

Memo



Date October 8, 2021

Subject 797 Victoria Road North

During the closed session of its Regular Meeting held on September 27, 2021, City Council considered confidential Closed Staff Report Number 2021-286, entitled "797 Victoria Road North" (the "Report"). The Report outlined the serious public safety concerns and overall vulnerability of the farmhouse located at 797 Victoria Road North (the "Property"),¹ and led to the removal of the building from the Municipal Register of Cultural Heritage Properties to permit its demolition.

The Report was laid before City Council *in camera* due to safety concerns related to two previous suspicious fires that destroyed the other two buildings on the Property. City staff were, at the time, concerned about disclosing the vulnerability of the farmhouse, given its remote and isolated location on the Property. Indeed, unseen from the road and highly combustible, there was a significant risk that, should a fire occur, people could be trapped inside the farmhouse and any attending firefighters' lives would also be at risk.

The Report is being released to the public in accordance with a motion, moved by Councillor Leanne Caron and seconded by Councillor Phil Allt, which was passed by City Council at the end of its Special Meeting held on October 6, 2021 (the "Motion"). The Motion requires that the closed session information be removed from the Report.

City staff continues to have concerns about the safety of the site due to the risk of instability of the farmhouse walls. However, given that the Property has been secured and the majority of combustible materials have been largely removed from the farmhouse, the information contained in the Report is being released to the public in accordance with the Motion.

¹ During its Special Meeting held on October 6, 2021, City Council passed a motion which amended the City's Municipal Register of Cultural Heritage Properties, which had listed the municipal address of the Property as 774 Victoria Road North.