

# B.1

## MOTION ON NOTICE

### 1. Increasing the Supply of Affordable Townhouses and Row Houses in the City of Vancouver

MOVER: Councillor De Genova

SECONDER: Councillor Ball

#### WHEREAS

1. At the October 3, 2012, meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on Planning, Transportation and Environment, Council directed staff to implement an action plan outlined in an Administrative Report dated September 25, 2012, entitled "Final Report from the Mayor's Task Force on Housing Affordability";
2. Row houses, stacked townhouses, and other housing options such as laneway housing that address the needs of families to access green space at home and live in complete neighborhoods were identified as a priority by the Mayor's Task Force on Housing Affordability in 2012 (see: "Bold Ideas Towards an Affordable City");
3. 2016 marks the halfway point of the City's ten year Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2012-2021;
4. Since 2011, housing affordability challenges have become more prevalent and acute in Vancouver and it has become harder than ever for Vancouver residents to find and secure affordable housing;
5. Vancouverites are increasingly faced with difficult choices about whether they can afford to stay in the city of Vancouver, and many people who want to own a home find they must leave the city to find homes they can afford to purchase, especially individuals under the age of 35 years and those with young families;
6. Many Metro Vancouver municipalities have made bold efforts to increase their community's supply of townhouses and row houses as a way to provide an affordable housing option for families;
7. There is a significant shortage of townhouses and row houses in the City of Vancouver, a housing form that is well-suited to the needs of young families;
8. Owning a home continues to be an important financial and personal aspiration for most Vancouverites, especially for families with children who are concerned with long term housing security while their children are in school;

9. Attracting and retaining families is vitally important to maintaining Vancouver as a healthy, diverse, and economically vibrant city.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to investigate and define specific, bold strategies to increase the supply of affordable townhouses and row houses in the City of Vancouver, and report back to Council with recommendations for an Affordable Townhouse and Row House Action Plan by the end of September 2016;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the specific, bold strategies to increase the supply of affordable townhouses and row houses in the City of Vancouver should have a specific focus on meeting the needs of young families, a population essential to maintaining Vancouver as a healthy, diverse, and economically vibrant city.

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