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MOTION ON NOTICE

2. Expediting the Official Designation of "Little Italy" in Time for "Italian Day on The Drive" in June 2016

MOVER: Councillor De Genova

SECONDER:

WHEREAS

1. On June 24, 2015, Council unanimously supported a motion calling for the City of Vancouver to formally recognize and designate a portion of Commercial Drive as "Little Italy" in recognition of the city's Italian cultural heritage, specifically the four blocks of Commercial Drive north and south of 1st Avenue;
2. An amendment by Councillor Reimer at the June 24, 2015, Standing Committee of Council on Planning, Transportation and Environment directed staff to conduct the "Little Italy" community consultation in concert with the Grandview-Woodlands plan consultation and to report back to Council on the same Grandview-Woodlands timeline;
3. Members of the Italian Community were disappointed that Council chose to tie official recognition of "Little Italy" to the wider Grandview-Woodlands consultation and planning process due to a concern that this would delay the "Little Italy" process and official recognition would not come in time for "Italian Day on the Drive" in 2016;
4. There was, and continues to be, a strong community expectation that "Little Italy" will be designated in time for this year's "Italian Day on the Drive" event in June 2016;
5. Planning for Italian Day on the Drive is presently well underway, but in the absence of clarity as to when "Little Italy" on Commercial Drive will be officially recognized and designated by the City of Vancouver.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to separate the formal recognition and designation process for a portion of Commercial Drive as "Little Italy" from the Grandview-Woodlands planning process such that official designation of "Little Italy" on Commercial Drive can be achieved in time for "Italian Day on the Drive" in June 2016.

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