

MOTION ON NOTICE

6. Amendments to the Empty Homes Tax By-law: Exemptions for Property Owners Who Are Not the Intended Targets of this Tax

MOVER: Councillor De Genova

SECONDER: Councillor Ball

WHEREAS

1. On November 16, 2016, "Encouraging Homes for Renters: Recommended Approach for Taxing Empty Homes" was approved by the majority of Council. Council members voting in favour of the recommendations included Mayor Robertson, Councillor Carr, Councillor Deal, Councillor Jang, Councillor Meggs, Councillor Louie and Councillor Reimer;
2. An approved amendment to the motion stated "THAT staff do further analysis with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and other organizations as needed to assess the number of homes in the city that are subject to the 2017 Empty Homes tax, including those frequented for family purposes and report back to Council in advance of the 2018 Empty Homes Tax Period";
3. The Empty Homes Tax has been applied to Vacant Land, where a home has never existed. Vacant land does not encourage homes for renters;
4. Some of the people who have contacted Council with their concerns about the Empty Homes Tax are individuals and professionals who stay in their homes one to three weeks of the month for purposes of work and family. Although these property owners frequent the property, they are still subjected to the 2018 Empty Homes Tax.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to re-evaluate the Empty Homes Tax and provide exemptions for individuals and/or families whom frequent their homes for family or work purposes and report back to Council within 30 days.
- B. THAT staff report back to Council with metrics as to how many homes previously subjected to the Empty Homes Tax have been rented.
- C. THAT staff provide Council with a complete summary of the resources the City of Vancouver has invested in the Empty Homes Tax, including the number of staff hours dedicated to the program and any new staff hired.
- D. THAT staff consider exemptions to the tax for seniors and persons with disabilities who are unable serve as a landlord.

* * * * *