

MOTION

11. Addressing Vancouver's Housing Affordability Crisis

At the Regular Council meeting on April 5, 2016, Vancouver City Council referred this matter to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on April 6, 2016, to hear from speakers.

MOVED by Councillor De Genova
SECONDED by Councillor Ball

WHEREAS

1. The Vancouver real estate market has become unaffordable for many people, including individuals, young families and seniors;
2. Many people who want to own a home find they must leave the city of Vancouver to find affordable homes they can purchase within their price range, especially individuals under the age of 35 years who find they simply cannot afford to purchase a home in Vancouver;
3. On June 24, 2015, Vancouver City Council unanimously supported a motion calling for the establishment of an Affordable Home Ownership program in the City of Vancouver, including exploration of new housing options for families and any changes to the Vancouver Charter that may be required to implement an Affordable Home Ownership program and related policies;
4. Changes to the Vancouver Charter will require the advice and consent of the provincial legislature and will entail a detailed process of review that could take many months or years to complete;
5. Addressing the affordability crisis in Vancouver's real estate market requires the urgent involvement and cooperation of all three orders of government - municipal, provincial, and federal;
6. On March 18, 2016, Premier Christy Clark announced various actions being taken by the province to address Vancouver's affordability crisis including an announcement that Finance Minister Michael de Jong and Deputy Premier Rich Coleman will meet with Mayor Robertson to discuss collaborative steps governments can take to improve affordability in Vancouver.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Vancouver City Council direct staff to initiate, without delay, all necessary processes, provincial or otherwise, that may be required to make changes to the Vancouver Charter in support of an Affordable Home Ownership program, in the interest of a timely and expedient resolution of Vancouver's housing affordability crisis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Mayor Robertson write to Finance Minister Michael de Jong and Deputy Premier Rich Coleman on behalf of City Council to express Council's eagerness to work collaboratively with the province to improve affordability in Vancouver as well as Council's desire to seek changes to the Vancouver Charter, on an expedited basis, to address housing affordability by enabling an Affordable Home Ownership program in the City of Vancouver.