

MOTION

7. Upgrading, Reviewing and Revising the Granville Entertainment District

At the Regular Council meeting on February 20, 2018, Vancouver City Council referred the following matter to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on February 21, 2018, to hear from speakers.

MOVED by Councillor Affleck

SECONDED by Councillor Bremner

WHEREAS

1. Vancouver's public spaces – our plazas, squares, streets, laneways, pathways, and waterfront – are where public life happens and where community is created – spaces where we connect with the city and with each other;
2. “Places for People Downtown” seeks to create a strategy to shape and deliver vibrant public spaces in downtown Vancouver;
3. At the Tuesday, July 9, 2013, Regular Council Meeting, Councillor George Affleck introduced a motion entitled “Review and Enhancement of Granville Entertainment District”;
4. Councillor Affleck’s motion called for City staff to consult with the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association and other pertinent stakeholders to provide an update on the Granville Entertainment District with a view to:
 - Reviewing the parking situation on the street;
 - Providing options for enhancing the dining experience on the street, including allowing greater use of the street for outdoor dining by neighboring food establishments;
 - Reviewing other potential upgrades and opportunities for the area.
5. Councillor Affleck’s July 9, 2013, motion was referred to staff with direction to provide a memorandum to Council reviewing the process used to select a design team to create the \$21-million, national award-winning Granville Entertainment District, the cost of construction and any feedback received from stakeholders regarding the redesigned street (referral moved by Councillor Deal; seconded by Councillor Louie – opposed by Councillors Affleck, Ball, and Carr);
6. A records search conducted by City staff for the memorandum to Council noted above in WHEREAS clause No. 3 failed to locate any follow up memorandum to Council reviewing the process used to select a design team to create the \$21-million, national award-winning Granville Entertainment District, the cost of construction, or any feedback received from stakeholders regarding the redesigned street;
7. At the Wednesday, June 14, 2017, meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on City Finance and Services, City staff presented Liquor Policy Review recommendations to Council, including a recommendation to adopt and implement adjustments for the Granville Street/Granville Entertainment District “to reduce problems”;
8. The City Finance and Services Committee heard from four speakers at the Wednesday, June 14, 2017, meeting in support of the report and 16 speakers

who were either in opposition or expressed concerns regarding specific aspects of the report;

9. Councillor Carr offered an amendment at the June 14, 2017, Committee meeting whereby the recommendations referencing the Granville Entertainment District and the Downtown Eastside in recommendations E.19, and I.27, on pages 13 to 14 of the Policy Report dated June 7, 2017, entitled “Liquor Policy Review – Recommended Actions”, be removed, and be referred to a working group of key stakeholders noted elsewhere in the staff recommendations;
10. Vote No. 02024 records that Councillors Deal, Jang, Louie, Meggs, Reimer, Stevenson and Mayor Robertson opposed Councillor Carr’s June 14, 2017, amendment relating to the Granville Entertainment District and the Downtown Eastside and the amendment did not carry;
11. A recommendation, contained in the staff report presented to Council on June 14, 2017 (i.e., “Liquor Policy Review – Recommended Actions”), to direct City staff to establish a working group of key stakeholders in the Granville Entertainment District, including local bars and restaurants, Bar Watch, the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association, Vancouver Police Department, Vancouver Coastal Health and community organizations, including women’s organizations, to improve consultation and co-ordination of efforts to reduce street disorder and gender-based violence, and to improve business in the area carried unanimously (Vote No. 02027);
12. The Granville Entertainment District (GED) Working Group on Safety and Security (GED SSWG) was convened in July 2017 and is comprised of a number of members from Industry, Not for Profit, and Government organizations, but does not include representatives from the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame (which has invested over \$300,000 for bronze plaques up and down Granville Street), Entertainment Producers, Vancouver Civic Theatres (such as the Orpheum which fronts onto Granville Street), and the City Archives, as stakeholders.
13. A February 20, 2018, Memorandum to Mayor and Council from the General Manager of Development, Buildings, and Licensing (SUBJECT: Granville Entertainment District Safety and Security Working Group Update) states, in APPENDIX B: Granville Entertainment District Safety and Security Working Group (GED SSWG) Terms of Reference, section 3.0 “Membership”, that

The Working Group will have approximately 20 members and that “additional members may be nominated”;
14. A recommendation (i.e., B.10), contained in the staff report presented to Council on June 14, 2017 (i.e., “Liquor Policy Review – Recommended Actions”), directed staff to “bring revised recommendations regarding the Granville Entertainment District to Council by the end of the third quarter, 2017 and carried unanimously (Vote No. 02032);
15. Events of recent days underscore the fact that violent crime continues to be a persistent issue on Granville Street and it is time to change how the Granville Entertainment District operates to make it a safer place for people late at night.
16. A February 20, 2018, Memorandum to Mayor and Council from the General Manager of Development, Buildings, and Licensing (SUBJECT: Granville

Entertainment District Safety and Security Working Group Update) states – and makes particular note – of Vancouver Police Department (VPD) data which shows that “violence and disorder in the GED have not decreased over the last five years (2013-2017) and the GED continues to have the highest number of incidents among Vancouver’s downtown areas in late night hours.”;

17. A February 20, 2018, Memorandum to Mayor and Council from the General Manager of Development, Buildings, and Licensing (SUBJECT: Granville Entertainment District Safety and Security Working Group Update) states that “violence and general disorder remains a serious issue [in the GED], particularly on weekends, and staff do not believe that any of the ideas on the table will seriously mitigate those issues in the immediate term.”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Vancouver City Council advise staff that as part of the report back planned for April 2018, on the GED, Council expects advice on:

- An update and potential review of the parking and transit situation on the street, including but not limited to the possibility of moving the trolley bus lines off of Granville Street to provide a more open space for staging and event programming;
- An update on potential options for enhancing the dining and live music experience on the street, including allowing greater use of the street for outdoor patio dining by neighboring food establishments;
- An update and review of any other potential upgrades, redesigns, and opportunities for the area that staff deem worthy of consideration and that may be included as part of the current capital planning process;
- A strategy to provide better transportation services unique to the Granville Entertainment District as a high need area of the city;

FURTHER THAT staff consult with the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame (which has invested over \$300,000 for bronze plaques up and down Granville Street), Entertainment Producers, Vancouver Civic Theatres (such as the Orpheum which fronts onto Granville Street), and the City Archives as to whether they would be appropriate stakeholder members on the Granville Entertainment District (GED) Working Group on Safety and Security (GED SSWG) in accordance with Section 3.0 (“Membership”) of the Granville Entertainment District Safety and Security Working Group (GED SSWG) Terms of Reference as noted in the February 20, 2018, Memorandum to Mayor and Council from the General Manager of Development, Buildings, and Licensing (SUBJECT: Granville Entertainment District Safety and Security Working Group Update).

- B. THAT Vancouver City Council direct staff to work with the Vancouver Police Department, Bar Watch, and other relevant stakeholders, including the Granville Entertainment District (GED) Working Group on Safety and Security (GED SSWG), the Provincial Government, and other B.C. municipalities exploring the use of CCTV, to accelerate and prioritize efforts to reactivate and expand the Street Surveillance Camera Network to deter property damage and theft and to deter patrons of the GED who are intent upon engaging in violent behaviour, and that a budget, and timeframe, for potential implementation be presented to Council before June 2018.