

MOTION

6. Transparency in Financial Disclosure by Members of Council

At the Regular Council meeting on November 14, 2017, Vancouver City Council referred this matter to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on November 15, 2017, in order to hear from speakers. Subsequently, at the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on November 15, 2017, Vancouver City Council agreed to consider this motion, following receipt of legal advice from staff, related to appropriate occasions for Council members to declare conflict of interest.

MOVED by Councillor Reimer
SECONDED by Councillor Jang

WHEREAS

1. The public has an increasing interest in greater transparency in government and the City of Vancouver has been at the forefront of efforts to increase access to information, including establishing the first open data policy for a major city in Canada;
2. The financial interests of members of Council are currently disclosed under the provincial Financial Disclosure Act;
3. The province of British Columbia states on the government website that "The intent of the Financial Disclosure Act is to identify what areas of influence and possible financial benefit an elected official, nominee or designated employee might have by virtue of their office, and to ensure the public has reasonable access to the information.";
4. On a number of occasions some Councillors have referenced employment relationships or declared conflicts with corporate entities not listed on their Statement of Financial Disclosure;
5. Recently a Councillor stated they would donate 100% of their publicly funded salary to charity indicating they receive substantial personal financial benefit from private interests but the exact interests are unclear due to the nature of their external employment;
6. These undisclosed conflicts appear to exist as a result of Councillors who work as lobbyists or government and public relation consultants on behalf of other corporate interests.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council request staff to provide a mechanism for members of the public to have access to information on potential conflicts of interest for members of Council who list as sources of income public relations firms, government relations firms, consultancies, holding companies of other entities which obscure pecuniary interest.