

MOTION

5(b) Develop a Strategy to Address the Negative Impacts of the Street Sex Trade Throughout Vancouver

MOVED by Councillor Jang  
SECONDED by Councillor Woodsworth

WHEREAS the current negative impacts of street sex work on sex workers, sexually exploited children and youth, residents, businesses and communities throughout Vancouver is unacceptable;

WHEREAS people involved in the survival sex trade continue to be vulnerable to violence, homelessness, addiction and mental health problems, HIV and other serious health issues;

WHEREAS the BC Centre for excellence in HIV Research estimates there are between 1000 and 2000 people engaged in street sex work in Vancouver each month in several Vancouver neighbourhoods;

WHEREAS the City's Four Pillars Drug Strategy and the Homeless Action Plan recommend increased investment by senior governments in health and social services for street sex workers;

WHEREAS a number of reports have called for urgent action to develop strategies to address the impact of the sex trade on individuals and neighbourhoods including; the Living in Community: Balancing Perspective on Sex Work in Vancouver Action Plan based on an extensive public dialogue process with communities of interest, neighbourhoods, and the involvement of a broad range of stakeholders; Voices for Dignity, a PIVOT Society report that calls for a comprehensive approach to improving the lives of sex workers; and the Centre for Excellence in HIV Research MAKKA Project that highlights health and safety risks that survival sex workers experience;

WHEREAS the Mobile Access Project operated by WISH Drop-In Centre Society that provides outreach to street sex workers seven nights a week, increasing the safety of sex workers and providing direct harm reduction interventions and referrals to this vulnerable population has had its funding cut;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT Vancouver City Council acknowledge the serious impacts that the survival sex trade is having on sex workers, residents and businesses in Vancouver and instruct the General Manager of Community Services to have City staff report back to City Council in the fall with recommended roles that the City can play in addressing the issue of street sex work in Vancouver neighbourhoods; and

FURTHER THAT Vancouver City Council ask the Mayor to write to the Premier, the Minister of Health Services, and the Minister of Housing and Social Development outlining the importance of the Mobile Access Project to the health and safety of survival sex workers and communities in Vancouver and ask the Premier to secure ongoing funding for this project.

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