

MOTION ON NOTICE

4. Support for City Policy to Allow Infants in the Care of a Council Member to be Permitted in the Council Chamber During Meetings

MOVER: Councillor Ball

SECONDER:

WHEREAS

1. January 17, 2018, Vancouver City Council unanimously adopted the recommendations for “Vancouver: A City for All Women, Women’s Equity Strategy 2018-2028;”
2. The Healthy City Strategy strives to create a healthy city for all and strives to focus on inclusiveness and gender equality;
3. Often meetings of Council can run concurrently, and a Council member may be required to stay at City Hall for meetings from early in the morning to late in the evening, with little time for breaks;
4. There is currently no policy that explicitly supports parents, by allowing infants and children under the age of 2 into the Council Chamber; from time to time and when necessary;
5. Family friendly policies could help to increase the participation of women and all parents of young children in seeking elected civic office in the City of Vancouver;
6. The current Procedure By-law No. 9756, states in Section 6, Meeting Procedures, Entry on the Floor, “Only Council members, and those persons permitted by the Chair or City Clerk to do so, may enter the Council floor during a meeting;
7. March 8, 2018, the British Columbia Legislature passed “Motion 5 - Amendment to Standing Orders to allow the presence of infants.” This historic policy will allow members of the legislative assembly to bring infants and children under the age of two years old into the chambers of the legislative assembly;
9. November 2017, a report of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs titled “Support for Members of Parliament with young children,” was published under the authority of the Speaker of the House of Commons. This report recommends that policy be changed to include language that would allow infants to be present in the chamber, when being cared for by a member.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council Direct the City Clerk to work with the appropriate staff to draft changes to the City of Vancouver Procedure By-law to explicitly allow infants and children under two years of age, to be permitted in Council Chamber and any other meetings of Council, when being cared for by a member of Council.

FURTHER THAT the City Clerk include this in the current review of the Procedure By-law and bring recommendations to Council with any revisions for consideration before August 2018.

- B. THAT any recommendations and changes to the City of Vancouver Procedure By-law to allow for infants and children to be present at meetings of Council, when cared for by a Council member, be sent to the Vancouver Park Board, the Vancouver Public Library Board and the Vancouver Police Board.

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