

MOTION ON NOTICE

3. Farmers Markets

MOVER: Councillor Deal

SECONDER: Councillor Louie

WHEREAS in July 2003, City Council approved a motion supporting the creation of a just and sustainable food system for the City of Vancouver that fosters equitable food production, distribution, consumption, nutrition, community development, and environmental health, and

WHEREAS in December 2003, Council approved the creation of a "Food Policy Council" with a mandate to act as an advisory body on food system issues within the City's jurisdiction, and

WHEREAS in December 2003, City Council approved a Food Action Plan for the City of Vancouver. One of five specific actions identified the creation of more Farmers Markets as a priority. A copy of the proposed Food Action Plan can be found at: <http://vancouver.ca/ctyclerk/cclerk/20031209/rr1.htm> and

WHEREAS in February 2007, Council approved the Vancouver Food Charter, and

WHEREAS farmers markets are strongly supported by and strongly support Vancouver's Food Charter's vision and principles including food security, and

WHEREAS Vancouver's four farmers markets are visited by 250,000 people a year, and

WHEREAS these markets provide locally produced food, support local farmers, provide a gathering place for neighbours and provide free tables for community groups, and

WHEREAS these markets have substantial spin-off economies, including providing a place for local businesses to start up and thrive, and

WHEREAS many cities support local farmers markets through zoning, funding and signage,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff in Current Planning, City-wide and Regional Planning, Development Services, Park Board, Special Events, Engineering, and Social Planning to report back on additional measures that the City of Vancouver could take to support farmers markets, including;

- THAT the Department of City-wide and Regional Planning suggest ways to incorporate Farmers Markets into its Visioning processes;

- THAT the Department of Current Planning and Development Services explore how zoning and related by-laws can facilitate a greater number of and support permanency for Farmers Markets;
- THAT the Department of Film and Special Events suggest ways to secure locations for Farmers Markets;
- THAT the Streets Branch of Engineering suggest ways permanent signage can be accommodated to promote Farmers Markets;
- THAT Council request the Park Board to report back on accommodating multi-year operating leases;
- THAT by February 2009, Social Planning is requested to submit a report with recommendations for any new or revised policies that strengthen our local Farmers Markets. The report should include information from all of the above departments and also include any proposed changes in policy to Council for consideration.

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