

MOTION ON NOTICE

Submitted by Councillor Roberts for consideration at the Regular Council meeting on June 14, 2005.

1. Leaves of Absence - Council Members

MOVER: Councillor Roberts

SECONDER:

WHEREAS

Under the Vancouver Charter a person elected to Council is disqualified from office if the member is absent for a period of 60 consecutive days or 4 consecutive regularly scheduled Council meetings, whichever is longer, unless the absence is because of illness or injury or is with the leave of Council.

Most frequently, Members of Council request a leave of absence for a single meeting, even though this is not required under the Charter. It is also the practice of Council to routinely approve these leaves without any knowledge of the specifics other than "civic business" or infrequently "personal business".

Sometimes concern arises about whether or not there will be sufficient attendance for quorum at a scheduled meeting, if it is obvious that a number of members are seeking leave. Because of the randomness of requests for leave during a meeting when a request may be made, it is difficult for staff to be prepared to advise Council of the anticipated attendance for any particular meeting.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

1. THAT Council establish a practice that Members will notify the City Clerk at least 24 hours before of their intent to bring a request to a Council Meeting to approve a leave of absence.
2. THAT the request for a leave of absence should include the specific meeting or meetings and, if the reason is for civic business, the specific civic business that requires the absence.
3. THAT when a request for a leave of absence is considered, the City Clerk should advise Council of the status of anticipated attendance for the scheduled meeting.
4. THAT Council, except for emergencies or unanticipated situations, will not consider a request for a leave of absence that has not been given the notice as required.
5. THAT Council request the City Clerk to report on a proposed definition for "civic business", e.g. GVRD, GVTA, etc.

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