

Council seeks support from UBCM to help challenge Provincial Paramountcy

(Penticton, BC – April 13, 2021) – On behalf of City Council, Penticton Mayor, John Vassilaki, has sent a letter to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) President, Brian Frenkel, requesting UBCM prepare a letter to BC Premier, John Horgan, supporting Council's position that the Province's recent use of Paramountcy is a violation of two Council decisions and the City's zoning Bylaws.

"My letter to Mr. Frenkel made it very clear that the issue at hand is a matter of land use and cooperative planning between two levels of government," said Penticton Mayor, John Vassilaki. "The Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing, David Eby, would have British Columbians believe that the City of Penticton is not doing its part to support the housing crisis. This is simply not the case and information provided directly from the Minister shows that Penticton has the highest number of supportive housing beds per capita in the interior region. All of these beds were developed with Penticton Council's input and with respect for Council's role in the decision making process.

"Today our previous working relationship of bilateral cooperation has been replaced by a unilateral hammer that puts our residents at risk of having the Provincial Government plan our community. As such, Council has reached out to Mr. Frenkel and the UBCM membership at large to seek their support in reversing the Province's conduct towards Penticton, or any other community they disagree with."

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