

City Fact Sheet



September 2015

Proposed Day Center for People who are Homeless

Recent changes in the Vancouver housing market have resulted in an increase in homelessness with an especially heavy impact in the Downtown Vancouver area and west side neighborhoods. Several factors contribute to the problem, including a low vacancy rate for rental units (under 2%) and increased development displacing historic homeless camp sites. Many citizens and business owners have voiced concerns to an equally concerned City council and City staff.

By working with non-profit agencies, the faith community and other stakeholders, we have the opportunity to make available a day center in West Vancouver to provide services with the ultimate goal of helping our homeless citizens get back on their feet.

Key Features

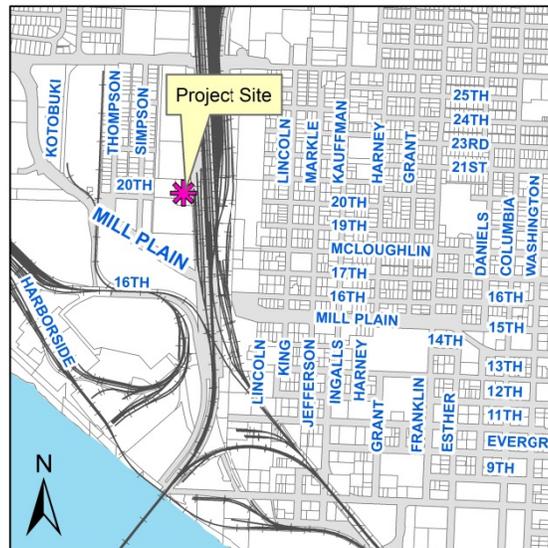
The City of Vancouver convened a group of stakeholders to weigh in on the day center's location and key features. The following factors were highlighted as especially important. Additionally, a survey completed by the Council for the Homeless and Share found that the four criteria listed below were the most important to incentivize people to access the program.

- Proximity to Downtown
- Availability of services
- Hygiene services, such as showers and restrooms
- Clear rules and expectations

An in-depth review of available buildings and empty lots examined several locations, but one stood out apart – the Friends of the Carpenter warehouse; located at 1600 W 20th Street. Friends of the Carpenter have already expressed their willingness to host the day center on their property.

Friends of the Carpenter Site - 1600 W 20th Street, Vancouver

The Friends of the Carpenter warehouse is located on CTRAN Route 25 off Mill Plain and Thompson. The organization currently provides a faith based day shelter along with facilities for wood working and a focus on mentoring for people in poverty. The average daily attendance is approximate 40 clients and 15 volunteers. The warehouse is 13,000 square feet on a 45,400 square foot lot. The Friends of the Carpenter is excited to share their location to provide additional services for people who are homeless.



The warehouse is located approximately 6,730 feet (1.2 miles) from Esther Short Park and approximately 3,300 feet (0.6 miles) from Share.

Partners

- City of Vancouver
- Share
- Council for the Homeless
- Clark County Community Services
- Vancouver Housing Authority
- Friends of the Carpenter

Social Service Siting Ordinance

City staff will apply for a *Class 3 facility* through the Human Service Siting Ordinance (Chapter 20.870). *Class 3 facility* is an expansion of services for between 20 and 74 people per day. The process will take approximately six weeks upon filing. We anticipate the application to be submitted by the end of September. This process does require neighborhood notification, including individual households, businesses and the Fruit Valley Neighborhood Association.

City staff has contacted the leaders of the Hough and Esther Short Neighborhoods along with the Downtown Vancouver Association.

Services Offered

Share will operate a day center in a 1,200 sq. foot portion of the building. The center will be open seven days a week from 7 am to 5 pm. Share, in partnership with local non-profits, will offer a range of services including mental health counseling, general education classes, case management, personal storage, mail, phone charging stations, storage of belongings and job search assistance. Other options will include hygiene services like showers, bathrooms, and laundry.

We are considering a shower trailer which consists of 4 standard size showers and 1 handicapped stall. Three portable rest room stations with one handicapped unit will be provided as well.

Funding

Multiple sources contribute to funding of this project. These sources include City of Vancouver, Deed Recording fees administered by Clark County, and the Vancouver Housing Authority. The estimate is \$230,000 for annual staff operations, \$30,000 for use of space/utilities and \$250,000 for capital improvements.

Timeline

The Vancouver City Council will host a workshop for the proposed day center on October 12. A public hearing will be held on October 19 regarding the funding. Our target launch date is mid-November. Ideally the day center should be initially operational in advance of the coldest winter weather.

City of Vancouver Contact

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