

REPORT TO COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
ON CITY SERVICES AND BUDGETS

MARCH 17, 2011

A Regular Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on City Services and Budgets was held on Thursday, March 17, 2011, at 9:34 am, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT: Councillor Raymond Louie, Chair
Councillor David Cadman
Councillor George Chow
Councillor Heather Deal
Councillor Kerry Jang
Councillor Geoff Meggs, Vice-Chair
Councillor Andrea Reimer *
Councillor Tim Stevenson
Councillor Ellen Woodsworth

ABSENT: Mayor Gregor Robertson (Civic Business)
Councillor Suzanne Anton

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Penny Ballem, City Manager
Sadhu Johnston, Deputy City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Bonnie Kennett, Meeting Coordinator

*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

MATTERS ADOPTED ON CONSENT

MOVED by Councillor Deal
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT the Committee adopt Items 3 and 5 on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. **2011 Theatre Rental Grant Allocations**
March 1, 2011

Cultural Services staff provided an overview of the report.

The Committee heard from one speaker in support of the recommendation.

MOVED by Councillor Reimer
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council approve \$2,583,300 in Theatre Rental Grants as listed in Table 1 of the Administrative Report dated March 1, 2011, entitled "2011 Theatre Rental Grant Allocations", source of funds to be the 2011 Theatre Rental Grants budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

**2. 2011 Cultural Grants Allocations: Operating, Major Exhibiting Institutions and Project
March 1, 2011**

Cultural Services staff provided an overview of the report and responded to questions.

The Committee heard from one speaker in support of the recommendation.

MOVED by Councillor Deal
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council approve Operating Grants for 94 organizations at \$2,984,600, 5 Major Exhibiting Institutions at \$3,959,400, and Project Grants for 56 organizations at \$502,100, for a total grant allocation of \$7,446,100, including 21 additional one-time grants for special requests, as listed in Table 1 and Appendix A of the Administrative Report dated March 1, 2011, entitled "2011 Cultural Grants Allocations: Operating, Major Exhibiting Institutions and Project", source of funds to be the 2011 Cultural Grants Budget (Operating, Major Exhibiting Institutions, Project).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

**3. Single Room Accommodation (SRA) Permit for 120 Jackson Avenue, International Inn (500 Alexander Street)
March 1, 2011**

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve an SRA Permit for the International Inn, located at 120 Jackson Avenue (500 Alexander Street), in order to alter the interior and exterior to 18 units and to demolish 4 units, as per DB434572, subject to the condition that prior to the issuance of the SRA permit the owner will enter into a registered:
- i. Housing Agreement requiring the 18 units to be rented at a monthly rent no greater than the shelter component of welfare for a single person which is currently set at \$375, and
 - ii. Section 219 Covenant disallowing stratification.

- B. THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to prepare the necessary agreements described above in consultation with the Managing Director of Social Development and to bring forward the by-law necessary to approve the housing agreement.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

**4. Open Streets Program
February 17, 2011**

Open Streets and Engineering staff provided an overview of the report and responded to questions.

The Committee heard from one speaker in support of the recommendations.

MOVED by Councillor Reimer

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve the following proposed 2011 Open Streets activations and funding in the amount of \$650,000 (with \$350,000 from the Olympic Legacy Reserve and \$300,000 from the 2011 Engineering operating budget), as described in the Administrative Report dated February 17, 2011, entitled "Open Streets Program", including;
 - i. Summer Spaces; and
 - ii. Rediscover Granville Street.
- B. THAT Council support on-going seasonal closures of Granville Street to all vehicles to preserve quality of public space, subject to discussions with TransLink and other key stakeholders.
- C. THAT staff report back as part of the 2012 Operating Budget recommendations for Open Streets program funding. These costs would be estimated at \$650,000.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**5. Grant Contribution to Support Green Renovation Social Enterprise
March 1, 2011**

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve the contribution of a one-time grant of \$50,000 to EMBERS (Eastside Movement for Business and Economic Renewal Society) to support, along with partners, the creation of a non-profit social enterprise delivering green job training, weatherization and home energy efficiency services.
- B. THAT the Director of Legal Services be authorized to execute and deliver on behalf of the City all legal documents required to implement A above.

- C. THAT all such legal documents be on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager of Financial Services, Director of Legal Services, and Director of Sustainability.
- D. THAT no legal rights or obligations will be created or arise by Council's adoption of A, B and C above unless and until such legal documents are executed and delivered by the Director of Legal Services.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

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VARY ORDER OF AGENDA

MOVED by Councillor Stevenson

THAT Item 7 be dealt with before Item 6.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Note from Meeting Coordinator: For clarity, the minutes are recorded in numerical order.

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6. Ensuring Women's Safety in Vancouver's Housing Shelters

Vancouver City Council, at its meeting on March 15, 2011, referred this matter to the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets meeting on March 17, 2011, in order to hear from speakers.

MOVED by Councillor Woodsworth
SECONDED by Councillor Cadman

WHEREAS

1. There are many homeless women in the City of Vancouver.
2. Many of these women seek shelter on couches or spend nights with strangers and are therefore not listed in the statistics of the homeless.
3. At least four sexual assaults on women have been reported at just one of the emergency shelters over the past year.
4. 24-hour emergency homeless shelters currently do not provide full security for women in separate facilities.

5. The Walk4Justice aboriginal women's group and other groups have been raising these issues and have called upon the City of Vancouver to provide a 24-hour women's only shelter.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council make its highest priority the creation of additional 24-hour women's only shelters to provide safe and secure emergency housing options for vulnerable women.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to ensure optional separation between women and men in all of Vancouver's existing housing shelters and ensure safety and security for all its users including more fully trained staff.

amended

Council heard from 5 speakers who were in support of the recommendations.

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Jang

THAT the motion be amended as follows:

- Strike the phrase "its highest priority" in A.
- Add "a continued high priority" at the end of A.
- Add "mixed gender" before "housing shelters" in B.

CARRIED

(Councillors Cadman and Woodsworth opposed)

The amendment having carried, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

FINAL MOTION AS ADOPTED

WHEREAS

1. There are many homeless women in the City of Vancouver.
2. Many of these women seek shelter on couches or spend nights with strangers and are therefore not listed in the statistics of the homeless.
3. At least four sexual assaults on women have been reported at just one of the emergency shelters over the past year.
4. 24-hour emergency homeless shelters currently do not provide full security for women in separate facilities.

5. The Walk4Justice aboriginal women's group and other groups have been raising these issues and have called upon the City of Vancouver to provide a 24-hour women's only shelter.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council make the creation of additional 24-hour women's only shelters and beds to provide safe and secure emergency housing options for vulnerable women a continued high priority.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to ensure optional separation between women and men in all of Vancouver's existing mixed gender housing shelters and ensure safety and security for all its users including more fully trained staff.

7. Elimination of Medical Services Plan Premiums for Seniors

Vancouver City Council, at its meeting on March 15, 2011, referred this matter to the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets meeting on March 17, 2011, in order to hear from speakers.

The Committee heard from one speaker in support of the recommendations.

MOVED by Councillor Woodsworth
SECONDED by Councillor Cadman

WHEREAS

1. British Columbia is the only province in Canada where seniors must pay Medical Services Plan (MSP) premiums.
2. Many seniors in British Columbia are struggling to pay their bills for daily needs.
3. Some seniors are paying hundreds of dollars in MSP premiums.
4. Many retirees of the Municipal Pension Plan are former employees of local and regional governments.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Vancouver call on the Province of British Columbia to eliminate the MSP premiums for medical insurance in the Province of British Columbia to conform with the situation for seniors in all other provinces;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Vancouver call on the Province of British Columbia that, upon the elimination of MSP premiums, they contribute the present percentage of employers' contributions previously used for MSP premiums to assist in the payment of Group Health Benefits;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this motion be sent to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and the Lower Mainland Local Government Association for their endorsement.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillor Reimer absent for the vote)

The Committee adjourned at 11:49 am

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REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON
CITY SERVICES AND BUDGETS

MARCH 17, 2011

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Thursday, March 17, 2011, at 11:49 am, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, following the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets meeting, to consider the recommendations and actions of the Committee.

PRESENT: Councillor Raymond Louie, Acting Chair
Councillor David Cadman
Councillor George Chow
Councillor Heather Deal
Councillor Kerry Jang
Councillor Geoff Meggs
Councillor Andrea Reimer
Councillor Tim Stevenson
Councillor Ellen Woodsworth

ABSENT: Mayor Gregor Robertson (Civic Business)
Councillor Suzanne Anton

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Penny Ballem, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Bonnie Kennett, Meeting Coordinator

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Cadman
SECONDED by Councillor Jang

THAT this Council resolve itself into Committee of the Whole, Councillor Louie in the Chair.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets
March 17, 2011

Council considered the report containing the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets. Its items of business included:

1. 2011 Theatre Rental Grant Allocations
2. 2011 Cultural Grants Allocations: Operating, Major Exhibiting Institutions and Project
3. Single Room Accommodation (SRA) Permit for 120 Jackson Avenue, International Inn (500 Alexander Street)
4. Open Streets Program
5. Grant Contribution to Support Green Renovation Social Enterprise
6. Ensuring Women's Safety in Vancouver's Housing Shelters
7. Elimination of Medical Services Plan Premiums for Seniors

Items 1 to 7

MOVED by Councillor Cadman

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets at its meeting of March 17, 2011, as contained in items 1 to 7, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
ITEMS 1, 2 and 5 BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Council Cadman

THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPT REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Jang
SECONDED by Councillor Cadman

THAT the report of the Committee of the Whole be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BY-LAWS

MOVED by Councillor Deal
SECONDED by Councillor Cadman

THAT Council enact By-law 1 on the agenda for this meeting, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign and seal the enacted by-law.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. A by-law to enact a Housing Agreement for 120 Jackson Avenue (By-law 10232)

The Council adjourned at 11:50 am

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