

2. Pursuing a No Sewage Discharge Zone for Burrard Inlet

MOVER: Councillor Carr

SECONDER:

WHEREAS

1. A clean marine environment and beaches safe for swimming are important to Vancouver's livability, tourism economy, Greenest City image and Healthy City goals;
2. The discharge of sewage from boats pollutes our marine environment and contributes to high fecal coliform counts that have resulted in temporarily closing some Vancouver beaches to swimming, including Sunset Beach at the mouth of False Creek where E. coli bacteria peaked in the summer of 2014 to over 26 times the recommended safety limit for swimmers;
3. In September of 2014, Transport Canada considered changing its rules to allow smaller boats to discharge sewage 1 nautical mile from shore instead of the currently required 3 nautical miles, but dropped this proposal on February 16, 2015, in the face of negative public feedback including from the City of Vancouver which wrote to Transport Canada on January 7, 2015, to oppose the 1 nautical mile change, adding: "The discharge of sewage in local waters in and around our beaches and shorelines is of great concern to us, therefore the City of Vancouver asks Transport Canada to demonstrate that its enforcement strategy will be effective and more stringent than its current enforcement";
4. At its February 16, 2015, meeting, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation unanimously passed a motion to support Burrard Inlet as a "no-discharge" zone for all boaters;
5. Support of adjacent municipalities would be required for Burrard Inlet to be added to the Canada Shipping Act Schedule as a recognized non-discharge zone for boating sewage.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the City of Vancouver work with the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation to garner the support of the municipalities and First Nations communities situated in the Burrard Inlet area and, contingent on that support and assessment of the designation's costs and benefits, pursue the designation of Burrard Inlet as a strictly enforced non-discharge zone for boating sewage.
- B. THAT the City of Vancouver urge and support Transport Canada to achieve stringent enforcement of non-discharge of boating sewage within three nautical miles from our shoreline.