

B.3

MOTION ON NOTICE

3. Establish a Mental Health Plan in the City of Vancouver

MOVER: Councillor Kerry Jang

SECONDER: Councillor Heather Deal

WHEREAS a third of all calls to which the Vancouver Police Department responds involve at least one person who is mentally ill, and

WHEREAS there are estimates that up to 60-70% of the mentally ill treated at St. Paul's Hospital have multiple addictions, and

WHEREAS many of the mentally ill who suffer from addictions and who are homeless or at risk of homelessness do not access mental health services, and

WHEREAS both the 4 Pillars Strategy and the Homeless Action Plan identify improved services to the mentally ill as key to resolving addictions and homelessness,

WHEREAS the Province adopted "Best Practices in Mental Health and Addictions" developed under the BC Mental Health and Addictions Reform Initiative, and

WHEREAS a mental health plan is required for the City of Vancouver,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council instruct staff to report back within one month with a proposal for how the City can, in partnership with the Province, Vancouver Coastal Health, the Vancouver Police Department, and mental health service providers and consumers, engage in mental health issues, including:

- providing the capacity within the City to develop mental health policy, plans and advocacy e.g. mental health advocate or planner positions;
- developing a mental health plan for the city to complement the 4 Pillars Strategy and the Homeless Action Plan;
- establishing and coordinating the delivery of community based mental health services to those suffering from mental illness, addictions and homelessness wherever they may be found; and
- ensuring the homeless and the addicted that suffer from mental illness have access to shelter, housing, food, counselling, social services and employment opportunities, and can participate in society with dignity and respect.

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