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MOTION ON NOTICE

1. BECAUSE IT'S 2016: Action on Gender Equality

MOVER: Councillor Reimer

SECONDER: Mayor Robertson

WHEREAS

1. Women and girls comprise a majority of residents (51%) in Vancouver but on average have lower incomes, less housing security, more unpaid work, experience far greater rates of poverty and gender based violence, and in general have fewer opportunities than men and boys;
2. The City adopted the Gender Equality Strategy for the City of Vancouver in 2005 which committed the City to take action within its power to challenge gender discrimination and to promote and implement gender equity measures;
3. Over the past decade the City, empowered through the 2005 Gender Equality Strategy, has taken a number of proactive measures to better support women and girls including establishing a practice of appointing an equal number of women to City advisory committees;
4. The national government has the most possibility to impact on gender equity policies, but in the decade since the City adopted the Gender Equality Strategy, Canada has slipped to 20th in the world in the World Economic Forum's gender equity rankings which has had particularly devastating impacts on women in the lowest economic circumstances;
5. The Healthy City Strategy, adopted in 2014, sets out a guiding principle that a "for all" and intersectional lens ensures we pursue initiatives that are both universal for all residents and focused on specific populations most vulnerable to health inequities;
6. The report of the Mayor's Task Force on Mental Health and Addictions, also adopted in 2014, is committed to developing a Strategic Gender Framework for the inclusion of women, girls and gender variant communities that can inform future City efforts.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council formally adopt a policy that the number of women appointed to City advisory committees must be equal or greater than 50%.

- B. THAT Council direct staff to undertake a review of City funding through Social Policy Grants and subsidized housing prior to the 2017 granting cycle to ensure that funding and support enables equitable delivery of services for women and girls, particularly in the Downtown Eastside (DTES).
- C. THAT Council direct staff to work with the Women's Advisory Committee to establish a process to review the 2005 Gender Equality Strategy and update it, with an eye to successful approaches, integrating more recently adopted policy such as that in Healthy City and the Mental Health and Addictions Task Force, and taking into account a change in national and provincial context.

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