

MOTION

5. A Renter's Office at the City of Vancouver

At the Regular Council meeting on November 13, 2018, Vancouver City Council referred the following Motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on November 14, 2018, to hear from speakers.

MOVED by Councillor Fry

SECONDED by Councillor Boyle

WHEREAS

1. Renter households represent 53% of Vancouver households (CMHC, 2016);
2. The overall rental vacancy rate is less than 1% in Vancouver (CMHC, 2017);
3. Over 44% of Vancouver renters are living in housing that is not considered affordable (CMHC, 2017);
4. Secondary rental market and investor-held rental (condo) apartments represent the majority of rentals but also some of the least secure stock (CMHC, 2017);
5. The City of Vancouver's Tenant Relocation and Protection Guidelines do not apply to most secondary and investor-held condo rental stock (section 2.0);
6. The provincial Government has committed to a new compliance unit and better legal tools to take action against landlords who fail their obligations under Vancouver's *Standards of Maintenance By-law 5462* (BC Rental Housing Task Force 2018);
7. Vancouver's Renters Advisory Committee recent recommendations include expanding the tenant relocation policy, capturing data on rental stock, a city-run rental agency, and a framework to guide the city's rental housing policy (October 2018 Memorandum);
8. Currently, the City of Vancouver does not have a department dedicated to track, resource, and support Vancouver renters and renter issues.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Vancouver City Council direct staff to report back to City Council on steps to create a Renter's Office at the City of Vancouver, that will target, track, resource, and support Vancouver renters and renter issues including:

- i. Providing an official City of Vancouver point of contact for renter and tenancy issues, including Standards of Maintenance, Tenant Relocation and Protections, and renovations;
- ii. with existing renter advocacy groups including but not limited to Tenant Resource and Advisory Centre (TRAC), Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB), and the Vancouver Tenants Union (VTU);

- iii. Coordinating with City permits, building inspections, and licensing (including business and Short-Term Rentals) departments and data in order to protect tenants from illegal renovations and monitor rate of change to affordable rental housing stock; and
- iv. Advise and work with City agencies and committees to advocate for the needs of market and non-market renters including public, non-profit, and co-op housing.

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