

MOTION ON NOTICE

4. Proactive Quarterly Release of Mayor's Office Expenses

MOVER: Councillor Affleck

SECONDER:

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver is committed to open and transparent government, and all members of Council have expressed a commitment to accountability;
2. Expenses incurred by members of Vancouver City Council while conducting business on behalf of the City are released to the public on a quarterly basis through the City's online Open Data Catalogue Dataset, and annually in a formal report to Council;
3. The Vancouver Mayor's office budget expenses are not currently released to the public, either through the City's online Open Data Catalogue Dataset or in a formal report to Council, quarterly or otherwise;
4. The Vancouver Mayor's office budget, which increased by 23.6 percent in 2015 and by a further 2 percent in 2016, includes a non-transparent discretionary fund;
5. Information detailing expenditures from the Mayor's office discretionary fund for 2015 was recently released to the public, but only as the result of a protracted Freedom of Information (FOI) request;
6. Examples of major Canadian cities that exhibit exemplary openness and transparency best practices, such as the proactive public release of Mayor and Councillors' office expenses on a quarterly basis, along with detailed office budget information posted annually, include the cities of Toronto and Calgary.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Vancouver City Council demonstrate a commitment to openness and transparency by directing that all expenses from the Mayor's office budget, including expenses from the Mayor's discretionary fund, and expenses from the corresponding office budget for City Councillors, be released proactively to the public on a quarterly basis through the City's online Open Data Catalogue Dataset, including copies of all contractor and supplier invoices (consistent with appropriate privacy protection legislation), beginning with expenses for the current 2016 Budget year.
- B. THAT all future City of Vancouver Budgets include line item details for the annual Mayor's office budget as well as corresponding line item details for the annual Councillors' office budget.