

3. Support Local Small Businesses

MOVER: Mayor Gregor Robertson

SECONDER: Councillor Tony Tang

WHEREAS

1. Small, locally owned businesses are a crucial component of economic activity and job creation in Vancouver;
2. Businesses comprised of 1-4 employees make up 58% of all businesses in Vancouver, businesses with 5-9 employees make up 18%, and businesses with 10-19 employees make up 11%;
3. The retention and expansion of small, local businesses is a priority for Vancouver within the Vancouver Economic Action Strategy;
4. Small businesses are an integral part of the neighbourhood character in Vancouver's commercial areas;
5. A wide variety of factors can impact small businesses, such as affordability, access to space, taxes and regulation, development pressures, transportation issues, and commercial leases;
6. The City has taken a number of steps to support small business and enable a competitive economic climate, such as moving towards a mobile business license, reducing the property tax burden for businesses as recommended by the Property Tax Policy Review Commission, reducing the number of business license categories from 636 to less than 200, and reducing the City's net debt by \$151.4 million in 2012.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Economic Commission be asked to work with City staff, Vancouver BIAs and the Vancouver Board of Trade to recommend immediate and long-term actions the City can take to support the retention and growth of locally owned small businesses, as well as identify opportunities to expedite recommendations within the Economic Action Strategy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Economic Commission report back to Council with a proposed scope of work, including involvement with the local small business community, by September 2013.

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