

MOTION

8. Setting New Standards: Expediting Development and Building Permits and Examining Fees to Improve Affordability in 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 De Genova

SECONDED by

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver is unaffordable and has been named one of the least affordable cities in the world to live;
2. In 2017, when speaking in Vancouver, Evan Siddall, President and CEO of CHMC was quoted by the Vancouver Sun stating “The weak and lagging supply response in Vancouver – rezoning restrictions, density limits, development fees and the time it takes for approval of new supply – and not just for affordable housing – needs urgent attention;
3. At the September 19, 2018, meeting of Vancouver City Council, a motion was put forward by Councillor De Genova titled “Making Room for Families: Innovative Solutions to Help Provide the Most Affordable Family Housing in the City of Vancouver” was referred back to staff for incorporation in the report back on housing initiatives to Council in January 2019; and
4. The Schedule of Development Fees at the City of Vancouver is significantly higher in many areas, including air parcel or space subdivisions than the fees required of municipalities in the Metro Vancouver region.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to explore possible ways to reduce development fees that could directly impact affordability prior to bringing forward the final recommendations for the 2019 City of Vancouver operating budget.
- B. THAT staff review the staffing needs at the Development Counter in Planning, Development and Permits and ensure that staffing levels are adequate to significantly reduce permit wait times.
- C. THAT staff review the schedule of fees, permit wait times and best practices of other large municipalities in the City of Vancouver and consider changes that may significantly improve the process of issuing building and development. Furthermore, that staff report back to Council with their findings by February 2019.
- D. THAT Council direct staff to explore and consider a program to fast-track the development and building permits process, following project approvals, for architects and builders submitting applications to the City of Vancouver.

* * * * *