

Changes to Land Use Bylaw and new development permit to consider continued operation of temporary shelter

February 25, 2021

1. What is happening with the current temporary shelter?

To ensure the continued health and safety of our community's vulnerable population, The City of Red Deer is beginning the process of considering the continued use of a temporary shelter located in the north portion of the Cannery Row Building.

The process includes a proposed amendment to the Land Use Bylaw (Bylaw 3357/H-2021) and a proposed development permit that considers the continued use of a temporary shelter (defined as a "Temporary Care Facility" in the Land Use Bylaw).

2. Why do the changes need to be made?

The current temporary shelter at Cannery Row was established in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting need for a safe, physically distanced shelter for our community's vulnerable population. The City established the one-year shelter lease through the State of Local Emergency by means of an Emergency Order.

As the Pandemic is ongoing, and The City is no longer in a State of Local Emergency, the need for a safe, physically distanced shelter for our community's vulnerable population continues. The Land Use Bylaw's zoning (Direct Control District 28) at the subject location does not include a shelter as a use; therefore an amendment to the zoning is needed in order to consider a temporary shelter to continue at this location.

3. Why is a shelter needed?

There is a community need for persons experiencing homelessness to receive basic support – whether escaping the elements to stay dry and warm up, for resting, for having a coffee, or for connecting with trained staff to help clients navigate the system of housing and supports and find more permanent housing.

4. How is the shelter funded?

The Province provides funding for Safe Harbour Society to operate the shelter.

5. Will this be the permanent site for the shelter?

No, this location is temporary. On February 7, 2020, the Province committed to \$7 million in its 2020 Capital Plan for a purpose-built integrated emergency shelter in Red Deer. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Province of Alberta and The City of Red Deer was finalized in February, 2021 to establish a general high-level understanding related to the Provincially

managed project to meet the current and future needs in Red Deer. Specifics about location, timing and operational details have not yet been determined by the Provincial Government.

6. What is the process for the Land Use Bylaw and development permit?

Council will hold a Public Hearing on March 29, 2021 at 6 p.m. The Public Hearing is an opportunity for the public to speak directly to Council about any concerns they may have with the proposed bylaw.

Following the Public Hearing, Council will consider Second and Third Reading (adoption) of the proposed Land Use Bylaw amendment and the proposed development permit.

To view this Bylaw, please visit the City of Red Deer's Public Hearing webpage at: www.reddeer.ca/publichearings.

City Council will also receive written submissions from any person claiming to be affected by the proposed bylaw and will consider these at the anticipated Public Hearing on March 29, 2021 at 6 p.m.

7. I've had some concerns with the shelter. How are they being addressed?

The shelter has been dealing with some safety and addictions related challenges. Safe Harbour has acknowledged there are challenges and has called for collaboration with RCMP, mental health and addictions agencies to address them.

If you are concerned for the wellbeing of someone who is experiencing homelessness, mental health challenges or substance abuse challenges, and they are not posing an immediate harm to themselves or others, call 2-1-1 then Press 2 to reach the Social Diversion Team.

The Social Diversion team consists of specially-trained professionals that can provide front line assessment, intervention and support. They can connect people in crisis with the social services they need, such as housing supports, mental health supports, detox programs and harm reduction resources.

8. How does this help end homelessness?

Connecting trained staff with individuals experiencing homelessness creates opportunities for more permanent housing solutions. Clients who visit the shelter may be either recently homeless or chronically homeless.

Shelters are important components of the housing continuum, as they allow individuals to have their basic needs met so as to tackle more difficult challenges such as sobriety, employment, permanent housing.

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