

MOTION

6. Recognizing Italian Heritage Month and “Italian Day on the Drive” in the List of “Official Celebrations and Observances” in the City of Vancouver

At the Regular Council meeting on May 1, 2018, Vancouver City Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on May 2, 2018, to hear from speakers.

MOVED by Councillor De Genova
SECONDED by Councillor Bremner

WHEREAS

1. Italian Day on the Drive is a vibrant cultural street festival, celebrating Italian culture, heritage and community on Commercial Drive in Little Italy. This free, all ages and car free event has an attendance of more than 200,000 people and last year the numbers for attendance were the same as the Pride Parade in the City of Vancouver;
2. Several significant events, observances and celebrations are recognized on the City of Vancouver website including: Lunar New Year, Black History Month, International Women’s Day, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, World Refugee Day, National Indigenous Peoples Day, Vancouver Pride Week, Eid-al-Adha, Diwali: Festival of Lights, Remembrance Day and International Day of Persons with Disabilities;
3. The City of Vancouver website states “City Council and staff recognize and value the contributions of the diverse communities that make Vancouver one of the most livable cities in the world. We also observe internationally recognized days significant in our history.”;
4. Although Council has in past years provided an official proclamation for “Italian Heritage Month”, this month-long celebration is absent from the list of “Official Celebrations and Observances” on the City of Vancouver website. Furthermore, the text above the list on the website states that “The official celebrations and observances listed below have been approved by City Council.”;
5. June is Italian Heritage Month across Canada. In May 2017, the Federal Government passed a motion to recognize the month of June as Italian Heritage month across Canada;
6. Costs for Italian Day on The Drive continue to rise and costs for the event in 2018 are projected to total over \$300,000. “Italian Day on The Drive 2018” is facing \$40,000 more in City of Vancouver required costs than in 2017;

7. For 2016 and 2017, "Italian Day on the Drive", received only \$4,000 annually, towards event costs in a Cultural Grant from the City of Vancouver.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council approve June as Italian Heritage Month and highlight the celebration of “Italian Day on The Drive” in the list of official celebrations and observances recognized by the City of Vancouver.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to work with “Italian Day on The Drive” organizers to discuss the possibility of an increase in the grants and funding the City of Vancouver can provide.

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