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1. United We Can Recycling Depot (VanRIMS No. 13-6000-50)

At the Regular Council meeting on February 28, 2007, Councillor Chow submitted the following Motion. Councillor Ball called Notice under Section 5.4(c) of the Procedure By-law. The motion was to be considered at the Regular Council meeting immediately following the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets meeting on March 1, 2007. Due to time constraints, Council agreed to postpone consideration of the motion to the Regular Council meeting following the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting, later that day.

Subsequently, due to time constraints, Council agreed to postpone consideration of the motion to the Regular Council meeting on March 13, 2007.

MOVED by Councillor Chow
SECONDED by Councillor Lee

WHEREAS United We Can (UWC), since its inception in 1995, has been open for business everyday and provides an important source of income to some of our most marginalized citizens who collect bottles and containers from the downtown areas;

WHEREAS UWC has rescued 50 million containers from going to the landfill and has worked with the City, Gastown and Chinatown merchants in cleaning up garbage and litter in the areas;

WHEREAS UWC is more than a bottle depot as it also collects used computers and runs a bike shop - this combined operation has provided employment to hundreds of people living in the DTES;

WHEREAS UWC's success has meant a crowd of bidders waiting to get into its storefront (located on the north side of East Hastings Street between Columbia and Carrall Streets) that also attracts drug dealers camouflaging in the crowd and street vendors hawking goods of dubious origin and;

WHEREAS the result is constant chaos and an atmosphere of pending violence on the street around the UWC premises that also impact negatively on neighbouring stores such as Canada Ginseng Co. at 33 E Hastings Street - the violent death from stabbing in front of UWC on February 11 being a case in point;

WHEREAS the bidders are not the cause of the street disorder in front of UWC - they are victims to the inadequate physical facility surrounding UWC, a successful grass root enterprise that has outgrown its present premises;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that as an urgent matter city staff proceed immediately to assist United We Can to find new facility that is suitable for its operation and surrounding, and which takes into account the increased recycling activities required as a result of the 2010 Olympics.

Notice

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