

MOTION ON NOTICE

1. Chocolates as Gifts

At the Regular Council meeting on January 21, 2014, Councillor Ball submitted the following Notice of Motion.

MOVER: Councillor Ball

SECONDER: Councillor Affleck

WHEREAS

1. On January 17, 2006, Council approved the terms of reference for the Roles, Relationships and Responsibilities Review and established a committee of community members to undertake the Review;
2. As part of the Review, the Committee developed a proposed Code of Conduct to apply to Council, advisory bodies and City staff;
3. On July 20, 2006, at the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment, Council considered the recommendations put forward by the Review Committee and adopted in principle the Code of Conduct put forward by the Review Committee;
4. In relation to the question of gifts and personal benefits, many people - representatives of staff and members of the public - appeared before Council to speak to the importance of being able to celebrate City staff and volunteers with reasonable gifts of chocolate for holidays and special observances;
5. At the July 2006 meeting, Council approved the wording of section 9.5 as proposed by the Review Committee with the exception that the word 'chocolates' was removed as an example of a gift or personal benefit of token value in order to respect the views of the public;
6. At the May 15, 2008, Standing Committee of Council on Planning and Environment, Council approved amended wording to the Code of Conduct and gift policy to ensure that it complied with the Vancouver Charter and other existing laws and collective agreements;
7. At the March 3, 2011, Standing Committee of Council on City Services and Budgets, Council approved amendments to the City's Code of Conduct and gift policy;
8. Recently there has been some confusion as to the intent of the Code of Conduct regarding gifts of chocolate for staff and volunteers;
9. It is not the intention of the City to be Scrooge-like during the festive season.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to revisit the City's Code of Conduct and gift policy to make it clear that staff and volunteers may accept reasonable gifts of chocolate regardless of whether or not the individual is at an event or on paid time.

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