

1. Emergency Response Plan for City of Vancouver

Vancouver City Council, at its meeting on April 5, 2011, referred this matter to the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting on April 7, 2011, in order to hear from speakers.

MOVED by Councillor Ellen Woodsworth
SECONDED by Councillor David Cadman

WHEREAS

1. Japan is a leader in having organized its citizenry in earthquake preparedness, and Christchurch has organized a Civil Defence Emergency Management plan involving a series of partnerships between City Council, emergency services, community agencies and neighbourhood volunteers for effective emergency response and relief, and were immediately deployed after the Feb.22, 2011 earthquake;
2. Vancouver's Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program (NEPP) delivers sessions on family emergency preparedness through community centres; while at the same time there is no coordinated Response measures in effect;
3. Vancouver actively supports volunteers in Emergency Social Services and Amateur Radio through the Office of Emergency Management and the Police Department, however does not have programs in place to engage women's and disability organizations to address more specific family needs;
4. There is no single program that consolidates neighbourhood emergency preparedness with response teams through the Office of Emergency Management, the Police Department and Community Centres across the City.

THEREFORE BE RESOLVED

- A. THAT in order to provide the most effective earthquake crisis relief, the City of Vancouver work with the Park Board to expand Emergency Preparedness and Response services at community centres and in neighbourhoods, which includes providing tools, training, and support to a network of neighbourhood volunteers.
- B. THAT the City of Vancouver, in consultation with the Park Board and Board of Education, provide coordinated communications support for any such community based response that would include neighbourhood specific printed materials, online resources, and any other support necessary that would enable citizens to clearly understand how to best respond to a large-scale emergency.

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