

MOTION ON NOTICE

B.9

9. Mayor's Office Budget Review

SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Dominato

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver 2018 Operating Budget allocated \$3.050 million to the direct operational costs of the Mayor and Council, with 43 percent (i.e., \$1.312 million) of that amount allocated to the Mayor and the remaining 57 percent (i.e., \$1.738) million allocated to the activities of the 10 other members of Council;
2. The City of Vancouver's 2016 Statement of Financial Information indicates that the Mayor's Office discretionary expenses for 2016 totalled \$783,090 while the discretionary expenses for all City Councillors totalled \$14,517 – collectively less than 2 percent of the Mayor's expenditures;
3. The City of Vancouver's 2017 Statement of Financial Information indicates that the Mayor's Office discretionary expenses for 2017 totalled \$706,165 while the discretionary expenses for all City Councillors totalled \$20,880 – collectively less than 3 percent of the Mayor's expenditures;
4. During the previous Council term from 2014 to 2018, the Mayor's office budget and discretionary expense fund were the subject of considerable scrutiny, notably substantial expenditures on political staff and consultants;
5. In April 2016, Council enacted Bylaw 11483 (Mayor and Council Remuneration Bylaw) and Bylaw 11620 (minor amendment to 11483) to replace Bylaw 7465 and provide for updated base salaries for Deputy Mayor, Acting Mayor and Councillors, as well as to provide for annual adjustments to Mayor and Councillors' salaries based on the change in the Consumer Price Index for Vancouver (all items) for the 12 months ending October the previous year;
6. In June 2016, Bylaw 11529 (Mayor and Council Expense Bylaw) was enacted to replace Bylaw 8904 and established the annual discretionary fund for each Councillor to cover eligible expenses incurred while carrying out constituency activities;
7. Bylaw 11529 (Mayor and Council Expense Bylaw) included housekeeping amendments to provide clarifications for various eligible expenses, including the Mayor's discretionary fund which includes expenses incurred by the Mayor or his staff for meetings and conferences, travel, communications, consulting/contracting services, research/information gathering, and community outreach;
8. Prior to the enactment of Bylaws 11483 and 11529, the City of Vancouver 2015 Operating Budget included a substantial 23.6% increase to the Mayor's budget – a \$0.2 million increase to support the Mayor's role as Chair of TransLink Mayors' Council, the Big City Mayors' Caucus, Vancouver Police Board, and Vancouver Economic Commission; <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/vancouver-2015-budget.pdf>

9. The recent municipal elections in Metro Vancouver have resulted in changes to the makeup of the TransLink Mayors' Council and will potentially lead to changed roles on other bodies such as the Big City Mayors' Caucus;
10. Newly-elected Vancouver Mayor Kennedy Stewart has demonstrated his commitment to a different approach to governing, for example, restoring the traditional rotation of the Deputy Mayor duties, as well as appointing Councillors to various boards and committees on a non-partisan basis.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Vancouver City Council direct the 2019 Budget Committee to review the Mayor's Office and Council budgets in the context of current fiscal requirements and the new spirit of equity exhibited by Mayor Stewart, prior to the Special Council meeting on the 2019 budget scheduled for December 11, 2018.
- B. THAT the Chair of the 2019 Budget Committee provide a memo to Council on behalf of the Committee with any recommendations regarding savings and efficiencies that could be achieved within these budgets (to be incorporated into the 2019 Draft Operating Budget), as well as any appropriate options to re-allocate portions of the Mayor's Office budget to support the duties and constituency activities of City Councillors.

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