

MOTION

8. Increase Protections for Vancouver Renters

At the Regular Council meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 2015, Vancouver City Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, to hear from speakers.

MOVED by Mayor Robertson

WHEREAS

1. Renters make up more than half of all Vancouver households;
2. Vancouver has an unhealthy vacancy rate, which is as low as 0.7% in English Bay in the West End;
3. The average monthly rent in Vancouver is \$1176, while the median renter household income is \$41,433;
4. A lack of new rental housing built in the 1990s and 2000s has left aging rental stock as a prime source of low-income and affordable housing in Vancouver;
5. Aging rental housing is leading to an increase in renovations, which can dislocate long-term tenants in affordable housing who have limited options to move to other rental homes;
6. The City of Vancouver has, under the Vancouver Charter, limited legal powers to protect renters, as residential tenancies are governed by the Province's Residential Tenancy Act;
7. There have been examples of landlords who knowingly disobey city bylaws and the Rental Tenancy Act, such as evicting tenants for short-term stays, who face no penalty for their actions;
8. The City has advocated for changes to the RTA over the last six years, including better protections for renters, a full-time Residential Tenancy Office in Vancouver, and specific protections for tenants in SROs;
9. City Council recently appointed the City's first Renters' Advisory Committee.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council ask the Renters Advisory Committee to review the Residential Tenancy Act and identify potential changes to increase resources and strengthen protections for renters and affordable rental housing, which City Council could advocate to the Provincial Government for; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Renters Advisory Committee complete their recommendations for Council by the end of June 2015.

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