

**MOTION**

**Long Term Security for Community Gardens**

At its Regular Council meeting on October 30, 2012, Vancouver City Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment meeting on November 28, 2012, in order to hear from speakers following the receipt of information from staff regarding ongoing work on the multiple types of community gardens in the city.

MOVER: Councillor Adriane Carr

SECONDER: Councillor George Affleck

WHEREAS

1. Vancouver's Greenest City 2020 Action Plan includes increasing the number of Community Gardens and garden plots towards the goal of a resilient and sustainable local food system;
2. Longer-tenured community gardens, such as the 22-year-old Cottonwood Garden on Malkin Avenue, offer more security and sustainability for gardeners and plants alike, enabling the growth of perennials, fruit and nut trees, seed-saving gardens and teaching gardens;
3. Community gardens, especially those lasting over decades, contribute to the health, well-being and community engagement of Vancouver residents;
4. Many of Vancouver's community gardens are temporary: established on lots awaiting development in exchange for property tax write-offs, and their loss would negatively impact our Greenest City, Healthy City and Livable City goals.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff report back on options to increase the long term security of Vancouver's Community Gardens on lands not under the governance of the Park Board or the School Board, especially older gardens such as Cottonwood Garden;

FURTHER THAT staff include in its report the cost of foregone property tax revenue from temporary community gardens on land slated for development.

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