

MOTION

At its Regular Council on January 18, 2011, Vancouver City Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets meeting of January 20, 2011, in order to hear from speakers.

5. Fatal Fire at 2862 Pandora Street

MOVED by Councillor Anton

SECONDED by Councillor Woodsworth

WHEREAS

1. Three people lost their lives in the fire which occurred on December 22, 2010, at 2862 Pandora Street: Dwayne Rasmussen, Garland McKay and Steven Yellowquill;
2. The house was well known to the City as inspectors had visited it many times;
3. An investigation of the tragedy will be undertaken by Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services and a further investigation may be undertaken by the Coroner;
4. Many questions arise from the tragedy which relate to City processes, such as:
  - (a) Are City by-laws sufficient to allow timely action on problem premises?
  - (b) Are there additional steps the City can take to move more quickly with problem premises?
  - (c) Is there sufficient staffing in the City's by-laws and inspections department to allow staff to take timely action?
  - (d) What is the relationship between the need for affordable housing and substandard housing?
5. Political statements made by a Councillor shortly after the fire concluded that nothing more could have been done by the City to prevent the tragedy;
6. An investigation can question all issues arising from the tragedy relevant to the City and report back with recommendations to prevent a similar occurrence;
7. Public confidence requires that the investigation be undertaken by a third party to the City.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council respectfully requests that the Coroner convene an inquest to review all of these issues.
- B. THAT, if all of the issues are not to be considered by the Coroner, Council appoint a third party Examiner to conduct a review of all City by-laws and processes relating to the fatal fire at 2862 Pandora Street on December 22,

2010, in order to make recommendations and report back to Council as to how such a tragedy might be prevented in the future, the Examiner to have full confidential access to staff.

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