

**TO:** MEMBERS OF COUNCIL **DATE:** March 23, 2023

**FROM:** MAYOR MIKE HURLEY

**SUBJECT: MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON UNSHELTERED COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

**PURPOSE:** To request Council approval for the creation of a Mayor's Task Force on Unsheltered Community Members and the Task Force's Terms of Reference.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **THAT** Council approve the creation of a Mayor's Task Force on Unsheltered Community Members and its Terms of Reference, as outlined in *Attachment 1*.
2. **THAT** Council approve the appointment of Council members Maita Santiago, Mike Hurley and Daniel Tetrault to the Mayor's Task Force on Unsheltered Community Members, as identified in *Section 4.0* of the report.

**REPORT**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

As a city, Burnaby takes a broad view of housing, considering the overall needs and objectives of our community. The recently adopted HOME Strategy reflects this perspective in the scope of its policies, which address the entire housing system, including unsheltered community members. With numerous initiatives underway to address Burnaby's housing challenges, it is time to take focused work on breaking the cycle of being unsheltered in our community. We know that the past few years have been extremely challenging for those experiencing being unsheltered or are at-risk of becoming unsheltered.

Goal 5 of HOME: Burnaby's Housing and Homelessness Strategy aims to achieve:

*A Place Where Homelessness is Rare, Brief, and One Time*

This goal envisions a future where being unsheltered has reached functional zero, meaning that there are enough services, supports and affordable housing available so that fewer people become unsheltered, and those who do, experience it once and for a short period of time. This goal recognizes that coordination of a diversity of services and supports, including mental health and addictions treatment, integrated into shelter and a continuum of housing, are required to manage being unsheltered successfully.

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Goal 5 has three strategies:

1. Prevent pathways into homelessness;
2. Support pathways out of homelessness; and
3. Contribute to continued collaboration and coordination among homeless service government and community partners.

In consideration of these strategies, and in particular, the collaborative approach identified in the third strategy, and the ongoing and very real challenges for those experiencing being unsheltered and those at-risk of becoming unsheltered in our community, I am recommending the creation of a Mayor's Task Force on Unsheltered Community Members to bring our partners together to work diligently and collectively to achieve our goal.

This report includes the proposed Terms of Reference and recommends Council appointments for consideration.

## **2.0 POLICY**

In accordance with the Community Charter, Part 5, Division 4, S.142 (Select Committees of Council), Council may establish and appoint a Select Committee to consider or inquire into any matter and to report its findings and opinion to Council.

## **3.0 TASK FORCE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Terms of Reference, as outlined in *Attachment 1*, will guide the core deliberations of the Task Force towards the preparation of an interim and final report that will include specific directions and recommendations for the consideration of Council.

## **4.0 TASK FORCE – COMPOSITION AND APPOINTMENTS**

In recognition that breaking the cycle of becoming unsheltered is a complex issue that requires the involvement of senior levels of government and a range of other stakeholders, the composition of the Task Force will include representation from Federal and Provincial elected representatives, Fraser Health, BC Housing, Burnaby RCMP, community non-profit societies and the business community. The following Council members are recommended for appointment to the Mayor's Task Force on Unsheltered Community Members:

Councillor Maita Santiago – Chair

Mayor Mike Hurley – Vice Chair

Councillor Daniel Tetrault – Member

The remaining members of the Task Force will be contained within the committee appointment report.

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**5.0 TIMELINE**

It is anticipated that the Task Force will require 3 months to complete its deliberations for an interim report and 6 months for a final report to Council.

**6.0 CONCLUSION**

Housing is a basic need. For too many in our community, a place to call home remains elusive. The proposed Mayor's Task Force on Unsheltered Community Members will bring together key stakeholders to develop a coordinated, integrated, systems-based response to unsheltered community members in our community: a response that prevents pathways into becoming unsheltered and supports pathways out of being unsheltered.

Through the adoption of this report, Council will approve the mandate for this select committee and the Council member appointments.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Hurley  
MAYOR

Attachment 1 – Terms of Reference

## Mayor's Task Force on Unsheltered Community Members Terms of Reference

### 1. **Purpose:**

To facilitate the development of coordinated, integrated, systems-based response to unsheltered community members in our community: a response that prevents pathways into becoming unsheltered and supports pathways out of being unsheltered. The Task Force will be time-limited and solutions-oriented.

### 2. **Authority:**

- Community Charter. Part 5. Division 4.142 (Select Committees of Council)

### 3. **Functions:**

The Task Force will work to:

- 3.1 Build partnerships to effectively align service delivery and promote innovation and integration in our community's response to unsheltered community members.
- 3.2 Develop a coordinated, multi-disciplinary, integrated approach to respond to unsheltered community members including mental health and addiction challenges in our community, as it relates to the unsheltered.
- 3.3 Integrate the delivery of mental health and addiction services with other related services including health, housing, social work, law enforcement, and others.
- 3.4 Identify actions included in HOME: Burnaby's Housing and Homelessness Strategy and any other related actions for immediate implementation.

### 4. **Principles:**

Task Force members will:

- 4.1 Work collaboratively and demonstrate respect for each other and the community members they serve.
- 4.2 Recognize that all community members are valued and can make a contribution in a caring, compassionate community.
- 4.3 Be informed by people's lived experience, and consider the extent to which decisions will meet their diversity of needs.
- 4.4 Commit to the work of the Task Force and take responsibility for their respective roles in delivering the outcomes of the Task Force.

**5. Deliverables:**

- 5.1 Interim report to Council on the progress of the Task Force.
- 5.2 Final report outlining solutions and recommended implementation timelines.

**6. Membership:**

- 6.1 The Task Force will be chaired by Councillor Maita Santiago, with the Mayor serving as Vice Chair, and Councillor Daniel Tetrault serving as a member.
- 6.2 Additional members will be appointed to the Task Force and will include people who are leaders in their field and have a strong knowledge and commitment to Burnaby. Membership will include representation from:
  - Member of Parliament Terry Beech's office
  - A Burnaby Member of the Legislative Assembly
  - Fraser Health
  - Burnaby Primary Care Network
  - BC Housing
  - Progressive Housing Society
  - Lookout Housing and Health Society
  - Society to End Homelessness in Burnaby
  - Burnaby Detachment of the RCMP
  - Burnaby Board of Trade
- 6.3 Membership term will end upon the approval of a Final Report by Council.

**7. Meetings and Staff Support:**

- 7.1 The Task Force will meet once a month with the first meeting to take place in May or June 2023. The estimated duration of the Task Force is 6 months. Additional meetings may be added at the request of the Chair.
- 7.2 Committee meetings will be held in accordance with criteria outlined in Section 35 and 36 of the Burnaby Procedure Bylaw 2004 (Bylaw No. 11714).
- 7.3 Meeting procedures are regulated according to Burnaby Procedure Bylaw 2004 (Bylaw No. 11714).
- 7.4 The Chief Administrative Officer will be responsible for allocating staff resources as appropriate.

**8. Reference and Information:**

Burnaby Procedure Bvlaw 2004 (Bvlaw No. 11714)

[HOME: Burnaby's Housing and Homelessness Strategy \(2021\)](#)