

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



**DATE:** May 9, 2022

**TO:** Mayor and Council

**FROM:** Eric Stepura, Director, Recreation and Culture

**SUBJECT:** Daytime Warming Shelter Debrief

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**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council receive for information the May 9, 2022, corporate report from the Director of Recreation and Culture, titled "Daytime Warming Shelter Debrief" for Council's consideration in providing extreme weather shelter services for the period November 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In late December 2021, Council received letters from local citizens and the Homelessness Association of BC asking Council to setup a warming shelter for people experiencing homelessness in the South Surrey/White Rock area.

At the January 10, 2022 regular Council meeting, staff provided a corporate, titled "Options for a Warming Shelter" in response to Council's request that the City provide a warming shelter for local people experiencing homelessness.

Following discussion, Council directed staff to conduct further research on daytime warming shelter options in White Rock and bring back one (1) or more location(s) suitable for use as a daytime extreme weather warming shelter for Council's consideration at their January 24, 2022 regular Council meeting.

At the January 24, 2022, regular Council meeting, Council approved funding in the amount of \$160K to operate a daytime warming shelter in a modular office trailer in the parking lot located adjacent to the baseball concession/washroom facility at Centennial Park from January 28, 2022, to March 15, 2022. Fifty percent (50%) or \$80K of this funding will be provided by the City of Surrey, the City's portion was \$80K.

This corporate report is a debrief of the winter 2022 daytime warming shelter operation for local people experiencing homelessness, and some budget information for consideration in providing extreme weather shelter services for the period November 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION**

Motion & Meeting Date	Motion Details
Motion # 2022-023 January 24, 2022	It was MOVED and SECONDED THAT Council: 1. Approve funding in the amount of \$160,000 to operate a daytime warming

	shelter in a modular office trailer to be located in the parking lot located adjacent to the baseball concession/washroom facility at Centennial Park from January 28, 2022 to March 15, 2022; however 2. Operation (opening) of the warming shelter would only be in conjunction with the opening of the evening shelter at Mount Olive Lutheran Church. Note: Funding in the amount of \$160,000 will be required to accommodate the program. The City of Surrey has agreed to fund 50% of this expense, therefore, the actual cost to the City of White Rock will be \$80,000. APPROVED
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## **INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

At the January 24, 2022 regular Council meeting, Council approved the funding and operation of a daytime warming shelter in a modular office trailer located in the parking lot adjacent to the baseball concession/washroom facility at Centennial Park from January 28, 2022 to March 15, 2022. City staff arranged to rent a mobile office trailer and mobile washroom building, hired a contractor to hook up power from the adjacent park washroom/concession building, installed furniture and hired Engaged Communities of Canada Society staff to operate the daytime warming shelter on an “as needed” basis between February 1 to March 15, 2022. As was directed by Council, the warming shelter was scheduled to be open on the dates when the overnight Extreme Weather Shelter located at Mount Olive Lutheran Church was operated.

While in operation, the daytime warming shelter provided very critical services for local people experiencing homelessness. Appendix A is a Daytime Warming Shelter Project Report produced by Upkar Singh Tatlay, Founder and Executive Director of the Engaged Communities of Canada Society (ECCS). Some of the positive outcomes of the daytime warming shelter operation in White Rock were as follows:

### **Outcomes**

- The shelter assisted a total of six hundred twenty two (622) visits over thirty four (34) days of operation (an average of 18 individuals/day). The shelter was operated from 6:15 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. on the days of operation.
- Met the immediate basic needs of food, water and a warm place for shelter guests.
- Over seventeen hundred (1,700) meals/snacks, and twenty eight (28) hot showers were provided.
- Connected shelter guests with external health and social services. Thirty two (32) counselling sessions took place.
- Provided life-saving care and addressed urgent medical needs of the shelter guests.
- Improved physical and mental well-being and sense of self-worth of shelter guests.
- Reduced social isolation experienced by shelter guests.
- Reduced complaints from local businesses about vagrancy by homeless people.
- Reduced stigma around homelessness for some people in the community.
- Facilitated family reunification and return to work for some of the shelter guests.
- Connected six (6) individuals to permanent/transitional housing.

## Complaints

Very few complaints were received from members of the public during the dates that the daytime warming shelter was operated. ECCS staff were very quick to respond to complaints, and to communicate with shelter visitors about the importance of staying away from other park amenities where children may be present, and to keep the area in and around the shelter tidy and litter free.

## Daytime Warming Shelter Operation Costs

The budget Council approved for operating the daytime warming shelter from January 28 to March 15, 2022 was \$160K, of which half, up to \$80K, was to be funded by the City of Surrey. The City of White Rock contribution would be \$80K. It was anticipated that these costs could be less if the shelter was opened “as needed” during periods of “feels like minus zero degree weather.”

A breakdown of the actual 2022 shelter operating costs are as follows:

• Engaged Communities of Canada Society contracted service	\$102,000
• Rent, transport and clean Atco office trailer and portable washroom	\$ 8,850
• Electrical hookup and disconnection	\$ 4,800
• Janitorial cleaning and supplies	\$ 2,850
• Extra keys cut and lock changed	\$ 200
<b>Total Costs:</b>	<b>\$118,700</b>

The City of White Rock’s 50% share of the \$118.7K therefore is \$59.4K, which leaves \$20.6K remaining in the City’s warming shelter budget, which, if directed by Council could be applied towards the cost of operating another warming shelter again this fall/winter 2022-2023.

The City of Surrey’s 50% share of the warming shelter costs is also \$59.4K.

## Warming Shelter Operating Cost November 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023

If Council wishes to continue supporting the operation of a daytime warming shelter again during the next extreme weather shelter period of November 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023, the estimated cost for the five month period is \$480K. A breakdown of these costs is below. Again, it is anticipated that these costs could be less if the shelter is only opened “as needed” during periods of “feels like minus zero degree weather.”

## White Rock/ South Surrey Daytime Warming Shelter Budget November 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023

Expense Item	Costs
60’ x 12’ mobile office trailer & Tow & Go Washroom unit incl. transportation & cleaning	\$ 18,000
Electrical hookup and disconnect of the trailer and washroom	\$ 5,000
Janitorial supplies and staff (contracted service)	\$ 7,000
Contracted service to provide trained staff, miscellaneous supplies, equipment and transportation for the daytime warming shelter service for up to 30 homeless individuals/day at \$3,000/day x 150 days=	\$ 450,000
<b>Total Budget Required</b>	<b>\$ 480,000</b>

City Staff have applied for a UBCM Strengthening Communities Services grant for \$320K towards the cost of operating a daytime warming shelter for the fall/winter 2022/2023, and if directed by Council, will ask the City of Surrey for a financial contribution again.

### **Warming Shelter Site for Fall/Winter 2022-2023**

The site used for the office trailer (in the parking lot beside the baseball diamond concession/washroom building at Centennial Park) for the daytime warming shelter from February 1- March 15, 2022 is not available due to the planned construction of the new baseball training centre which will start work in the summer/fall of 2022. Therefore a review of other site options in White Rock and South Surrey is required.

A preferred situation would be to have both the nighttime extreme weather shelter and the daytime warming shelter located within close proximity to each other to eliminate the need to transport shelter guests between the two facilities.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The total cost to operate the warming shelter earlier this year from February 1- March 15, 2022 was \$118.7K. The City of White Rock's 50% share of the \$118.7K operating cost of the daytime warming shelter therefore is \$59.4K, which leaves \$20.6K remaining in the City's warming shelter budget, which could be applied towards the cost of operating the shelter again this Fall/Winter.

The estimated cost to operate a warming shelter for the months of November 1- December 31, 2022 is \$192,000. If the \$20.7K balance remaining in the City's warming shelter budget is applied to the shelter operating cost, an additional \$171.4K would be needed to fund the program to December 31, 2022. In order to add an expenditure of \$192K to the budget a financial plan amendment would be required, the City's portion of the costs would either have to come from accumulated surplus or operating contingency, with the balance funded from grants and/or contributions from the City of Surrey and other supporters.

The estimated cost to operate the shelter for the months of January 1- March 31, 2023 is \$288K. There is \$160K in the 2023 operating budget, with \$80K funded from property taxes and \$80K from contributions. If this budget is applied to the shelter operating costs, an additional \$128K would be needed to fund the program to March 31, 2023.

An estimated additional \$192K would be needed to fund the shelter program from November 1 – December 31, 2023. The total cost of the warming shelter from January to December 2023 would be \$480K requiring a budget increase of \$320K. The City's portion of that increase would require an increase in property taxes.

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

If a decision is made to provide daytime warming shelter services in White Rock again in 2022/2023, then adjacent residents, regular park user groups and businesses located near the site should be notified before the shelter is operational.

### **INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS**

Engineering and Municipal Operations will need to approve and oversee the placement and utility hookup of a modular office trailer placed on City property, and to arrange for extra janitorial cleaning of the washroom building(s) located adjacent to the warming shelter.

The City's Fire Chief would have to establish the room capacity of the warming shelter trailer.

The City's Parking Services staff, under the Planning and Development Services Department, will need to be notified of this parking lot closure, if it will result in loss of some parking at Centennial Park.

Recreation and Culture staff will need to notify park users if a portion of park property is to be used for a temporary warming shelter.

## **CONCLUSION**

At the January 24, 2022, regular Council meeting, Council approved funding in the amount of \$160K to setup and operate a daytime warming shelter in a modular office trailer in the parking lot located adjacent to the baseball concession/washroom facility at Centennial Park from January 28, 2022, to March 15, 2022. As 50% (or \$80K) of this funding will be provided by the City of Surrey, the City's 50% portion was \$80K.

The daytime warming shelter provided very critical services for local people experiencing homelessness. There were many positive outcomes for shelter visitors and the community, and very few complaints from the public.

The total cost to operate the shelter from February 1-March 15, 2022 was \$118.7K. The City of White Rock's 50% share of the \$118.7K operating cost of the daytime warming shelter therefore is \$59.4K, which leaves \$20.6K remaining in the City's warming shelter budget.

If Council wishes to continue supporting the operation of a daytime warming shelter for the next extreme weather shelter additional funding will be required. The estimated cost to operate the shelter for the months of November 1- December 31, 2022 is \$192K. If the \$20.6K balance remaining in the City's warming shelter budget is applied to the shelter operating cost, an additional \$171.4K would be needed to fund the program to the end of 2022. The City's 2022 - 2026 Financial Plan does not include any additional funding in 2022 for operating the shelter.

The estimated cost to operate the shelter for the months of January 1- March 31, 2023 is \$480K. There is \$160K in the City's 2022-2026 Financial Plan for the 2023 operating budget. If the \$160K in the City's 2023 operating budget is applied to the shelter operating costs, an additional \$320K would be needed to fund the program to the end of December 31, 2022.

City Staff have applied for a UBCM Strengthening Communities Services grant for \$320K towards the cost of operating a daytime warming shelter, and if directed by Council, will ask the City of Surrey for a financial contribution again.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Stepura  
Director, Recreation and Culture

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

This corporate report is provided for information purposes and Council's consideration.

Guillermo Ferrero  
Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix A: Daytime Warming Shelter Project Report