



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

File: 6410-01

3400 - 30TH STREET VERNON, BRITISH COLUMBIA V1T 5E6

TELEPHONE (250) 545-1361 FAX (250) 545-4048

March 26, 2020

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Dear All,

RE: City of Vernon Maintains Continuity in Development Approvals

The City would like to reach out in this trying time to reassure the development community that at this time we remain open for business.

The City of Vernon has an unwavering commitment to the health and safety of our employees and our community, and we are working hard to keep you safe during these unprecedented times. This means that while we are still open for business, we are taking steps to protect our customers and front line staff, as follows:

Please come in person **ONLY** if you need to drop off materials that are not practical to email, to make a payment or to pick up your building permit. **For all other inquiries, please email or call the office.** All meetings will held by phone and we have the technology to conference in multiple parties if needed. Where possible, the City will be emailing permits or other approvals. **If you do need to come in person, please be aware that anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 or who has returned from out of the country is asked to not come into any City facility. We are asking that you follow any posted procedures and maintain a minimum 2m distance from staff or any other member of the public.**

Building inspections continue as always, except for any inspections that occur in a finished or occupied building. Screening questions will be asked at the time of scheduling inspections to ensure adequate social distancing measures are in place. As well, please note that the Province has issued social distancing measures for construction sites. See this link for more information:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EMBC0002-000542>

Under the current circumstances, Council has made the difficult decision to postpone Council meetings until further notice. That means, unfortunately, that variances, rezoning applications and OCP amendments cannot go forward for public input or public hearings. City staff will continue to do work on those files to prepare them for when Council reconvenes. We want to be ready for an active business recovery period and to

get your development moving. As such, avoiding variance requests at this time will ensure that staff can process your application in a timely fashion.

The City is closely monitoring the situation and will be able to respond to critical issues as they arise. We will continue to provide levels of service in accordance with all directives from the Public Health Officer. As direction has been evolving and changing rapidly, levels of service may change in response. Please check our website at www.vernon.ca or call Reception at 250-550-3634 to check for current service levels.

The City of Vernon is committed to maintaining business continuity for as long as possible. Thank you for your patience as we navigate this unprecedented situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victor Cumming". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "V".

Victor Cumming, Mayor