



REPORT TO COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON CITY SERVICES AND BUDGETS

SEPTEMBER 14, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on City Services and Budgets was held on Thursday, September 14, 2006, at 9:30 a.m., in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT:

- Councillor Peter Ladner, Chair
- Mayor Sam Sullivan
- Councillor Suzanne Anton
- *Councillor Elizabeth Ball
- Councillor David Cadman
- Councillor Kim Capri
- Councillor George Chow
- Councillor Heather Deal
- Councillor B.C. Lee
- *Councillor Raymond Louie, Vice-Chair (Leave of Absence - Civic Business for Items 1 and 2)
- Councillor Tim Stevenson

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Brent MacGregor, Deputy City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Lori Isfeld, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets meetings of July 13 and 20, 2006, were adopted.

RECOMMENDATION

1. **Vancouver Athletic Commission - Annual Report for the Year 2005-2006**
(VanRIMS No.: 08-3000-11)

The Committee had before it a Report dated August 11, 2006, in which the Vancouver Athletic Commission reported on its activities for the period May, 2005 to July 2006.

Councillor Anton, Council Liaison to the Commission, and Councillor Ladner, previous Council Liaison to the Commission, responded to questions regarding the Commission's functions and

financial processes. The Meeting Coordinator was requested to provide Council with the Commission's financial statements.

MOVED by Councillor Anton
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT the report dated August 11, 2006, entitled "Vancouver Athletic Commission - Annual Report for the Year 2005-2006", be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillors Ball and Louie absent for the vote)

**2. Advisory Committee on Disability Issues - Annual Report for the Year 2005
(VanRIMS No.: 08-3000-11)**

The Committee had before it a Report dated August 11, 2006, in which the Advisory Committee on Disability Issues reported on its activities for the period January 1 to December 31, 2005.

Larry Cantrell, Vice-Chair, Advisory Committee on Disability Issues, provided an overview of the report and noted that Vancouver is one of the most advanced cities in the world with regard to improving accessibility for people with disabilities. Mr. Cantrell responded to questions regarding inconsistencies in benefits provided for children with disabilities, the need to develop an emergency preparedness strategy so that assistance is available for people with mobility difficulty during emergencies such as Hurricane Katrina, and the need to look at impacts of an increased aging population on the city.

MOVED by Councillor Deal
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT the report dated July 12, 2006, entitled "Advisory Committee on Disability Issues - Annual Report for the Year 2005", be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillors Ball and Louie absent for the vote)

**3. Amendments to Vancouver Fire By-law No. 8191 Regarding Fireworks
(VanRIMS No.: 08-4000-11)**

The Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated July 4, 2006, in which the General Manager/Fire Chief, Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services sought Council's approval of an amendment to the City of Vancouver Fire By-law to deter negligent or unlawful use of fireworks by banning the sale and use of "family fireworks", while maintaining provisions to allow organized firework displays by trained and certified professionals.

Ray Holdgate, General Manager/Fire Chief, Fire and Rescue Services, provided an overview of the report and responded to questions regarding proposed training requirements for fireworks supervisors, issues regarding the illegal importation of banned fireworks, enforcement issues arising from not being able to distinguish between a loud firework discharge and a firearm discharge and regulations in other municipalities.

The following spoke in opposition to the recommendations and offered suggestions and alternatives:

David Phillips, Mystical Distributing
Sarbjee Paul, TNT Fireworks
Brian Oberquell (brief filed)
John Rielly, BEM Fireworks
Sharron, Lyons, BC Crime Prevention Assn. and
BC Children's Hospital Emergency Dept.
Raymond Greenwood, R. Greenwood & Associates
Harold Yuen, Toyland Co.

Speaker's comments included the following:

- it is too late to ban fireworks this year because retailers have already purchased stock for Halloween;
- the recommendations are overly restrictive and excessively punish those who display fireworks responsibly;
- children look forward to fireworks on Halloween; it is unfair to disappoint children to such a degree;
- the Display Fireworks course is not offered frequently, and full certification requires experience of 3 shows over 5 years; the course is onerous and in excess of what is involved with family fireworks; a special "family fireworks" course should be developed;
- people who violate fireworks by-laws are likely to do so regardless of whether they can legally purchase fireworks in Vancouver or not; banning the sale of fireworks will result in a black market to fill the demand; it is better have fireworks sold legitimately than having them sold by criminals or smuggled across the border;
- in addition to the permit fee paid by vendors, a permit fee should be charged to those who display fireworks; this would help cover costs to the City;
- restrictions on noisy and nuisance fireworks and removal of these fireworks from family packs would be acceptable in future years;
- other municipalities have removed nuisance fireworks from family packs and are now satisfied with their by-laws;
- agreement was expressed by retailers that a tracking system or application system for fireworks sales could be implemented;
- support was expressed regarding increased education and training regarding fireworks use;
- retailers are doing everything to ensure fireworks are sold and used safely; the recommendations are too drastic for the issue at hand;
- data from hospitals shows many children are injured every year due to misuse of fireworks; better fireworks injury prevention is required, i.e. adults should not be giving

fireworks to children and youth and community fireworks could be offered at a school or community centre where there is enough room;

- large community events would be extremely expensive, schools or community centres may not be able to afford to host such events.

Mark Takar, Branch Manager, Vancouver Branch, BCSPCA noted that Halloween is the busiest time for the BCSPCA because the loud bangs hurt animals' ears and cause emotional distress which can sometimes be lifelong. Some animals get so frightened they panic and try to escape putting them in jeopardy of being hit by a car. Keeping animals in a confined space also causes distress. Mr. Takar noted the BCSPCA would support amendments that restrict the use of any loud fireworks but allow quiet fireworks.

The Committee recessed at 12:50 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m with the same members present except for Councillor Louie who was present and Councillor Ball who was absent.

MOVED by Councillor Deal

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Vancouver City Council direct staff to work with representatives of the Fire Department, Police Department, fireworks industry, SPCA and the health care industry to examine options for addressing issues of fireworks noise and safety, and report back to Council by February 15, 2007, with recommendations which may include tracking of sales, consumer training, increased fines and limiting sales of some fireworks such as noisemakers, with the goal of allowing consumer fireworks while minimizing the illegal and/or unsafe use of fireworks in Vancouver.
- B. THAT sales of fireworks that produce loud noises without a light display be prohibited while the regulations are being reviewed.
- C. THAT Council authorize the Director of Legal Services to bring forward the necessary By-law amendments.
- D. THAT the recommendations to be put forward by staff as noted in A above are cost neutral.

carried unanimously

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Cadman

THAT the motion be amended by striking out A to D and inserting the following:

- A. THAT the City of Vancouver institute forthwith a permitting system similar to that instituted in North Vancouver and West Vancouver, at the point of sale.
- B. THAT noisy, nuisance fireworks such as air bombs, cherry bombs, screecheroos and hummeroos be banned from sale this year, as is the current case in Burnaby.
- C. THAT the Fire Chief be requested to work with other Fire Chiefs from around the region to develop a special family fireworks course and bring back a report early in the New Year.
- D. THAT a fine schedule for those who break the law be stiffly increased to prevent adults who purchase fireworks from giving them to children for their use.

LOST

(Councillors Anton, Capri, Chow, Deal, Ladner, Lee, Louie, Stevenson and the Mayor opposed)
(Councillor Ball absent for the vote)

The amendment having LOST, Councillors Deal's motion was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY with Councillor Ball absent for the vote.

The Committee adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

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CITY OF VANCOUVER

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

SEPTEMBER 14, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Thursday, September 14, 2006, at 2:11, 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 Sam Sullivan
Councillor Suzanne Anton
Councillor David Cadman
Councillor Kim Capri
Councillor George Chow
Councillor Heather Deal
Councillor Peter Ladner
Councillor B.C. Lee
Councillor Raymond Louie
Councillor Tim Stevenson

ABSENT: Councillor Elizabeth Ball

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Brent MacGregor, Deputy City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Lori Isfeld, Meeting Coordinator

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Deal
SECONDED by Councillor Chow

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets
September 14, 2006

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. Vancouver Athletic Commission - Annual Report for the Year 2005-2006
2. Advisory Committee on Disability Issues - Annual Report for the Year 2005
3. Amendments to Vancouver Fire By-law No. 8191 Regarding Fireworks

Items 1 - 3

MOVED by Councillor Anton

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets at its meeting of September 14, 2006, as contained in items 1 - 3, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Stevenson

THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPT REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Lee
SECONDED by Councillor Capri

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

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