



NEWS RELEASE

City Council to Consider Rezoning Application for Future Supportive Housing Projects

ABBOTSFORD September 23, 2014 - Abbotsford City Council has made a request that staff submit a rezoning application for Council consideration that will provide the groundwork for a future supportive housing project to be built in Abbotsford, announced Mayor Bruce Banman today.

Following the failed application for a supportive housing project to be located in downtown Abbotsford earlier this year, City Council directed the City to review potential parcels of land (including the old MSA Hospital site) that could be used for supportive housing projects in the future. In fulfilling this direction, the City will be making an application to Council in late October for a section of land on Gladys Avenue to be re-zoned for future supportive housing use.

“This proposed rezoning process for the parcel of land on Gladys is in alignment with the overall recommendations and direction of the Homelessness Task Force,” said Banman. “We believe this to be a proactive move in the direction of Housing First solutions for Abbotsford which supports the intent of getting people directly into housing.”

By taking this action, the City also hopes to provide Abbotsford with a solid foundation for applying for funding from other levels of government for supportive housing projects; including the potential of repurposing the funding from the BC government that was originally intended for the housing project that didn't proceed earlier this year.

“City Council is committed to exploring innovative opportunities for providing additional supportive housing options in Abbotsford,” said Banman. “If approved, it will provide greater certainty for funding partners and service delivery partners alike to commit to providing additional supportive housing in our community.”

The rezoning application is one of several stages of the approval process, the specifics of which will be provided to Council in an open meeting in late October, with a public hearing following shortly thereafter in early November.

“Although this process will follow the City's regular, established procedures for Official Community Plan and Zoning amendment bylaws, it can be seen as a proactive step for Council in considering new initiatives that address issues of homelessness in our community,” said Banman. “The public hearing process will provide residents with an excellent opportunity to provide their feedback directly to Council regarding this proposed land use and zoning designation and we look forward to community participation.”

Updated information on the re-zoning application will be posted on the City's website and in the City Page as information becomes available.

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