. Daily monitoring of the site is necessary to discourage any guests from setting-up temporary shelters at the Centre location. It is anticipated that managing the site during periods of closure will be more challenging than during periods of operation, as guests will want to wait out the closure period and it can be difficult to encourage them to leave.

As periods of closure cannot be pre-determined on a long-term basis, staff anticipate that site management will be challenging as the winter progresses. In recognition of these challenges, and their potential impacts to the site and the community, and to provide consistency to Centre guests and with nighttime shelters, staff recommend that Council consider authorizing the operation of the warming Centre daily, through March 31, 2023, regardless of the daily temperature. There are no additional costs anticipated as budget was calculated based on daily operations for the period of November 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023.

The Centre's Operator has confirmed that they are available to operate daily through to March 31, 2023, consistent with the maximum scope of the anticipated extreme weather conditions for the winter 2022/2023 season.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Although any additional cost savings due to closures will not be realized no additional financial implications are anticipated. Budget details can be found in Appendix A.

### **COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

A dedicated webpage has been established to provide information to the community on the Centre operations [Emergency Daytime Warming Centre | White Rock, BC \(whiterockcity.ca\)](https://www.whiterockcity.ca/emergency-daytime-warming-centre). Posters have been installed in key locations at Centennial Park facilities to ensure that information is readily available to facility users. Staff from Communications, Recreation and Culture, Planning & Development Services and the RCMP are in routine communications to minimize any impacts to the surrounding community.

The batting cage at Centennial Park, adjacent to the daytime warming shelter location, will soon be replaced to enable year-round use. Staff believe that any construction site activity can be managed in conjunction with the daytime warming Centre operations and believe the two uses can be separated with fencing, and the provision of an alternative construction access.

The White Rock South Surrey Baseball Association has indicated concerns regarding the interface between the future new batting cage user group, and the daytime warming shelter user group. This interface will need to be evaluated prior to decisions regarding the operation of a daytime warming Centre in the fall/winter 2023-24 extreme weather season, should Council wish to consider this location at Centennial Park again next year.

### **INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS**

As noted above. Engineering and Operations staff also provide support for the site related to the warming Centre infrastructure needs.

### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

There is no specific strategic priority for the operation of the emergency daytime warming Centre, however the Centre is key to improving the quality of life for some of the city's most vulnerable members of the population, and is therefore aligned with the following strategic priority:

*Community: We will make the best possible community decisions in collaboration with residents and stakeholders, providing an excellent quality of life.*

### **OPTIONS / RISKS / ALTERNATIVES**

The following alternative options are available for Council's consideration:

1. Direct staff to proceed with the emergency daytime warming Centre operations based on daytime temperatures that are zero Celsius or "feels like" zero Celsius only.

If Council selects the alternative option above, staff anticipate that there will be challenges as outline earlier in this report.

## **CONCLUSION**

Daily operation of the city's temporary emergency daytime warming Centre, regardless of the daytime temperature will align with the nightly operations of the Mount Olive emergency weather shelter and will provide consistency for those experiencing homelessness during the winter 2022/2023 period. It is also anticipated that the presence of warming Centre staff daily will help reduce unauthorized camping adjacent to the warming center facility at Centennial Park.

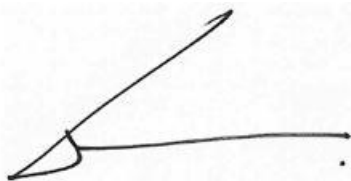
Respectfully submitted,



Anne Berry  
Director, Planning & Development Services

## **Comments from the Chief Administrative Officer**

Council should be reminded that funding for the Warming Centre is only applicable to winter 2022/23 and there are no funds allocated to the 2023/24 season that would allow the shelter to be open for an extensive period of time as this season's operations (2022/23) are a result of the city receiving a substantial grant from UBCM. In addition, consideration should be given to attracting additional people experiencing homelessness to White Rock, given ongoing operation of the Centre.



Guillermo Ferrero  
Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix A: September 20, 2022 Report to Council titled "Daytime Warming Shelter Single Sourcing Request to Award Fall/Winter 2022-23 Contract for Services"