



REPORT TO COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON CITY SERVICES AND BUDGETS

NOVEMBER 3, 2005

A Regular Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on City Services and Budgets was held on Thursday, November 3, 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 Raymond Louie
- *Councillor Anne Roberts
- Councillor Tim Stevenson
- Councillor Sam Sullivan
- Councillor Ellen Woodsworth, Vice Chair

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Judy Rogers, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Denise Salmon, 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 October 6, 2005, were adopted.

RECOMMENDATION

1. **2006 Business License Fees: Fees for Live-Aboard Boats (File 4655/2640)**

The Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated September 29, 2005, in which the General Manager of Corporate Services and Director of Finance sought Council approval for an increase in the fees charged under the License By-law to marina operators that host live-aboard boats at their marinas. The City Manager recommended approval.

Liz Jones, Financial Analyst, Corporate Services Group, was present to respond to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Louie
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT the business license fees charged to marina operators who host live-aboard boats be increased by 2.99% for 2006 reflecting the increase in residential property taxes in 2005; and

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward the appropriate amendments to the Licence Bylaw.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillor Roberts and the Mayor absent for the vote)

2. Options for Reducing Policing Costs of Special Events and Filming (File 4201)

The Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated September 12, 2005, in which the Chief Constable recommended options to reduce Police costs for special events and filming. The City Manager recommended approval, with note she believes that policing costs can be reduced by reducing the reliance on sworn police officers at overtime rates.

Constable Mike Hlaji, Inspector Steve Sweeney, and Sergeant Rick Smitas, Vancouver Police Department, responded to questions from Council related to costs associated with using sworn officers at filming events vs. Traffic Authority, and the rationale for charging event organizers for costs related only to the immediate area of the events.

The following spoke in general support of staff's recommendations:

Brad Van Arragon, VP Production, Brightlight Pictures Inc.
Don Cott, VP, Canadian Affiliates, Alliance of Motion Picture & Television Producers
Gordon Hardwick, Manager of Community Affairs, British Columbia Film Commission

Comments included:

- the need to evaluate costs and functions to ensure Vancouver remains competitive in the film market;
- film industry is no longer a special event, but a billion dollar industry and should not be in the same category as special events re costs;
- there is a need for a set policing rate for the film industry, perhaps utilizing off-duty or retired officers;
- policing costs is an item that requires examination, as rates are higher than in many other jurisdictions; and
- report recommendations move in right direction, but next step is to have the FEST Committee establish when sworn police officers should be used.

MOVED by Councillor Green

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT the budget for extra policing costs associated with major events be dealt with during the annual budget process and subject to Council approval of certain events as civic events and the establishment of appropriate budgets to cover City costs for these events.
- B. THAT Council reaffirm that the process for event approval is through the FEST Committee; and

FURTHER THAT the committee monitor events and make recommendations to Council if there are concerns about annual events that might warrant significant changes.
- C. THAT police charge-out rates be reviewed by Finance in conjunction with Police and adjusted as required to reflect the true cost of deploying police to cost recoverable events.
- D. THAT Council direct Police and Engineering staff to develop protocols for the use of civilian traffic control personnel at filming locations, and for special events, as described in the Administrative Report dated September 12, 2005, entitled "Options for Reducing Policing Costs of Special Events and Filming".
- E. THAT Council confirm that City costs to be charged to event organizers should relate only to the immediate area of the event.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Mayor absent for the vote)

3. Draft Plan - Preventing Harm from Psychoactive Substance Use (File 4113)

Vancouver City Council, at its meeting on November 1, 2005, received requests to speak on this matter and agreed to refer consideration to the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets meeting in order to hear from speakers.

Accordingly, the Committee had before it a Policy Report dated October 25, 2005, in which the Drug Policy Coordinator sought Council approval of the revised Plan *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use*, which outlines a number of areas for action at all levels of government and within the community with recommendations across five strategic priority areas:

- Risk and Protection Across the Life Course
- Community Centred Prevention
- Addressing Impacts on the Community

- Legislative and Public Policy Change
- Regulated Markets and Market Intervention

Also submitted for consideration was deferral of several matters to the 2006 Budget Process. The City Manager recommended approval of recommendations A through H and put forward I for consideration.

Donald MacPherson, Drug Policy Coordinator, provided Council with an overview of his report, responded to questions related to resources currently in place to address methamphetamine related issues, explained the decision to offer syringe disposal to only the Downtown Eastside at this time and noted the need to examine all psychoactive substances, rather than focus on methamphetamine. Mr. MacPherson and Jacquie Forbes-Roberts, General Manager of Community Services, also provided details of work underway and resources to help drug users with housing.

The following spoke in general support of staff's recommendations:

Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson, Unitarian Church of Vancouver
Kirk Tousaw, BC Marijuana Party
Don Briere
Jerry O'Donnell, Renfrew/Collingwood Alcohol and Drug Committee

Comments included:

- the war on drugs has failed, now is the time for a radical change in drug policy;
- psychoactive substance use should not be a crime, it is a disease and health issue which requires a coordinated, well informed and funded approach;
- the Unitarian Church applauds the City's leadership role in the Four Pillars approach;
- the Faith communities should be looked on as strong potential allies;
- commendation for the visionary document; urge Council to adopt Plan in its entirety;
- with respect to cannabis, enforcement is the source of harm to our society; prevention of harm is a positive step, but urge Council to be creative with respect to cannabis;
- the war on drugs is harming our society, by ending prohibition the number of incarcerated persons, and cost to society would be much less;
- treatment programs are needed;
- those who receive intervention need to be involved; and
- key recommendation is the annual prevention summit; other crucial points are the health promotion focus and the recommended youth position.

A member of Council suggested the need to approve funding now for implementation of a public education campaign, rather than defer decision on this item until the 2006 Budget Process. The City Manager advised, in the absence of committed funds from the Province and other funding, deferral to the 2006 Budget Process would be a prudent step to take.

MOVED by Councillor Woodsworth
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve the revised Plan *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use* (Appendix A) as contained in the Policy Report dated October 25, 2005.
- B. THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Council write to, and call for a meeting with the Premier, Province of British Columbia urging the Provincial Government to explore funding options for the creation of a Municipal Prevention Institute fund that would support municipalities and increase municipal capacity to engage in partnerships with the addictions research community, local health authorities, prevention organizations and community partners in addressing problematic drug use AND that the Premier convene municipal leaders from across the province, the addiction research community and local health authorities to explore a municipal/provincial partnership that focuses on the development and implementation of sustainable and evidence based prevention initiatives at the local and provincial level (Recommendation 1, *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use*).
- C. THAT the Mayor on behalf of Council write to, and call for a meeting with the Premier, Province of British Columbia and the appropriate Ministers urging the Province to dedicate significant funds towards the development of social marketing campaigns for tobacco, alcohol, cannabis, methamphetamines, pharmaceuticals and other drugs that seek to influence attitudes and norms surrounding substance use, are appropriately targeted based on best evidence and provide accurate information on the relative harm potential from the use of each substance (Recommendation 8, *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use*) and provide funding to enhance the capacity of organizations that currently monitor the sale and use of psychoactive substances in British Columbia and related health, social and environmental harm. (Recommendation 3, *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use*).
- D. THAT the Mayor on behalf of Council write to, and call for a meeting with the Prime Minister, Government of Canada and the appropriate Ministers urging the Federal Government to initiate a process of reviewing Canada's legislative, regulatory and policy frameworks governing illegal drugs with regard to their effectiveness in preventing and reducing harm from problematic drug use and in enabling municipalities to better address the harm from the sale and use of these substances at the local level AND establish a process with broad participation to consider regulatory alternatives to the current policy of prohibition for currently illegal drugs. (Recommendation 24, *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance use*).
- E. THAT the Mayor on behalf of Council write to, and call for a meeting with the Prime Minister, Government of Canada and the appropriate Ministers urging the

Federal Government to consider the creation of a legal regulatory framework for cannabis that will enable municipalities and local health regions to develop comprehensive cannabis strategies that: promote public health objectives, include appropriate regulatory controls for cannabis related products, support the development of public education approaches to cannabis use and minimize the involvement of organized crime in the cannabis market. (Recommendation 23 - *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use*).

- F. THAT the Mayor on behalf of Council write to, and call for a meeting with the Premier, Province of British Columbia and the appropriate ministers urging them, in light of the recent expansion of access to alcohol, to implement in full the recommendations in the Provincial Health Officers report of May 2002: A Public Health Approach to Alcohol Policy as part of an overall alcohol strategy. (Recommendation 26 - *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use*).
- G. THAT Council defer discussion and decision on proposed tobacco retail restrictions to the report from the Regional Director of Health Protection, Vancouver Coastal Health in early 2006. (Recommendation 25 - *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use*).
- H. THAT the Drug Policy Coordinator be requested to report back in one year on the progress on further development and implementation of the recommendations in the Prevention Plan.
- I. THAT Council defer the following considerations to the 2006 Budget Process and request staff to report back on the full financial implications on each of these considerations, and refer same to UBCM and FCM for information:
 - i) THAT Council approve funding of \$30,000 towards the first annual prevention summit to be held in spring of 2006 (Recommendation 15, *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use*) and to support the establishment of the Vancouver Prevention Task Force, (Recommendation 2, *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use*) and that decision on this recommendation be deferred to the 2006 budget process.
 - ii) THAT Council approve funding of \$20,000 contingent on matching funds from senior governments or other sources towards the implementation of a Safer Bars Pilot Program in 30 licensed premises in Vancouver and that decision on this recommendation be deferred to the 2006 budget process. (Recommendation 20, *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use*).
 - iii) THAT Council ask staff to facilitate and identify a funding source for the fabrication and installation of 50 syringe disposal boxes to be placed in high need areas in the downtown core and the Downtown Eastside as

phase one of the comprehensive syringe management plan AND that staff report back on the results of the syringe management plan phase one implementation. (Recommendation 22, *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use*).

- iv) THAT Council support the development of a youth engagement strategy in the implementation of the prevention plan in close consultation with Vancouver Coastal Health, the Vancouver School Board, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, Health Canada, the Centre for Excellence in youth Engagement, the Ministry of Children and Family Development and youth organizations across the city decision on funding for the City portion of this work to be deferred to the 2006 budget process. (Recommendation 18, *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use*).
- v) THAT Council instruct staff to report back on the feasibility and cost implications to the City and Vancouver Agreement partners of the Four Pillars Job Literacy and Supported Employment Pilot Project in the context of the 2006 budget process. (Recommendation 11, *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use*).

- J. THAT Council approve \$50,000 from Contingency Reserve to support the implementation of a public education campaign, including holding a public forum on methamphetamine as part of the overall strategy (recommendation 10, *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use*) based on best evidence to deepen awareness of the harm from drug use in the community in partnership with the Vancouver Public Library, Centre for Addiction Research of BC and Vancouver Coastal Health.

Amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Stevenson

THAT J above be renumbered as subsection i) of I, and amended by striking out the words: *from Contingency Reserve and including holding a public forum on methamphetamine of part of the overall strategy*, and inserting at paragraph end the words: *and that decision on this recommendation be deferred to the 2006 budget process*, to read as follows:

- I. THAT Council defer the following considerations to the 2006 Budget Process and request staff to report back on the full financial implications on each of these considerations, and refer same to UBCM and FCM for information:
 - i) THAT Council approve \$50,000 to support the implementation of a public education campaign (recommendation 10, *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use*) based on best evidence

to deepen awareness of the harm from drug use in the community in partnership with the Vancouver Public Library, Centre for Addiction Research of BC and Vancouver Coastal Health and that decision on this recommendation be deferred to the 2006 budget process.

CARRIED

(Councillors Cadman, Louis, Roberts, and Woodsworth opposed.)
(Mayor absent for the vote)

MOTION AS AMENDED

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve the revised Plan *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use* (Appendix A) as contained in the Policy Report dated October 25, 2005.
- B. THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Council write to, and call for a meeting with the Premier, Province of British Columbia urging the Provincial Government to explore funding options for the creation of a Municipal Prevention Institute fund that would support municipalities and increase municipal capacity to engage in partnerships with the addictions research community, local health authorities, prevention organizations and community partners in addressing problematic drug use AND that the Premier convene municipal leaders from across the province, the addiction research community and local health authorities to explore a municipal/provincial partnership that focuses on the development and implementation of sustainable and evidence based prevention initiatives at the local and provincial level (Recommendation 1, *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use*).
- C. THAT the Mayor on behalf of Council write to, and call for a meeting with the Premier, Province of British Columbia and the appropriate Ministers urging the Province to dedicate significant funds towards the development of social marketing campaigns for tobacco, alcohol, cannabis, methamphetamines, pharmaceuticals and other drugs that seek to influence attitudes and norms surrounding substance use, are appropriately targeted based on best evidence and provide accurate information on the relative harm potential from the use of each substance (Recommendation 8, *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use*) and provide funding to enhance the capacity of organizations that currently monitor the sale and use of psychoactive substances in British Columbia and related health, social and environmental harm. (Recommendation 3, *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use*).
- D. THAT the Mayor on behalf of Council write to, and call for a meeting with the Prime Minister, Government of Canada and the appropriate Ministers urging the Federal Government to initiate a process of reviewing Canada's legislative,

regulatory and policy frameworks governing illegal drugs with regard to their effectiveness in preventing and reducing harm from problematic drug use and in enabling municipalities to better address the harm from the sale and use of these substances at the local level AND establish a process with broad participation to consider regulatory alternatives to the current policy of prohibition for currently illegal drugs. (Recommendation 24, *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use*).

- E. THAT the Mayor on behalf of Council write to, and call for a meeting with the Prime Minister, Government of Canada and the appropriate Ministers urging the Federal Government to consider the creation of a legal regulatory framework for cannabis that will enable municipalities and local health regions to develop comprehensive cannabis strategies that: promote public health objectives, include appropriate regulatory controls for cannabis related products, support the development of public education approaches to cannabis use and minimize the involvement of organized crime in the cannabis market. (Recommendation 23 - *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use*).
- F. THAT the Mayor on behalf of Council write to, and call for a meeting with the Premier, Province of British Columbia and the appropriate ministers urging them, in light of the recent expansion of access to alcohol, to implement in full the recommendations in the Provincial Health Officers report of May 2002: A Public Health Approach to Alcohol Policy as part of an overall alcohol strategy. (Recommendation 26 - *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use*).
- G. THAT Council defer discussion and decision on proposed tobacco retail restrictions to the report from the Regional Director of Health Protection, Vancouver Coastal Health in early 2006. (Recommendation 25 - *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use*).
- H. THAT the Drug Policy Coordinator be requested to report back in one year on the progress on further development and implementation of the recommendations in the Prevention Plan.
- I. THAT Council defer the following considerations to the 2006 Budget Process and request staff to report back on the full financial implications on each of these considerations, and refer same to UBCM and FCM for information:
 - i) THAT Council approve \$50,000 to support the implementation of a public education campaign, (recommendation 10, *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use*) based on best evidence to deepen awareness of the harm from drug use in the community in partnership with the Vancouver Public Library, Centre for Addiction Research of BC and Vancouver Coastal Health and that decision on this recommendation be deferred to the 2006 budget process.

- ii) THAT Council approve funding of \$30,000 towards the first annual prevention summit to be held in spring of 2006 (Recommendation 15, *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use*) and to support the establishment of the Vancouver Prevention Task Force, (Recommendation 2, *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use*) and that decision on this recommendation be deferred to the 2006 budget process.
- iii) THAT Council approve funding of \$20,000 contingent on matching funds from senior governments or other sources towards the implementation of a Safer Bars Pilot Program in 30 licensed premises in Vancouver and that decision on this recommendation be deferred to the 2006 budget process. (Recommendation 20, *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use*).
- iv) THAT Council ask staff to facilitate and identify a funding source for the fabrication and installation of 50 syringe disposal boxes to be placed in high need areas in the downtown core and the Downtown Eastside as phase one of the comprehensive syringe management plan AND that staff report back on the results of the syringe management plan phase one implementation. (Recommendation 22, *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use*).
- v) THAT Council support the development of a youth engagement strategy in the implementation of the prevention plan in close consultation with Vancouver Coastal Health, the Vancouver School Board, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, Health Canada, the Centre for Excellence in youth Engagement, the Ministry of Children and Family Development and youth organizations across the city decision on funding for the City portion of this work to be deferred to the 2006 budget process. (Recommendation 18, *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use*).
- vi) THAT Council instruct staff to report back on the feasibility and cost implications to the City and Vancouver Agreement partners of the Four Pillars Job Literacy and Supported Employment Pilot Project in the context of the 2006 budget process. (Recommendation 11, *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use*).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Mayor absent for the vote)

4. 2005 Cultural Operating and Project Grants Rebalancing (File 2051)

Vancouver City Council, at its meeting on November 1, 2005, received requests to speak on this matter and agreed to refer consideration to the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets meeting in order to hear from speakers.

Accordingly, the Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated October 14, 2005, in which the Managing Director, Cultural Services, recommended approval of 70 Operating supplemental grants and 15 Project supplemental grants. The General Manager of Community Services recommended approval.

Cherryl Masters, Cultural Planner, provided an overview of the report, and in response to a question from Council, clarified the process for the grant recommendations. Sue Harvey, Managing Director of Cultural Services, provided details on work by an interdepartmental staff committee to address costs related to infrastructure issues.

Lindy Sisson, Executive and Artistic Director, Vancouver International Children's Festival, offered Council congratulations for the \$1 million increase to the 2005 cultural grants budget, and requested a supplemental grant in the amount of \$15,000 to the Children's Festival. Ms. Sisson noted production costs are just as high as other festivals, ticket prices must be affordable to families, and office and warehouse rent has increased 98%.

Morna Edmundson, Administrative Director, Festival Vancouver, advised her group is included in the Project category, but this is only a technicality. Festival Vancouver is a major contributor to Vancouver life and should be an Operating category client. Ms. Edmundson requested \$7,600.

The following spoke in support of staff's recommendations:

Duncan Low, Vancouver East Cultural Centre
Marcus Youssef, Interim Artistic Producer, NewWorld Theatre
Robert Kerr, Coastal Jazz and Blues Society
Elka Yarlowe, General Manager, Musica Intima Ensemble
Heather Redfern, Alliance for Arts and Culture
Hank Bull, Centre A
Ivan Habel
Keith Higgins

The foregoing speakers acknowledged the concerns raised by Ms. Sisson and Ms. Edmundson, but also recognized Council's extra support into the cultural community. The need to move forward without further delay was also noted and Council was urged to adopt staff's recommendations as the priorities articulated in the report are the right ones.

MOVED by Councillor Green
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council approve 70 Operating supplemental grants amounting to \$825,000, and 15 Project supplemental grants amounting to \$66,000, as listed in Appendix A, of the Administrative Report dated October 14, 2005, entitled "2005 Cultural Operating and Project Grants Rebalancing" for a total of \$891,000. Source of funds to be the 2005 Cultural Grants Budget; and

FURTHER THAT City staff, in consultation with the Park Board, work with the Vancouver International Children's Festival and others having difficulty around infrastructure issues to determine if there is a better way to deal with these issues.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillor Louie absent for the vote)

The Committee adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

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CITY OF VANCOUVER

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

NOVEMBER 3, 2005

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Thursday, November 3, 2005, at 12:58 p.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 Raymond Louie
- Councillor Tim Louis
- Councillor Anne Roberts
- Councillor Tim Stevenson
- Councillor Sam Sullivan
- Councillor Ellen Woodsworth

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Judy Rogers, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Denise Salmon, Meeting Coordinator

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Cadman

SECONDED by Councillor Stevenson

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets November 3, 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. 2006 Business License Fees: Fees for Live-Aboard Boats
2. Options for Reducing Policing Costs of Special Events and Filming
3. Draft Plan - Preventing Harm from Psychoactive Substance Use
4. 2005 Cultural Operating and Project Grants

Items 1, 2 and 3

MOVED by Councillor Louis

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on **City Services and Budgets** at its meeting of November 3, 2005, as contained in items 1, 2 and 3, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Item 4

MOVED by Councillor Louis

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on **City Services and Budgets** at its meeting of November 3, 2005, as contained in item 4, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

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 Cadman
SECONDED by Councillor Woodsworth

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTIONS

A. Administrative Motions

None

B. Motions on Notice

1. Taxi Host Level Two Requirement (File 2801)

MOVER: Councillor Louis
SECONDER: Councillor Bass

THAT WHEREAS:

1. The Taxi Host Level Two has yet to be implemented in any of Vancouver's surrounding Municipalities
2. The Taxi Industry would like additional input and time for implementation of the Taxi Host Level Two
3. Taxi drivers are a very important component of Vancouver's Service Industry

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Taxi Host Level Two requirement for existing drivers as of December 31, 2005 be delayed from January 1, 2006 to July 1, 2006, but the January 1, 2006 deadline remain in effect for Taxi Host Level Two for all new taxi drivers.

Referred

2. Level II Training for Taxi Drivers (File 2801)

MOVER: Councillor Stevenson
SECONDER: Councillor Louie

Whereas Vancouver Taxi Drivers are expressing concern over the requirement to take a Level II training program.

And Whereas many feel that requiring drivers to take a course about the job that they have been doing for years is not worthwhile.

And Whereas the disability community and the tourism industry have expressed concerns about the need for Level II training.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT City of Vancouver staff call the interested parties back together to find a compromise to the issue of taxi drivers being required to take level II Training.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the implementation of the requirement to have Level II before being granted a taxi license be suspended until March 31st, 2006.

Referred

The Chair noted requests to speak on the above Motions on Notice had been received. Council agreed to refer the Motions to the afternoon meeting of the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment in order to hear from the speakers.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Koret Lofts Inc.**
55-99 East Cordova Street (File 5050)

MOVED by Councillor Green
SECONDED by Councillor Louie

THAT Council endorse the following proposal and the position taken by the Vancouver Heritage Commission:

THAT the Vancouver Heritage Commission (VHC) encourages the Federal Government to strengthen its commitment to assisting with the rehabilitation of commercial heritage property and historic district revitalization by amending its criteria to make strata titled rehabilitation projects eligible for CHIPF; and

FURTHER THAT the Vancouver Heritage Commission requests the Federal Government to revisit its decision on the eligibility of the Koret Lofts Inc. project for CHIPF; and

FURTHER THAT THE VHC requests that Vancouver City Council endorse this proposal and the position taken by the Commission.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Special Council Meeting - By-law Enactment (File 1253)

MOVED by Councillor Cadman
SECONDED by Councillor Woodsworth

THAT Council convene a Special Council Meeting on November 10, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. to consider by-law enactment.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Leave of Absence - Councillor Bass (File 1254)

MOVED by Councillor Cadman
SECONDED by Councillor Woodsworth

THAT Councillor Bass be granted Leave of Absence for the Regular Council Meeting on November 29, 2005.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ENQUIRIES AND OTHER MATTERS

1. Initiatives to Combat Racism (File 3502)

Councillor Woodsworth requested a memorandum back on progress to date regarding her motion of six months ago, wherein she requested all City departments put forward one initiative to combat racism.

2. Traffic Light at Princess and Powell (File 5702)

Councillor Green advised he had received a letter from Vancouver Coastal Health, accompanied by a 457 signature petition which requested support for the installation of a crosswalk or other road safety measures at Princess Avenue and Powell Street, due to the number of seniors and people in wheelchairs in the neighbourhood.

The relevant Engineering staff was requested to contact Vancouver Coastal Health regarding this matter.

The Council adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

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