

B.5

MOTION ON NOTICE

5. Raised Balcony Sills in Southeast False Creek

MOVER: Councillor Heather Deal

SECONDER: Councillor

WHEREAS Vancouver has pledged to host an inclusive Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2010, and

WHEREAS the 2010 Winter Games Inner-City Inclusive Commitment Statement includes a pledge to “Develop barrier free venues for people with disabilities”, and

WHEREAS the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation has a defined “best practice” for wheelchair-accessible balconies, and

WHEREAS balconies are considered areas of egress in buildings without sprinkler systems, and

WHEREAS according to the Geological Survey of Canada, Vancouver is sited in a high earthquake-hazard zone, and

WHEREAS balconies should be fully exploited as areas of egress, refuge and rescue in emergency situations, and

WHEREAS there is a precedent of Vancouver City Council approving a residential tower with flush sills, and

WHEREAS developments in Southeast False Creek are designed with balcony sills, and

WHEREAS the City of Vancouver Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee passed the following motion;

RESOLVED

THAT the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee recommends to Council that they direct staff to take timely action on ensuring that building envelope regulations that are creating raised thresholds to the front doors and balconies of developments in Southeast False Creek and other Olympic facilities, are changed to allow for flush transitions; and

FURTHER THAT staff bring recommendations to Council that are more universal for ensuring flush transitions throughout any new developments, and

FURTHER THAT Council send a copy of this Motion to Mayor and Council for the Municipality of Whistler.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to;

- A. take timely action on ensuring that building envelope regulations that are creating raised thresholds to the front doors and balconies of developments in Southeast False Creek and other Olympic facilities, are changed to allow for flush transitions, and
- B. bring recommendations to Council that are more universal for ensuring flush transitions throughout any new developments, and
- C. send a copy of this Motion to Mayor and Council for the Municipality of Whistler.

* * * * *