

MOTION

5. Conflict of Interest Rules

At the Regular Council meeting on December 4, 2018, Vancouver City Council referred the following Motion to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on December 5, 2018, in order to hear from speakers.

SUBMITTED BY: Mayor Stewart

WHEREAS

1. When an elected official or senior staff leaves their City Hall office and takes a new role with a firm that does business with the City, it undermines the special position of trust with the public that senior staff have;
2. Elected officials and senior civil servants have valuable knowledge and relationships that can potentially create unfair and profitable advantage for new employers simply because of the position they currently occupy with the City;
3. Lobbyists currently have unchecked access to decision-makers and the City's conflict of interest rules are out-of-date and toothless;
4. Conflict of interest rules improve public confidence in municipal governance;
5. Current City of Vancouver Code of Conduct prohibits employees from relaying confidential information for the purpose of securing a private benefit for themselves or for any other person, and requires avoidance of voting on issues when they personally think they are in conflict, but does not address conflict of interest post-employment or for family members;
6. Federal, provincial, and other city governments have longstanding conflict of interest legislation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT staff be directed to report back to Council regarding how the City can improve its current Conflict of Interest policy including consideration of the following:

- i. Requirements for elected officials and their spouses to proactively disclose assets, liabilities, and financial interests;
- ii. Prohibitions on elected officials from engaging in employment, practicing a profession, carrying on a business, or holding an office or directorship, if these activities are likely to conflict with their public duties;
- iii. Prohibitions on elected officials and key staff members from accepting City of Vancouver contracts or lobbying for 12 months after leaving their positions;
- iv. How current and new regulations will be administered and monitored, including through a new and independent office; and,
- v. An assessment of associated costs and delivery timelines.

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