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MOTION ON NOTICE

1. Campaign Finance Reform (VanRIMS No.08-1000-01)

MOVER: Councillor George Chow

SECONDER: Councillor Heather Deal

WHEREAS approximately \$4 million was spent in the 2005 municipal campaign by the three political parties on Council;

WHEREAS the Government of British Columbia has not passed new financial reporting legislation in response to Vancouver City Council having voted in favour of requesting specific changes to legislation on March 15, 2005;

WHEREAS there are currently no requirements to publicly disclose donations of any sum to a municipal elector organization outside of the election campaign period;

WHEREAS the Vancouver Charter recognizes the unique position of the City of Vancouver among British Columbia municipalities;

WHEREAS large financial contributions to political parties and elected officials, both anonymous and public, erode public confidence in our elected officials as well as the political process;

WHEREAS it is well-known that the Mayor, individual Councillors, and Vancouver civic elector organizations are actively fundraising for the next civic election;

WHEREAS the City of Vancouver has requested the provincial government to amend the charter to provide more transparency around financial contributions, yet after two years there has been no movement on this front;

WHEREAS without ongoing public disclosure of donations to elected officials, there is no way to determine if they are in a conflict-of-interest;

WHEREAS City staff are dealing with a large backload of work following the three-month strike;

AND WHEREAS in the Mayor's State of the City Address, he declared that one of his "5 goals for a Better Vancouver" included making our city the most accountable and accessible in Canada;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council appoint an independent expert to:

1. Conduct a public consultation on:
 - a) Banning union and corporate donations to civic elector organizations and individual councillors;
 - b) Continuous public disclosure of all donations;
 - c) Limits on campaign spending;With the consultations to be completed by February 2008;
2. Provide recommendations to Council in March 2008.