

MOTION

3. Expansion of Civic Event Status

Vancouver City Council, at its meeting on September 18, 2012, referred this matter to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment meeting on September 19, 2012, in order to hear from speakers.

MOVED by Councillor Stevenson
SECONDED by Councillor Louie

WHEREAS

1. Festivals in Vancouver are largely driven by small non-profit organizations that are responsible for external fundraising and dependent on large numbers of volunteers;
2. Historically, fees and city requirements have been designated on an event-by-event, year-by-year basis that has been frustrating for non-profit organizations;
3. Civic status is currently granted annually to the Celebration of Light and Remembrance Day events;
4. Large-scale events such as the Pride Parade, Vaisakhi, and Lunar New Year bring out crowds of tens of thousands of people;
5. Large festivals and parades are major economic drivers for Vancouver, with the Pride Festival boosting Vancouver's economy by over \$30 million;
6. Tax revenue from the benefits of major festivals and parades goes to the provincial and federal governments, not the city;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT City staff report back by January 2013 on:

1. Options for granting civic status to the Pride, Vaisakhi, and Lunar New Year parades by working with the event organizers to identify priority needs, and providing options for increasing city support and leveraging funding from external partners;
2. Recommendations on how the City can better ensure all festivals benefit from:
 - timely communications between staff and festival organizers;
 - transparency in City and VPD process for decision making, post-event evaluation and decision-making timelines;
 - transparency in City and VPD fee schedules, and up-front invoicing in order for organizers to budget appropriately;
3. Best practices from other cities in funding and revenue sharing for major events.