

MOTION

2. Little Saigon

Vancouver City Council, at its meeting on September 20, 2011, referred this matter to the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets meeting on September 22, 2011, in order to hear from speakers. Subsequently, due to time constraints this matter was referred to a future Standing Committee meeting.

MOVED by Councillor Kerry Jang
SECONDED by Councillor Andrea Reimer

WHEREAS

1. Vietnamese communities began arriving in Canada in the mid-1970's as refugees following the end of the war in Vietnam and settled in major urban areas, in particular Vancouver, Montreal, Calgary, and Toronto;
2. The Vietnamese community has become the fifth largest in Vancouver with over 30,000 residents with a significant proportion residing in the Renfrew-Collingwood, Norquay, and Mt. Pleasant neighbourhoods;
3. In Vancouver, many Vietnamese businesses opened throughout Vancouver, especially along Kingsway between Nanaimo and Fraser Street have become a hub of the Vietnamese community across the region by providing a full range of services including food markets, salons, restaurants, physicians, dentists, legal offices, pharmacies, and travel agents that has been dubbed as Vancouver's "Little Saigon" for decades;
4. The Vietnamese community in 2011 have held Vancouver's first Tet annual Lunar New Year parade on Kingsway;
5. The Vietnamese businesses along Kingsway have recently come together to form a Vietnamese Business Association;
6. The major cities in Canada and the United States have officially recognized such areas as "Little Saigon" with street signs, banners, and commemorative plaques;
7. A community process including newspaper polls and petitions within the Vietnamese community and local business demonstrated overwhelming support for naming an area along Kingsway as "Little Saigon".

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT City staff be directed to conduct community consultations, including members of the Vietnamese community, merchants associations, community groups, and local area residents to designate and promote an area along Kingsway as "Little Saigon".