



REPORT TO COUNCIL
STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
ON CITY SERVICES AND BUDGETS

OCTOBER 6, 2005

A Regular Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on City Services and Budgets was held on Thursday, October 6, 2005, at 9:30 a.m., in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT: Councillor Tim Louis, Chair
*Mayor Larry Campbell
Councillor Fred Bass
Councillor David Cadman
Councillor Jim Green
Councillor Peter Ladner
Councillor Anne Roberts
*Councillor Tim Stevenson
*Councillor Sam Sullivan
Councillor Ellen Woodsworth, Vice-Chair

ABSENT: Councillor Raymond Louie (Leave of Absence)

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Judy Rogers, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Tina Hildebrandt, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets meeting of September 15, 2005, were adopted.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Nuisance and Dangerous Building at 1918 East 37th Avenue (File 2701-1)

The Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated September 16, 2005, in which the City Building Inspector recommended Council declare the building at 1918 East 37th Avenue a nuisance and dangerous to public safety and order the building to be demolished and a chain-link fence be provided around the site to prevent dumping. It was also recommended that the City Building Inspector and/or his designate be authorized to have the work done or request that the Director of Legal Services seek injunctive relief to have the work done if the situation is warranted. It was further recommended a 336D Notice be filed against the Certificate of Title to the property in order to warn prospective purchasers of by-law violations and the order of Council. The General Manager of Community Services recommended approval.

Pattie Hayes, By-law Enforcement Co-ordinator, was available to respond to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Roberts

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council declare that the building at 1918 East 37th Avenue, Lot 32, Block A, Plan 2478, District lot 704, PID 005-157-897 is a nuisance and dangerous to public safety pursuant to Section 324A of the Vancouver Charter.
- B. THAT Council approve the Resolution attached to the Administrative Report dated September 16, 2005, entitled "Nuisance and Dangerous Building at 1918 East 37th Avenue" and order the property owners to pull down and demolish the building and to provide a chain-link fence around the perimeter of the property within 30 days of a copy of the Resolution being served pursuant to Section 324A of the Vancouver Charter.
- C. THAT in the event that the owners fail to comply with this order of Council, Council further orders and hereby authorizes the City Building Inspector, in his discretion, to carry out the work outlined in paragraph (B) above pursuant to Section 324A(2) of the Vancouver Charter.
- D. THAT in the event of the failure of the owners to allow the City Building Inspector and/or his designate access to the site to carry out the work as outlined in paragraph (B) above, the Director of Legal Services is hereby authorized, in her discretion, to commence a legal action or proceeding in relation to the building located at 1918 East 37th Avenue, and may, in her discretion, seek injunctive relief in that action or proceeding in order to bring the building and site into compliance with the City By-laws and Council's resolution.
- E. THAT the City Clerk be directed to file a 336D Notice against the Certificate of Title to the property at 1918 East 37th Avenue, in order to warn prospective purchasers that there are violations of the Vancouver Building By-law related to this property and that there is an order of Council against the property.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Councillors Stevenson, Sullivan and the Mayor absent for the vote.)

2. 568 East 51st Avenue - Warning to Prospective Purchasers (File 2701-1)

The Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated September 2, 2005, in which the City Building Inspector sought Council's approval to file a 336D Notice against the title to the property at 568 East 51st Avenue to warn prospective purchasers of by-law violations and to seek injunctive relief if necessary. The General Manager of Community Services recommended approval

Pattie Hayes, By-law Enforcement Co-ordinator, was available to respond to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Roberts
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT the City Clerk be directed to file a 336D Notice against the title to the property at 568 East 51st Avenue, Lot O Block 2, District Lot 653, Plan 19778, PID 007-037-163 in order to warn prospective purchasers that there are contraventions of the Zoning and Development and Vancouver Building By-laws related to this building.
- B. THAT the Director of Legal Services is hereby authorized, in her discretion, to commence a legal action or proceeding in relation to the premises located at 568 East 51st Avenue, Lot O, Block 2, District Lot 653, Plan 19778, PID 007-037-163 and may, in her discretion, seek injunctive relief in that action or proceeding, in order to bring this building into compliance with City By-laws.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillors Stevenson, Sullivan and the Mayor absent for the vote.)

3. 2790 East 49th Avenue - Warning to Prospective Purchasers (File 2701-1)

The Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated September 2, 2005, in which the City Building Inspector sought Council's approval to file a 336D Notice against the title to the property at 2790 East 49th Avenue to warn prospective purchasers of by-law violations and potential mould contamination. The General Manager of Community Services recommended approval.

Pattie Hayes, By-law Enforcement Co-ordinator, was available to respond to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Roberts
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT the City Clerk be directed to file a 336D Notice against the title to the property at 2790 East 49th Avenue, Lot 2, Block 2, SW Qtr of District Lot 337, Plan 8452 PID 010-055-541 in order to warn prospective purchasers that this building has been used as an illegal marijuana grow operation on two occasions and there are contraventions of the Vancouver Building and Electrical By-laws related to this unapproved use.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillors Stevenson, Sullivan and the Mayor absent for the vote.)

4. 8041 Columbia Street - Warning to Prospective Purchasers (File 2701-1)

The Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated September 2, 2005, in which the City Building Inspector sought Council's approval to file a 336D Notice against the title to the property at 8041 Columbia Street to warn prospective purchasers of by-law violations and potential mould contamination. The General Manager of Community Services recommended approval.

Peter Sweeney, Manager - Building Inspection, provided an overview of the report and responded to a question related to remediation.

Steven Chong, owner, spoke in opposition to staff's recommendation. He provided details of the costs involved with repairs as well as license and inspection fees in order to return the building to its original condition, adding that he has paid a heavy cost and has suffered from the wrong doing of the tenants. He advised that all required specifications by the City of Vancouver to comply with the plumbing, electrical, building and property use by-laws were completed with all inspections passed and the re-occupancy permit issued. He added that this building is now safe to occupy. Mr. Chong also advised that the 336D Notice is not required because the Greater Vancouver Real Estate Board has a residential property disclosure statement which requires the owner of a house to answer questions related to drug growing operations and noted that prospective purchasers can obtain this through a realtor.

Staff responded to questions concerning the city's policies in this regard, testing standards for mould contamination, related costs and whether all remediation should be completed on a building prior to a warning notice being filed.

MOVED by Councillor Woodsworth
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT the City Clerk be directed to file a 336D Notice against the title to the property at 8041 Columbia Street, Lot 7 exp the W 10Ft now lane, Block 5, District Lot 322 and 323, Plan 1765, PID 014-338-483 in order to warn prospective purchasers that this building has been used as an illegal marijuana grow operation on two occasions and there are contraventions of the Vancouver Building and Electrical By-laws related to this unapproved use.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillor Sullivan and the Mayor absent for the vote.)

5. 1495 Dogwood Avenue - Warning to Prospective Purchasers (File 2701-1)

The Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated September 2, 2005, in which the City Building Inspector sought Council's approval to file a 336D Notice against the title to the property at 1495 Dogwood Avenue to warn prospective purchasers of by-law violations and potential mould contamination. The General Manager of Community Services recommended approval.

Pattie Hayes, By-law Enforcement Co-ordinator, was available to respond to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Roberts
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT the City Clerk be directed to file a 336D Notice against the title to the property at 1495 Dogwood Avenue, Lot 3 of 16, Block 12, District Lot 526, Plan 4268, PID 003-119-556 in order to warn prospective purchasers that this building has been used as an illegal marijuana grow operation on two occasions and there are contraventions of the Vancouver Building and Electrical By-laws related to this unapproved use.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillors Stevenson, Sullivan and the Mayor absent for the vote.)

6. 2985 East 8th Avenue - Warning to Prospective Purchasers (File 2701-1)

The Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated June 21, 2005, in which the City Building Inspector sought Council's approval to file a 336D Notice against the title to the property at 2985 East 8th Avenue to warn prospective purchasers of by-law violations and potential mould contamination. The General Manager of Community Services recommended approval.

Pattie Hayes, By-law Enforcement Co-ordinator, was available to respond to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Roberts
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT the City Clerk be directed to file a 336D Notice against the title to the property at 2985 East 8th Avenue, Lot G, Block 17 N HIF of Section 36 THSL, Plan 7666 PID 010-370-684 in order to warn prospective purchasers that this building has been used as an illegal marijuana grow operation on two occasions and there are contraventions of the Vancouver Building and Electrical By-laws related to this unapproved use.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillors Stevenson, Sullivan and the Mayor absent for the vote.)

7. Year 2006 Vehicles for Hire License Fee Amendments and New Taxicab and Dual Taxicab License Fee (File 2801)

The Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated September 13, 2005, in which the Chief License Inspector in consultation with the Director of Finance updated the Vehicles for Hire license fees for 2006 and presented Council with three options for a new taxicab and dual taxicab license fee. The report also discussed the possibility of the City subsidizing the cost of additional training for taxi drivers. The General Managers of Corporate and Community Services recommended approval of A, B, C, D and G and submitted E and F as alternate choices should Council choose not to support D. The City Manager noted that the Taxi Industry provides a critical transportation choice for users and increasing fuel costs are creating pressures on operators. She, therefore, recommended approval of A, B, C, D and G.

Alena Straka, Policy Analyst - License Office, reviewed the report and explained the rationale for staff's recommendations.

The following spoke in opposition to the proposed increase to the taxicab license fees and addressed other issues, including costs related to driver training:

Tony Bhullar, Executive Director, Vancouver Taxi Association
John Palis, General Manager, Yellow Cab
Carolyn Bauer, General Manager, MacLure's Cabs
Ramendra Sahay, General Manager, Black Top Cabs

Comments provided by the foregoing speakers included the following:

- given the increased costs facing taxi drivers, the foremost being fuel charges, staff would sadly recommend a fee increase of any kind given that we do not know where the ceiling is on fuel prices - economists predict fuel prices could go higher; given the current climate, it is inappropriate to recommend any fee increase whatsoever;
- there should be grand parenting requirements for those who have been driving taxis for many years, as they should not need retesting; and
- a new immigrant coming into our country has to go through a licensing prospect Class 4 which takes up to 3 years to get, then they go into Taxi Host Level 1 which is a \$350 buy in, then they have to go into Taxi Host Level 2 with total costs close to \$1,000 just to drive a taxi; there is no reason for drivers to have to endure Taxi Host Level 2 training.

Ms. Straka, together with Paul Teichroeb, Chief License Inspector, responded to questions concerning regulations related to driver training, the proposed fee increases, whether the taxi associations have considered acquiring low consumption vehicles in order to save on fuel costs and the issues involved with increasing taxi fares in order to generate revenue.

MOVED by Councillor Woodsworth
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT with the exception of dual taxicabs and taxicabs, the license fees for all Vehicles for Hire, contained in Schedule "A" of By-law No. 6066, be increased by approximately 2.75 percent (when rounded) for Year 2006.
- B. THAT the license transfer fee be increased from \$103 to \$106 for Year 2006.
- C. THAT the fee for bicycle courier testing be increased from \$27 to \$28 for Year 2006.
- D. THAT the license fee for dual taxicabs and taxicabs be increased from \$321 to \$331, representing an approximate 2.75 percent (when rounded) rise for Year 2006.

- E. THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to prepare the necessary By-law amendments to the Vehicles for Hire By-law to implement the revised Fee Schedule and other proposed changes, to be effective January 1, 2006.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

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CITY OF VANCOUVER

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON
CITY SERVICES AND BUDGETS

OCTOBER 6, 2005

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Thursday, October 6, 2005, at 11:27 a.m., in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, following the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets meeting, to consider the recommendations and actions of the Committee.

PRESENT: Mayor Larry Campbell
Councillor Fred Bass
Councillor David Cadman
Councillor Jim Green
Councillor Peter Ladner
Councillor Tim Louis
Councillor Anne Roberts
Councillor Tim Stevenson
Councillor Sam Sullivan
Councillor Ellen Woodsworth

ABSENT: Councillor Raymond Louie (Leave of Absence)

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Judy Rogers, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Tina Hildebrandt, Meeting Coordinator

"IN CAMERA" MEETING

MOVED by Councillor Cadman
SECONDED by Councillor Woodsworth

THAT Council will go into a meeting later this day which is closed to the public, pursuant to Section 165.2(1) of the *Vancouver Charter*, to discuss matters related to paragraph(s):

- (f) law enforcement, if the Council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the conduct of an investigation under or enforcement of an enactment;
- (l) a matter that, under another enactment, is such that the public may be excluded from the meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Cadman
SECONDED by Councillor Woodsworth

THAT this Council resolve itself into Committee of the Whole, Mayor Campbell in the Chair.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. Woodward's - 101 West Hastings Street - Non-Profit Childcare Facility Operator and Non-Profit Tenant Selection Processes

MOVED by Councillor Green

- A. THAT Council approve the process for selecting a non-profit childcare facility operator for the Woodward's project, as outlined in APPENDIX A of the Administrative Report dated September 16, 2005, entitled "Woodward's - 101 West Hastings Street - Non-Profit Childcare Facility Operator and Non-Profit Tenant Selection Processes"; and

FURTHER THAT Council approve the creation of a "Childcare Operator Selection Advisory Panel", comprised of representatives from the Woodward's Community Advisory Committee and from the Joint Childcare Council, to review applications from non-profit childcare operators and to recommend to Council an applicant which best meets the City's guidelines and evaluation criteria.

- B. THAT Council approve the process for selecting non-profit tenants for inclusion in the City-owned parcel of the Woodward's project, as outlined in APPENDIX B of the Administrative Report dated September 16, 2005, entitled "Woodward's - 101 West Hastings Street - Non-Profit Childcare Facility Operator and Non-Profit Tenant Selection Processes"; and

FURTHER THAT Council approve the creation of a Non-Profit Tenant Selection Advisory Panel, comprised of representatives from the Woodward's Community Advisory Committee and the cultural, social service, and health fields, to review the applications and to recommend to Council those applicants which best meet the City's guidelines and evaluation criteria.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Councillor Sullivan

THAT Council direct staff to allocate up to 10,000 square feet of space, or such other amount as determined by Council, in the City Parcel for market rent paying tenants and that the City administer such space for profitable uses.

LOST

(Councillors Bass, Cadman, Green, Louis, Roberts, Stevenson, Woodsworth and the Mayor opposed.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets October 6, 2005

Council considered the report containing the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets. Its items of business included:

1. Nuisance and Dangerous Building at 1918 East 37th Avenue
2. 568 East 51st Avenue - Warning to Prospective Purchasers
3. 2790 East 49th Avenue - Warning to Prospective Purchasers
4. 8041 Columbia Street - Warning to Prospective Purchasers
5. 1495 Dogwood Avenue - Warning to Prospective Purchasers
6. 2985 East 8th Avenue - Warning to Prospective Purchasers
7. Year 2006 Vehicles for Hire License Fee Amendments and New Taxicab and Dual Taxicab License Fee

Items 1 - 7

MOVED by Councillor Cadman

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets at its meeting of Thursday, October 6, 2005, as contained in Items 1 - 7, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Cadman

THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPT REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Bass
SECONDED by Councillor Cadman

THAT the report of the Committee of the Whole be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BY-LAWS

MOVED by Councillor Woodsworth
SECONDED by Councillor Roberts

THAT Council enact the by-law listed on the Agenda for this meeting as number 1 and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign and seal the enacted by-law.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. 2006 - 2008 Capital Plan Authorization of Questions By-law (By-law No. 9120)

MOTIONS

A. Administrative Motions

None

B. Motions on Notice

1. Surtax on Imported Bicycles (File 5553)

MOVED by Councillor Ladner
SECONDED by Councillor Green

THAT WHEREAS:

1. the Canadian International Trade Tribunal is recommending that the Canadian government impose a 30% surtax on imported bicycles with a wheel size of 15" or greater with a F.O.B. factory price of \$225 or less, to protect jobs for two bicycle assembly companies in Quebec;
2. And whereas this surtax is on top of existing tariffs of 8.5-13% on all imported bicycles, as well as anti-dumping duties;
3. And whereas this surtax is strongly opposed by all but two Canadian cycle manufacturers and by nearly 1,000 independent specialty retail bicycle stores across Canada;

4. And whereas these dealers estimate that this tax would add an estimated minimum of \$50 to the price of all imported bicycles selling for less than \$600, making a first bicycle purchase less affordable;
5. And whereas cycling is:
 - a transportation priority for the City of Vancouver,
 - a key factor in reducing youth obesity,
 - essential for Vancouver meeting its Kyoto GHG targets; and
 - a vital element of a healthy city.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Vancouver City Council send a letter to the Federal Ministers of Environment, Health, International Trade, Sport, Finance, Transport, Infrastructure, Public Health and Families strongly urging them not to impose this tax.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Community Tourism Program (File 6008)

MOVED by Councillor Stevenson

SECONDED by Councillor Woodsworth

WHEREAS:

1. The Province of British Columbia has established a Community Tourism Program with funding allocated to the municipalities to promote and encourage tourism in the Province;
2. Direct funding grants will be provided to the municipalities and the City of Vancouver's allocation for the first phase of the Program amounts to \$363,884.54;
3. City staff have been in contact with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) staff who are administering the funds on behalf of the Province in order to gain information on the application criteria;
4. City staff are currently reviewing opportunities for use of the funding particularly related to events promoting Vancouver as the Host City of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games; and
5. Tourism Vancouver has contacted the City to explore further opportunities to promote tourism through the funding of regional initiatives.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That City staff work with Tourism Vancouver to explore opportunities and to report back on how to utilize the funds made available by the Province through the UBCM Community Tourism Program.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Sustainability and Inclusivity of the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games (File 4209)

MOVED by Councillor Green
SECONDED by Councillor Cadman

WHEREAS ensuring that the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games will be environmentally, economically and socially sustainable and inclusive was one of the key commitments made during the Bid process;

AND WHEREAS this commitment applied to the federal government, province and City of Vancouver;

AND WHEREAS during the Bid process, the Impact of the Olympics on Community Coalition developed 22 recommendations on the issues that require the greatest attention in developing and hosting an inclusive and sustainable Games, many of which were incorporated in the "2010 Winter Games Inner-City Inclusive Commitment Statement";

AND WHEREAS these recommendations focus on housing, civil liberties, the environment, community economic development, including local hiring and procurement, transportation and security, safety and sovereignty;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Vancouver request that the federal and provincial governments review legislation, regulations, funding and policies to ensure that the commitments made as part of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Bid are actualized. This review should be specific to, but not limited to: the Residential Tenancy Act (RTA) and local hiring and procurement, which are not possible without proper funding, training and placement.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Rental Agreements (File 1552)

MOVED by Councillor Green
SECONDED by Councillor Woodsworth

WHEREAS certain establishments have entered into rental agreements with the City of Vancouver to ensure security for low income residents.

WHEREAS the City of Vancouver would like to enter into more agreements that would result in stable rents for residents over extended periods of time.

AND WHEREAS the value of the establishments are lessened once the agreements have been signed with the City.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Vancouver staff meet with the BC Assessment Authority about establishments that have rental agreements with the City and how the agreements can be recognized when calculating assessments.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

1. Support for the Canada Council's Request for Funding (File 1260)

MOVED by Councillor Green

SECONDED by Councillor Woodsworth

1. THAT the Canada Council's request for an additional \$150 million from the Federal Government in its 50th anniversary year be supported by the City of Vancouver.
2. THAT the Mayor write to the Prime Minister and all Vancouver Members of Parliament indicating the City of Vancouver's support for an additional \$150 million from the Federal Government for the Canada Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ENQUIRIES AND OTHER MATTERS

1. Civic Recognition (File 1051)

Councillor Woodsworth presented Council with two awards she accepted on behalf of the City of Vancouver during the recent Union of British Columbia Municipalities convention:

1. Honourable Mention award for the Central Valley Greenway; and
2. Community Climate Change Action Plan.

2. Burrard Bridge Lane Closure (File 5752-3)

Councillor Green requested that when staff report back on impacts related to the lane closure on Burrard Bridge, they also include impacts related to the RAV construction now underway.

3. Traffic Light: East 57th and Ross Street (File 5761)

Councillor Green requested that staff report back on the possibility of installing a traffic signal at East 57th Avenue and Ross Street.

The Council adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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