



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maple Ridge Denies First Reading for Burnett Street Housing Project

Maple Ridge, BC: On Tuesday, May 22, 2018, Maple Ridge Council had their first opportunity to review an application from BC Housing for a shelter and supportive housing project located on Burnett Street on the eastern edge of downtown.

Council had the opportunity to ask a number of questions of BC Housing and their proposed operator for the facility, the Salvation Army, around the location, neighbourhood impacts, operating model and the role of health care delivery in the proposed facility.

After lengthy discussion Council voted 5-2 to deny First Reading for the proposal.

“This was a very difficult decision. Ultimately, the model of care being proposed for this facility lacked the health care focus that is so badly needed to support our homeless population who, like homeless citizens across the region, are suffering from one or more of a mental health condition, a physical health impairment and/or addiction,” said Mayor Nicole Read. “Last night, our Council took a leadership position that change in the service delivery model for shelters and supportive housing is overdue. We look forward to our provincial partners returning with an operational model that is better designed to match the health care needs of this vulnerable population.”

She continued, “I want to acknowledge the respectful tone of the discussion on Tuesday night. We recognize that this has been an emotional issue and it was critical for Council to have the opportunity to ask the questions that have been brought to us by the public directly to the project proponents before making a decision.”

For more information please contact Mayor Nicole Read by email nread@mapleridge.ca or by phone at 604-463-5221.