MOTION ON NOTICE

5.   Taking the ABCD Bias Off the Ballot

MOVER: Councillor Reimer
SECONDER: Councillor Carr

WHEREAS

1.   The strength of a democracy is judged on a number of factors but none more so than real or perceived bias and barriers in the electoral system;

2.   The current ballot for City Council is ordered alphabetically by last name;

3.   Currently 60% City Councillors have last names that start with A, B, C, or D, even though only 33% of the Council candidates who ran in the last election and by-election had last names starting with A, B, C or D;

4.   An alphabetical bias in the ballot would have a particularly negative impact on people who have last names that are Chinese, South Asian, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese or Latino - among others - as people from these cultures are much less likely to have last names that start with A, B, C, or D;

5.   The original writers of the *Vancouver Charter* contemplated alphabetical bias being a problem and provided for a ballot order alternative in Section 79 of the *Vancouver Charter* which enables the ballot for Council candidates to be ordered by random draw.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to draft a by-law for Council consideration that would allow for the Council candidates in the 2018 general election to be listed on the ballot in random order per the provisions of *Section 79* of the *Vancouver Charter*.

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