



**CITY OF VANCOUVER**  
**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**MAY 1, 2007**

A Special Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Tuesday, May 1, 2007, at 7:30 p.m., in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, for the purpose of hearing delegations on the proposed changes to the Single Room Accommodation By-law.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Sam Sullivan  
Councillor Suzanne Anton  
Councillor Elizabeth Ball  
Councillor David Cadman  
Councillor Kim Capri  
Councillor George Chow  
Councillor Heather Deal  
Councillor Peter Ladner  
Councillor B.C. Lee  
Councillor Tim Stevenson

**ABSENT:** Councillor Raymond Louie

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Nicole Ludwig, Meeting Coordinator

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

MOVED by Councillor Ball  
SECONDED by Councillor Capri

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

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**1. Single Room Accommodation (SRA) Draft By-law (VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-22)**

Vancouver City Council, at its meeting immediately following the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting on February 15, 2007, approved amendments to the SRA By-law and referred the draft By-law to a Special Council meeting in order to hear from members of the public.

Accordingly, Council had before it the motion approved at the aforementioned meeting (printed on the agenda for this meeting), the Policy Report dated November 30, 2006, entitled, "Single Room Accommodation (SRA) Draft By-law", and the draft By-law.

The following delegations spoke to the proposed amendments, noting concerns and offering suggestions for improvement:

David Eby, Pivot Legal Society  
Wendy Pederson, Carnegie Community Action Project  
Vincent Fodera  
Patrick Prinster, Dominion Hotel  
Gary Jarvis  
Karen O'Shannacery, Lookout Emergency Aid Society  
Kim Kerr, DERA  
Bharbara Gudmundson  
Frank Shorrock  
Rolf Auer  
Sister Elizabeth Kelliher (*brief distributed - on file in the City Clerk's Office*)  
Ian Waddell  
Jacob Rikley, VANDU  
Jack Peterson, Vogue Hotel  
Terri Williams, Carnegie Community Action Project  
Susan Quipp  
May Kossoff  
George Horner, Horner Developments  
Anthony Maitland

Their comments included:

- By-law is inadequate to prevent displacement or evictions leading up to Olympics;
- should not have any hotel rooms for daily or weekly rentals as it leads to more student and tourist rentals, taking affordable housing away from those who need it;
- use incentives rather than disincentives for owners to retain SRA status;
- for owners, the \$15,000 room conversion fee is too high and is not a suitable answer to the problem;
- By-law places too much of the burden on owners who are not necessarily equipped to deal with social problems and punishes owners who do a good job;
- amendments are good steps in maintaining housing stock, but prefer moratorium on room conversions;
- tenants may not have answers to the questions on the registration form;
- housing is necessary and there is a need to act quickly;
- classification problems;
- owners are not taking care of buildings and are letting them become unlivable for ease of conversion;
- if owners do not obey the law, the city should buy them out;
- the city and clientele of SRAs have changed over the years; and
- there is a need for stable housing and compassion for those who are currently homeless or have inadequate housing.

\* \* \* \* \*

*At 8:10 p.m. Mayor Sullivan left the room and relinquished the Chair to Councillor Ladner as Deputy Mayor Ball was not present at this time. Mayor Sullivan returned at 8:15 p.m. and assumed the Chair*

\* \* \* \* \*

Throughout the hearing of speakers, Cameron Gray, Director of the Housing Centre, and Barb Windsor, Deputy Chief License Inspector, responded to questions regarding:

- room conversion fees, rental structure and taxation for SRAs;
- situation with newly-purchased provincial hotels;
- tax incentives for owners;
- comparison with Victoria By-law;
- living conditions and past conversions; and
- possibility of acknowledging law-abiding owners.

MOVED by Councillor Stevenson

THAT, all speakers having been heard, enactment of the Single Room Accommodation By-law be referred to the Regular Council meeting on May 15, 2007.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#### RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Anton

THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#### ADOPT REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Ball

SECONDED by Councillor Lee

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Special Council adjourned at 9:55pm

\* \* \* \* \*