MOTION ON NOTICE

3.   Measures to Expedite Affordable Housing

MOVER: Mayor Robertson
SECONDER: Councillor Meggs

WHEREAS

1.   Affordable housing, particularly for families of low and middle income, remains virtually unavailable in the city, despite the city's focus on the delivery of affordable housing, the identification of city sites for social housing, the expansion of market rental housing, inclusionary zoning and other measures; a

2.   The Province of British Columbia is poised to allocate more than $500 million for affordable housing province-wide, including in the City of Vancouver, in an unprecedented one-year contribution on top of other initiatives to mobilize more than $300 million to renew and expand the non-profit sector;

3.   The Federal government has earmarked $200 million through the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Affordable Rental Innovation Fund to create 4000 new affordable homes;

4.   The City of Vancouver's Re:Address Housing Summit, which brought together world experts to pool their experience and best practices, identified that a clear alignment of all city departments in support of affordable housing delivery is a key requirement for success.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to take additional measures to expedite delivery of affordable housing, including:

•   provide clear priority to affordable housing projects, particularly those in partnership with BC Housing and the Federal Government, in the regulatory process, including both planning and permitting, to expedite delivery of affordable units to the largest degree possible;

•   ensure Property Endowment Fund policies are designed to deliver suitable sites for development at the deepest possible levels of affordability with the goal of maximizing the construction of desperately needed non-profit and social housing;

•   support the Vancouver Affordable Housing Agency to respond quickly and comprehensively to new initiatives with the Province of BC or other partners, particularly with funding development and design costs prior to construction.

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