



Mayor's Office, City of Penticton

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March 11, 2021

BC Housing

1701-4555 Kingsway

Burnaby, BC V5H 4V8

352 Winnipeg Street, Penticton

Thank you for your letter dated March 8, 2021, requesting that Council reconsider the decision from March 2, 2021 denying the permit extension application for 352 Winnipeg Street.

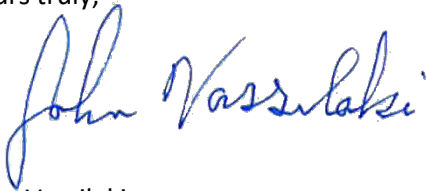
Your correspondence will be placed on the agenda for Council's regularly scheduled meeting on March 16th for consideration.

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify a number of items, as follows:

- Penticton City Council appreciates you confirming in your letter that 352 Winnipeg Street is a winter shelter. Page 1.
- Your letter states that Council authorized the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit (PL2020-8834) on October 27, 2020. Council authorized this on October 20, 2020. Page 1.
- Regarding your written statement that the Mayor indicated support for a renewal of the TUP at the February 3, 2021 meeting, we refer you to comments made by the Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing to *Global News* on March 2, 2021 that indicates that both the Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing, and Penticton City Council discussed that Council would give full consideration to the temporary use permit extension. The Mayor never indicated support for renewal which would be entirely inappropriate before having the application introduced to Council. On March 2, 2021, Penticton City Council gave full consideration to the permit extension application, as Council and the Attorney General discussed during the February 3, 2021 meeting that you attended. Page 1.
- The statement that BC Housing made an application on February 4, 2021 to renew the Temporary Use Permit is incorrect. The application, as signed by an employee of BC Housing, is dated February 8, 2021 and was emailed to City of Penticton Development Services staff on February 8, 2021. Page 1. This was received on the same day that Council received a package of statistics from BC Housing which stated that "The TUP will not be extended beyond March 31, 2021."

- Regarding your comment that “at least 42 people would be forced to sleep in outdoor public spaces [when the temporary winter shelter at 352 Winnipeg closes on April 1, 2021],” Penticton City Council would like to note that BC Housing has closed temporary winter shelters every year around the end of March. Additionally, Council would like to note that BC Housing closed a temporary weather shelter in Penticton on February 16, 2021 that it had opened under its emergency powers without public transition plans for each individual. Additionally, each year when BC Housing has closed its Penticton winter shelter, City Council has directed bylaw and development services staff to support BC Housing and the shelter operator in ensuring that each individual in the winter shelter transitions out of the winter shelter. Page 2.
- Regarding your comment that illustrates that there were 166 individuals on the Coordinated Access list in January 2021, Penticton City Council has been very clear that it would be very open to working in partnership with BC Housing on BC Housing’s and the Province’s housing and homelessness plan for Penticton. Penticton City Council is still very open to this partnership, as has been re-iterated numerous times. We have recently hired a new employee into the newly formed social development position with the City to support BC Housing with this plan. Page 2.
- Regarding your statement that the “Bylaws of the City of Penticton currently prevent the use of the Property as the Shelter,” please note that under current City of Penticton Bylaws, Council issued a Temporary Use Permit that is valid until March 31, 2021 for 352 Winnipeg Street to be used as a temporary winter shelter. Page 3.

Yours truly,



John Vassilaki

Mayor