



## REPORT TO COUNCIL

### STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON POLICY AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

JUNE 12 AND 19, 2019

A Regular Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on Policy and Strategic Priorities was held on Wednesday, June 12, 2019, at 9:33 am, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall. Subsequently, the meeting reconvened on Wednesday, June 19, 2019, at 3:09 pm.

**PRESENT:**

- Councillor Adriane Carr, Chair
- Mayor Kennedy Stewart\*
- Councillor Rebecca Bligh\*
- Councillor Christine Boyle
- Councillor Melissa De Genova\*
- Councillor Lisa Dominato\*
- Councillor Pete Fry
- Councillor Colleen Hardwick\*
- Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung, Vice-chair
- Councillor Jean Swanson
- Councillor Michael Wiebe

**CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE:** Sadhu Johnston, City Manager (June 12, 2019)  
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager (June 19, 2019)

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Rosemary Hagiwara, Deputy City Clerk  
Denise Swanston, Meeting Coordinator

\* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting

### WELCOME

The Chair acknowledged we are on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations and we thank them for having cared for this land and look forward to working with them in partnership as we continue to build this great city together.

The Chair also recognized the immense contributions of the City of Vancouver's staff who work hard every day to help make our city an incredible place to live, work, and play.

### MATTERS ADOPTED ON CONSENT

MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the Committee adopt Item 3 on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Councillors Bligh, De Genova, Dominato and Hardwick absent for the vote)

*Prior to considering the agenda items, the Chair reminded the Committee of the meeting procedures pilot project recently approved.*

MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung  
SECONDED by Councillor Boyle

THAT under Section 6.8 of the Procedure By-law, the Committee suspend rules 13.8 and 13.9 of the Procedure By-law. Suspending rule 13.8 will permit members of the public up to three minutes to address Committee, and suspending rule 13.9 will permit Committee members up to three minutes to ask questions of speakers.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND  
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY  
(Councillors Bligh, De Genova, Dominato, and Hardwick absent for the vote)

## **11. Renter's Office Report Back**

At the Regular Council meeting on June 11, 2019, due to time constraints, Council referred the following Administrative Report to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on June 12, 2019, at 9:30 am, to continue with debate and decision; speakers to the below item were heard on June 11, 2019.

Staff from Arts, Culture and Community Services responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Fry  
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve the vision for a community-based Renter Centre, as described in the Administrative Report dated May 31, 2019, entitled "Renter's Office Report Back", that can co-locate key renter-serving organizations with City services, to help ensure a healthy rental environment, and improve access to supports, education and legal advocacy for Vancouver renters.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to continue to work with the Provincial Government on the implementation of a Renter Centre and its expanded mandate beyond Vancouver to the Metro Vancouver area;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to allocate \$700,000 to support partners to develop a functional programming vision for the Renter Centre and to support interim collaborative service delivery in advance of opening the physical centre in 2021. Source of funds is the Empty Homes Tax revenue reserve;

FURTHER THAT, of the aforementioned \$700,000, Council approve an increase to the 2019 Operating Budget in the amount of \$250,000;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to allocate \$760,000 to fund lease costs, tenant improvements, and opening of the physical Renter Centre anticipated in 2021. Source of funds is the Empty homes tax revenue reserve; and

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to report back in 2020 with an update on Renter Centre partnership development, refined operating budget projections and capital costs.

- C. THAT Council approve the creation of a City of Vancouver Renter Advocacy and Services Team, as described in the Administrative Report dated May 31, 2019, entitled "Renter's Office Report Back", to support Vancouver renters to better understand and pursue their rights and to work with renters, building owners, landlords, community partners, and other levels of government to improve renter protections and stability of rental tenancies;

FURTHER THAT Council allocate \$2.49 million to resource the City of Vancouver Renter Advocacy and Services Team for three years (starting Q3 2019). Source of funds is the Empty Homes Tax revenue reserve; and

FURTHER THAT, of the aforementioned \$2.49 million, Council approve an increase to the 2019 Operating Budget in the amount of \$546,000.

- D. THAT Council approve the creation of a Renter Services Funding program, as described in the Administrative Report dated May 31, 2019, entitled "Renter's Office Report Back", to support non-profit advocacy and renter serving organizations to help renters understand and pursue their rights, to provide direct services to support renters to maintain their tenancies, and to enable renters to find adequate rehousing options.

FURTHER THAT that Council direct staff to allocate \$1.5 million to fund Renter Services and Advocacy programmes for three years from 2019 to 2021. Source of funds is the Empty Homes Tax revenue reserve;

FURTHER THAT, of the aforementioned \$1.5 million, Council approve an increase to the 2019 Operating Budget in the amount of \$500,000; and

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to bring back to Council initial grant allocations and service contracts for approval by Q4 2019.

- E. THAT Council direct staff to take actions to improve the availability and quality of third-party market Tenant Relocation Specialists to support the implementation of tenant relocation plans, by:
- i. Assessing through a market sounding the depth and quality of existing Tenant Relocation Services delivered in Vancouver;
  - ii. Developing a Tenant Relocation Specialist training program;
  - iii. Exploring feasibility of the creation and publication of a City pre-qualified list of Tenant Relocation Service providers; and
  - iv. Allocating \$150,000 to support the creation and implementation of the aforementioned. Source of funds the Empty Homes Tax revenue reserve.

FURTHER THAT, of the aforementioned \$150,000, Council approve an increase to the 2019 Operating Budget in the amount of \$100,000.

- F. THAT Council direct staff to engage the following organizations for guidance and to identify opportunities for collaboration in pursuit of the mandate outlined in recommendations A and B above:
- i. Vancouver area renters;
  - ii. the City of Vancouver Renters Advisory Committee;
  - iii. community-based renter services and advocacy groups;
  - iv. Landlord BC and Urban Development Institute (UDI); and
  - v. the Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB) and the Provincial Government.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Swanson

THAT Council amend E as follows:

- remove the words “third-party market”; and
- add “including the possibility of using City staff as tenant relocators” after “relocation plans,”;

FURTHER THAT the following be added as v:

Considering using neutral City staff as tenant relocators.

amended

The City Manager shared concerns from Legal Services related to the proposed amendment.

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry

THAT the Committee delete the proposed addition of “including the possibility of using City staff as tenant relocators”.

FURTHER THAT the Committee strike the proposed addition of v.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 04567)  
(Councillors De Genova and Hardwick absent for the vote)

The amendment to the amendment having carried, the amendment as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 04568) with Councillors De Genova and Hardwick absent for the vote.

AMENDMENT moved by Councillor Dominato

THAT the following be added to the end:

THAT Council direct staff to exclude the underutilized homes initiative from the proposed Renter Services Funding Program and report back on a strategic framework for implementing this initiative based on current research and promising practices from other jurisdictions.

withdrawn

Councillor Dominato requested to withdraw the amendment. The Committee so agreed.

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT moved by Councillor Fry

THAT the word “exclude” be deleted and replaced with “consider options other than”;

FURTHER THAT the phrase “initiative from the” be replaced with “initiative for the”; and

FURTHER THAT the word “implementing” be deleted and replaced with “ongoing funding for”.

withdrawn

Councillor Fry requested to withdraw the amendment to the amendment. The Committee so agreed.

The Committee agreed to separate the components of the vote for the following amendment:

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the following be added to D:

THAT staff report back to Council annually on the impacts and outcomes of the trial Renter Services program.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 04569)  
(Councillors De Genova and Hardwick absent for the vote)

FURTHER THAT Council acknowledge the ultimate goal of getting people into secure housing.

CARRIED (Vote No. 04570)  
(Councillor Swanson opposed)  
(Councillors De Genova and Hardwick absent for the vote)

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to prioritize opportunities to invest Empty Homes Tax revenue into not-for-profit housing or housing rental projects to help deepen affordability of units, or towards delivery of affordable housing projects.

LOST (Vote No. 04571)  
(Mayor Stewart and Councillors Boyle, Carr, Fry, Swanson and Wiebe opposed)  
(Councillors De Genova and Hardwick absent for the vote)

The amendment having carried and lost, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY with Councillors De Genova and Hardwick absent for the vote (Vote No. 04572).

## FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

- A. THAT Council approve the vision for a community-based Renter Centre, as described in Administrative Report dated May 31, 2019, entitled “Renter’s Office Report Back”, that can co-locate key renter-serving organizations with City services, to help ensure a healthy rental environment and improve access to supports, education and legal advocacy for Vancouver renters.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to continue to work with the Provincial Government on the implementation of a Renter Centre and its expanded mandate beyond Vancouver to the Metro Vancouver area;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to allocate \$700,000 to support partners to develop a functional programming vision for the Renter Centre and to support interim collaborative service delivery in advance of opening the physical centre in 2021. Source of funds is the Empty Homes Tax revenue reserve;

FURTHER THAT, of the aforementioned \$700,000, Council approve an increase to the 2019 Operating Budget in the amount of \$250,000;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to allocate \$760,000 to fund lease costs, tenant improvements, and opening of the physical Renter Centre anticipated in 2021. Source of funds is the Empty homes tax revenue reserve; and

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to report back in 2020 with an update on Renter Centre partnership development, refined operating budget projections and capital costs.

- C. THAT Council approve the creation of a City of Vancouver Renter Advocacy and Services Team, as described in Administrative Report dated May 31, 2019, entitled “Renter’s Office Report Back”, to support Vancouver renters to better understand and pursue their rights and to work with renters, building owners, landlords, community partners, and other levels of government to improve renter protections and stability of rental tenancies;

FURTHER THAT Council allocate \$2.49 million to resource the City of Vancouver Renter Advocacy and Services Team for three years (starting Q3 2019). Source of funds is the Empty Homes Tax revenue reserve; and

FURTHER THAT, of the aforementioned \$2.49 million, Council approve an increase to the 2019 Operating Budget in the amount of \$546,000.

- D. THAT Council approve the creation of a Renter Services Funding program, as described in the Administrative Report dated May 31, 2019, entitled “Renter’s Office Report Back”, to support non-profit advocacy and renter serving organizations to help renters understand and pursue their rights, to provide direct services to support renters to maintain their tenancies, and to enable renters to find adequate rehousing options;

FURTHER THAT that Council direct staff to allocate \$1.5 million to fund Renter Services and Advocacy programmes for three years from 2019 to 2021. Source of funds is the Empty Homes Tax revenue reserve;

FURTHER THAT, of the aforementioned \$1.5 million, Council approve an increase to the 2019 Operating Budget in the amount of \$500,000;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to bring back to Council initial grant allocations and service contracts for approval by Q4 2019;

FURTHER THAT staff report back to Council annually on the impacts and outcomes of the trial Renter Services program; and

FURTHER THAT Council acknowledge the ultimate goal of getting people into secure housing.

- E. THAT Council direct staff to take actions to improve the availability and quality of Tenant Relocation Specialists to support the implementation of tenant relocation plans, by:
- i. Assessing through a market sounding the depth and quality of existing Tenant Relocation Services delivered in Vancouver;
  - ii. Developing a Tenant Relocation Specialist training program;
  - iii. Exploring feasibility of the creation and publication of a City pre-qualified list of Tenant Relocation Service providers; and
  - iv. Allocating \$150,000 to support the creation and implementation of the aforementioned. Source of funds the Empty Homes Tax revenue reserve.

FURTHER THAT, of the aforementioned \$150,000, that Council approve an increase to the 2019 Operating Budget in the amount of \$100,000.

- F. THAT Council direct staff to engage the following organizations for guidance and to identify opportunities for collaboration in pursuit of the mandate outlined in A and B above:
- i. Vancouver area renters;
  - ii. the City of Vancouver Renters Advisory Committee;
  - iii. community-based renter services and advocacy groups;
  - iv. Landlord BC and Urban Development Institute (UDI); and
  - v. the Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB) and the Provincial Government.

## **1. Homelessness Update**

### **a. 2019 Homeless Count and Rapid Responses to Homelessness through Partnerships May 30, 2019**

Sandra Singh, General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services (ACCS), introduced the item and staff from ACCS presented the item along with Claire Marshall, Lu'ma Native Housing

Society and Rob Turnbull, Streettohome Foundation. In the interest of time, staff responded to questions on 1a and 1b concurrently.

Council received the Administrative Report dated May 20, 2019, entitled “2019 Homeless Count and Rapid Responses to Homelessness through Partnerships” for information, including the 2018-2019 Annual Report on Homelessness Services Actions and Next Steps included in Appendix A of the aforementioned report.

*Per Section 8.2 of the Procedure By-law, no vote is necessary on reports received for information.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*On June 12, 2019, at 11:51 am, it was,*

*MOVED by Councillor De Genova*

*THAT Council extend the meeting past noon in order to complete the current item.*

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

\* \* \* \* \*

**b. 2019 Homelessness Action Week and Supportive Housing Grants, and Grant to Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council  
May 29, 2019**

In the interest of time, staff responded to questions on 1a and 1b concurrently.

The speaker registered for the item was not present.

MOVED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve the Homelessness Action Week (HAW) grants in the individual amounts, as outlined in Appendices A and B of the Administrative Report dated May 29, 2019, entitled “2019 Homelessness Action Week and Supportive Housing Grants, and Grant to Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council”, to 14 organizations (\$64,000) in aggregate, outlined in Table 1 of the aforementioned report to create awareness about and engage citizens on solutions to homelessness and to support Vancouver residents who are homeless or living in supportive housing, both through a variety of events during Homelessness Action Week (October 13-19, 2019) and throughout the year; source of funds to be 2019 Arts, Culture and Community Services Street Homelessness Operating Budget, and the 2019 Capital budget for the Supportive Housing Grant Program.



- B. THAT Council approve a \$30,000 per year grant for two years (second year subject to a Provincial funding contribution) to Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council) to contribute towards the Council's development, collection and analysis of Indigenous housing and homelessness data indicators; source of funds to be the Arts, Culture and Community Services 2019 Capital budget for Planning and Research for Affordable Housing.
- C. THAT pursuant to Section 206 (1) (j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council deem the organizations listed in Appendices A and B of the Administrative Report dated May 29, 2019, entitled "2019 Homelessness Action Week and Supportive Housing Grants, and Grant to Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council", that City staff recommend receiving Homeless Action Week (HAW) grants to be contributing to the health and welfare of the City, in addressing the needs of citizens experiencing homelessness.
- D. THAT all grants be subject to each approved recipient organization signing and returning a grant letter agreeing in writing to its terms.
- E. THAT grant approval letters be on the terms generally outlined in the Administrative Report dated May 29, 2019, entitled "2019 Homelessness Action Week and Supportive Housing Grants, and Grant to Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council", and otherwise satisfactory to the General Manager Arts, Culture and Community services and City Solicitor.
- F. THAT, the General Manager Arts, Culture and Community Services be authorized to execute all grant approval on behalf of the City of Vancouver.
- G. THAT no legal rights and obligations are created by the approval of A and B above unless and until all legal documentation has been executed and delivered by the respective parties.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND  
A AND B BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY (Vote No. 04574)  
(Councillor Hardwick absent for the vote)

**2. New Edition of the Fire By-law (2019 Fire By-law)  
May 16, 2019**

Staff from Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services responded to questions.

The speaker registered for the item was not present.

MOVED by Councillor Carr  
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve the adoption of the 2018 British Columbia Fire Code, together with amendments to reflect the "Unique to Vancouver Provisions" generally as provided in Appendix A of the Policy Report dated May 16, 2019,

entitled “New Edition of the Fire By-law (2019 Fire By-law)”, as the 2019 Fire By-law.

- B. THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment a By-law to repeal the existing Fire By-law 11312 and to substitute the proposed 2019 Fire By-law as referred to in A above, to take effect upon enactment.
- C. THAT, if Council approves the proposed 2019 Fire By-law as described in A above, that Council approve consequential amendments to the Ticket Offences By-law 9360 generally as provided in Appendix B of the Policy Report dated May 16, 2019, entitled “New Edition of the Fire By-law (2019 Fire By-law)”, to reflect the new “Unique to Vancouver Provisions” in the Fire By-law and to make some housekeeping amendments.
- D. THAT, if Council approves the proposed 2019 Fire By-law as described in A above, that the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment a By-law to amend the Ticket Offences By-law as referred to in C above.
- E. THAT Council approve changes to the Building By-law generally as provided in Appendix C of the Policy Report dated May 16, 2019, entitled “New Edition of the Fire By-law (2019 Fire By-law)”, to reflect the changes in the proposed 2019 Fire By-law.
- F. THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment a By-law to amend the Building By-law as referred to in E above.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 04575)  
(Councillors Dominato and Hardwick absent for the vote)

**3. Contract Award for Supply and Delivery of Ready Mix Concrete  
May 27, 2019**

MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung  
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council authorize City staff to negotiate to the satisfaction of the City’s General Manager of Engineering Services, City’s Director of Legal Services, and the City’s Chief Procurement Officer and enter into a contract with Lafarge Canada Inc., for supply and delivery of ready mix concrete, for a term of three (3) years, with the option to extend for three (3) additional two (2) year terms, with an estimated contract value of \$9,323,332, plus applicable taxes over the initial three-year term, to be funded through the approved Annual Engineering Streets Operating and Capital Budgets; and

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services, Chief Procurement Officer and General Manager of Engineering Services be authorized to execute on behalf of the City the contract contemplated by A above.

- B. THAT no legal rights or obligations will be created by Council's adoption of A and B above unless and until such contract is executed by the authorized signatories of the City as set out in these Recommendations.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT (Vote No. 04589)  
(Councillors Bligh, De Genova, Dominato and Hardwick absent for the vote)

\* \* \* \* \*

*On June 12, 2019, the Committee recessed at 11:58 am and reconvened at 3:19 pm.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Prior to considering the following items, the Chair reminded the Committee of the meeting procedures pilot project recently approved.*

MOVED by Councillor Bligh  
SECONDED by Councillor Hardwick

THAT under section 6.8 of the Procedure By-law, Council suspend rule 10.6 of the Procedure By-law to allow members two minutes to introduce motions and one minute to ask questions of the mover.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND  
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

MOVED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the Committee recess today, June 12, from 5:00 to 5:30 pm.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Boyle

THAT the Committee recess today, June 12, from 5:00 to 6:00 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#### **4. Supporting the Call for Changing the Cheque Day Paradigm**

At the Regular Council meeting on May 14, 2019, due to time constraints, Council referred the above-noted motion to the Regular Council meeting following the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting to be held on May 15, 2019, as Unfinished Business. Subsequently, the motion was referred to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on June 12, 2019, to hear from speakers, with a start time of 3pm.

The Committee heard from four speakers in support of the motion.

MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung  
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. MLA Jane Thornthwaite submitted a private bill titled the *Welfare Payment System Reflection Act* calling upon the Province of BC to change the practice for distribution of social assistance cheques.
2. The bill asks the Province of British Columbia to call upon the Minister responsible for the processing of income assistance to prepare a report on alternatives in payment processing to individuals receiving assistance, and states the report must consider but is not limited to considering the following:
  - (a) Providing welfare, disability assistance or other income assistance in multiple payments throughout a month as opposed to single monthly payment; and
  - (b) Alternative payment systems that enable responsible spending of assistance.
3. The bill indicates that the Ministers conducting this consultation must consult with, but are not limited to consulting with, individuals receiving welfare, disability assistance or other income assistance, groups advocating for those receiving welfare, disability assistance or other income assistance, and the Union of BC Municipalities.
4. In April 2016 the Province of BC declared the increase in overdose deaths a public health emergency. Vancouver has been at the center of this crisis. Fentanyl-detected overdose deaths were 152 in 2016, 306 in 2017 and 337 in 2018. BC Coroners confirmed Vancouver overdose deaths were 232 in 2016, 376 in 2017 and 387 in 2018. In conjunction with the overdose health emergency, the practice of distributing social assistance cheques on the same day/s creates acute service demand peaks for first responders, putting a strain on first responder and City staff resources that can exceed capacity to deal with incidents. This has created increasing job and emotional stress on our first responders
5. Medical health experts and first responders know there is a significant spike in drug-related deaths within days of people receiving their social assistance cheques. On average, overdose deaths can be 40% higher during income assistance payment week according to the BC Coroners Service report on Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths in BC (2009-2019).
6. Vancouver averaged about 22 overdose calls a day to B.C. paramedics in 2017 and has averaged about 20 calls a day in 2018 according to BC Emergency Health Services. Insite once averaged a couple of overdoses a day but in 2018 saw closer to seven a day after the fentanyl crisis took hold, and recorded 16 overdoses on a cheque day and 11 the following day.

7. The call to change the current cheque day distribution practice has been endorsed by Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services.
8. In December 2018, Council unanimously adopted the Mayor's Overdose Emergency Task Force - Recommendations for Immediate Action on the Overdose Crisis recognizing it will take concerted efforts to change the course of the crisis. The report included calling for collective action for systemic changes.
9. Dr. Lindsey Richardson, Research Scientist at BC Centre on Substance Use and Associate Professor, Sociology at the University of BC, was the principal investigator leading a study on the impact of alternative social assistance disbursement on drug-related harm or TASA 'cheque day' study. Initiated in 2012, the study recognized that synchronized payments have been linked to escalations in drug use and unintended but severe drug-related harms, including overdose, as well as spikes in demand for health, social, financial and first responder services.
10. Vancouver needs continued concrete action on prevention, treatment and recovery options for mental health and addictions to turn the tide on the number of deaths. Changing and varying cheque schedules may be one small brick in a bigger wall that could break down the social phenomenon of a one approach distribution practice. Further, change will help alleviate the strain on overdose services, and the significant physical and emotional toll on our first responders, city staff and support organizations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council endorse the Welfare Payment System Reflection Act bill for the Province of BC to consider alternatives in payment processing to individuals receiving welfare, disability or other income assistance.
- B. THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Council, write to the Premier, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction as well as the Minister for Mental Health and Addictions, stating Council's endorsement and encouragement to consider alternative cheque day distribution practices.
- C. THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Council, write to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) stating Council's endorsement and encouraging them to ask member municipalities to endorse the call for the Province of BC to consider alternatives in payment processing to individuals receiving welfare, disability or other income assistance.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Swanson

THAT the following be added at the end:

THAT the Mayor on behalf of Council write again to the Province of BC asking for assistance rates to be raised to the market basket poverty line and for a safe supply of drugs.

THAT whatever change is made in cheque distribution, people on assistance be asked to choose what type of cheque distribution system they would like.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 04577)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry

THAT A be amended by deleting the word “endorse” and replacing it with “express support for the intent of”;

FURTHER THAT B be amended by deleting the phrase “endorsement and encouragement” and replacing it with “interest to study and”; and

FURTHER THAT C be amended by deleted the word “endorse” and replacing it with “support”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 04578)

Council agreed to separate the components of the final vote with A having CARRIED (Vote No. 04579), with Councillors Boyle, Swanson and Wiebe opposed and Mayor Stewart absent for the vote; B having CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 04580) with Mayor Stewart absent for the vote; C having CARRIED (Vote No. 04581) with Councillors Boyle, Fry, Swanson and Wiebe opposed and Mayor Stewart absent for the vote; and D and E having CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 04582) with Mayor Stewart absent for the vote.

#### **FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED**

##### WHEREAS

1. MLA Jane Thornthwaite submitted a private bill titled the *Welfare Payment System Reflection Act* calling upon the Province of BC to change the practice for distribution of social assistance cheques.
2. The bill asks the Province of British Columbia to call upon the Minister responsible for the processing of income assistance to prepare a report on alternatives in payment processing to individuals receiving assistance, and states the report must consider but is not limited to considering the following:
  - (a) Providing welfare, disability assistance or other income assistance in multiple payments throughout a month as opposed to single monthly payment; and
  - (b) Alternative payment systems that enable responsible spending of assistance.
3. Further, the bill indicates that the Ministers conducting this consultation must consult with, but are not limited to consulting with, individuals receiving welfare, disability assistance or other income assistance, groups advocating for those receiving welfare, disability assistance or other income assistance, and the Union of BC Municipalities.

4. In April 2016 the Province of BC declared the increase in overdose deaths a public health emergency. Vancouver has been at the center of this crisis. Fentanyl-detected overdose deaths were 152 in 2016, 306 in 2017 and 337 in 2018. BC Coroners confirmed Vancouver overdose deaths were 232 in 2016, 376 in 2017 and 387 in 2018. In conjunction with the overdose health emergency, the practice of distributing social assistance cheques on the same day/s creates acute service demand peaks for first responders, putting a strain on first responder and City staff resources that can exceed capacity to deal with incidents. This has created increasing job and emotional stress on our first responders.
5. Medical health experts and first responders know there is a significant spike in drug-related deaths within days of people receiving their social assistance cheques. On average, overdose deaths can be 40% higher during income assistance payment week according to the BC Coroners Service report on Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths in BC (2009-2019).
6. Vancouver averaged about 22 overdose calls a day to B.C. paramedics in 2017 and has averaged about 20 calls a day in 2018 according to BC Emergency Health Services. Insite once averaged a couple of overdoses a day but in 2018 saw closer to seven a day after the fentanyl crisis took hold, and recorded 16 overdoses on a cheque day and 11 the following day.
7. The call to change the current cheque day distribution practice has been endorsed by Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services.
8. In December 2018, Council unanimously adopted the Mayor's Overdose Emergency Task Force - Recommendations for Immediate Action on the Overdose Crisis recognizing it will take concerted efforts to change the course of the crisis. The report included calling for collective action for systemic changes.
9. Dr. Lindsey Richardson, Research Scientist at BC Centre on Substance Use and Associate Professor, Sociology at the University of BC, was the principal investigator leading a study on the impact of alternative social assistance disbursement on drug-related harm or TASA 'cheque day' study. Initiated in 2012, the study recognized that synchronized payments have been linked to escalations in drug use and unintended but severe drug-related harms, including overdose, as well as spikes in demand for health, social, financial and first responder services.
10. Vancouver needs continued concrete action on prevention, treatment and recovery options for mental health and addictions to turn the tide on the number of deaths. Changing and varying cheque schedules may be one small brick in a bigger wall that could break down the social phenomenon of a one approach distribution practice. Further, change will help alleviate the strain on overdose services, and the significant physical and emotional toll on our first responders, city staff and support organizations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council express support for the intent of the Welfare Payment System Reflection Act bill for the Province of BC to consider alternatives in payment processing to individuals receiving welfare, disability or other income assistance.
- B. THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Council, write to the Premier, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction as well as the Minister for Mental Health and Addictions, stating Council's interest to study and consider alternative cheque day distribution practices.
- C. THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Council, write to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) stating Council's endorsement and encouraging them to ask member municipalities to support the call for the Province of BC to consider alternatives in payment processing to individuals receiving welfare, disability or other income assistance.
- D. THAT the Mayor on behalf of Council write again to the Province of BC asking for assistance rates to be raised to the market basket poverty line and for a safe supply of drugs.
- E. THAT whatever change is made in cheque distribution, people on assistance be asked to choose what type of cheque distribution system they would like.

\* \* \* \* \*

*On June 12, 2019, the Committee recessed at 5:05 pm and reconvened at 6:08 pm.*

\* \* \* \* \*

During hearing from speakers on Item 5, it was,

MOVED by Councillor Fry

THAT Council adjust the start time of the reconvening meeting date for this meeting on June 19, from 6:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

FURTHER THAT Council refer items 7, 8, 9 and 10, along any other items not completed at this meeting, to the reconvening meeting on June 19, 2019, at 3:00 pm.

CARRIED

(Councillors Dominato and Kirby-Yung opposed)



## 5. Protecting Rental Housing Stock along Arterial Streets

At the Regular Council meeting on May 28, 2019, Council referred the above-noted motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on June 12, 2019, to hear from speakers, with a start time of 3 pm.

The Committee heard from 14 speakers in support of the motion and four speakers opposed to the motion.

On June 12, 2019, at 8:40 pm Councillor De Genova rose on a Point of Order and stated that Councillor Swanson asked a question to a speaker that mischaracterized a previous speaker's comments. The Chair reminded Councillors that the purpose of questions to speakers is for clarification to the current speaker's comments and not to make comments on previous speaker's comments.

MOVED by Councillor Swanson  
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

### WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver has a [Rental Housing Stock Official Development Plan](#) (ODP) that was most recently updated in June 2018.

2. The Rental Housing Stock ODP states that:

Council has concerns about preserving the existing rental housing stock because it continues to be some of the most affordable and secure rental housing in the city, compared to the relatively high rents of newly-constructed rental housing. In Vancouver, the existing stock of low-rise, wood-frame market rental buildings, largely constructed before 1980, makes up over 80 per cent of the city's purpose-built rental housing stock and has rents that are nearly 30 per cent lower than newly-constructed rental housing. Located in the zoning districts, which are some of the city's most desirable neighborhoods, this stock has come under redevelopment pressure in recent years, driven by housing price growth and development opportunities. The key to preserving this affordability requires policies and programs that aim to protect and renew the city's rental stock.

3. The Rental Housing Stock ODP requires one to one replacement of existing rental units in some zones, but neglects to include the C-2 zones that currently have significant numbers of existing rentals that are increasingly coming under redevelopment pressure.

4. Staff is not currently considering expanding the Rental Housing Stock ODP in their work plan and we could lose numerous units of rental housing if we wait too long.

5. We need to reduce land speculation along arterials as the City Plan process takes place.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A. THAT Council instruct staff to prepare a by-law that amends the Rental Housing Stock Official Development Plan (ODP) to add C-2 zones in the definition of zoning districts in section 1.1 and bring it forward for Public Hearing within four weeks of approval of this motion;

FURTHER THAT if, after a Public Hearing, such amending by-law is enacted, Council treat this as an interim change to be revisited upon completion of the City-wide plan.

- B. THAT Council direct staff to, in the meantime, investigate alternatives for best preserving rental housing stock in C-2, C-3A, and all RT zones, and to report back as soon as possible.

The City Manager shared concerns from Legal Services regarding Item 5 and noted that those concerns were relayed to the author of the motion.

REFERRAL MOVED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the Committee refer the motion "Protecting Rental Housing Stock Along Arterial Streets" to staff and that staff consider the opportunities to protect rental in C-2 zones and report back to council with recommendations, including innovative solutions to protect existing rental and build new, affordable rental housing in C-2 zones.

LOST (Vote No. 04583)

(Councillors Boyle, Carr, Fry, Hardwick, Swanson and Wiebe opposed)

The referral having lost, the motion was put and severed with A having LOST (Vote No. 04584) with Mayor Stewart and Councillors Bligh, De Genova, Dominato, Kirby-Yung and Wiebe opposed, and B having CARRIED (Vote No. 04585) with Councillor De Genova opposed.

At 9:25 pm Councillors De Genova, Dominato and Kirby-Yung rose on a Point Of Order noting that Councillor Hardwick's language impugns other Councillors' motives. The Chair reminded Councillor Hardwick to not use language that impugns other Councillors' motives.

\* \* \* \* \*

*At 9:58 pm, it was,*

*MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung*

*THAT the meeting be extended to 10:30 pm.*

*LOST NOT HAVING RECEIVED*

*THE REQUIRED UNANIMITY*

*(Councillors Boyle and Hardwick opposed)*

\* \* \* \* \*

## FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

### WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver has a [Rental Housing Stock Official Development Plan \(ODP\)](#) that was most recently updated in June 2018.
2. The Rental Housing Stock ODP states that:

Council has concerns about preserving the existing rental housing stock because it continues to be some of the most affordable and secure rental housing in the city, compared to the relatively high rents of newly-constructed rental housing. In Vancouver, the existing stock of low-rise, wood-frame market rental buildings, largely constructed before 1980, makes up over 80 per cent of the city's purpose-built rental housing stock and has rents that are nearly 30 per cent lower than newly-constructed rental housing. Located in the zoning districts, which are some of the city's most desirable neighborhoods, this stock has come under redevelopment pressure in recent years, driven by housing price growth and development opportunities. The key to preserving this affordability requires policies and programs that aim to protect and renew the city's rental stock.

3. The Rental Housing Stock ODP requires one to one replacement of existing rental units in some zones, but neglects to include the C-2 zones that currently have significant numbers of existing rentals that are increasingly coming under redevelopment pressure.
4. Staff is not currently considering expanding the Rental Housing Stock ODP in their work plan and we could lose numerous units of rental housing if we wait too long.
5. We need to reduce land speculation along arterials as the City Plan process takes place.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to investigate alternatives for best preserving rental housing stock in C-2, C-3A, and all RT zones, and to report back as soon as possible.

\* \* \* \* \*

*On June 12, 2019, the Committee recessed at 9:58 pm and convened in Regular Council.*

*On June 19, 2019, the Committee reconvened at 3:09 pm.*

\* \* \* \* \*

On June 12, 2019, prior to recessing for the evening, Councillor De Genova rose on a Point of Order stating that the Chair is to act as a neutral body in the meeting, and that the Chair's comments regarding the proposed referral motion for Item 5, were not stated in a neutral tone.

On June 19, 2019, the Chair ruled in favour of Councillor De Genova's Point of Order and noted that a meeting will be arranged for all meeting chairs to review the rules and ensure consistency is maintained throughout meetings.

## **6. Reducing Truck Pollution in Clark-Knight Corridor and Other City Streets**

At the Regular Council meeting on May 28, 2019, Council referred the above-noted motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on June 12, 2019, to hear from speakers, with a start time of 3pm.

The Committee heard from five speakers in support of the motion.

MOVED by Councillor Swanson  
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

### WHEREAS

1. Homes, schools and businesses lining Vancouver's Clark-Knight Corridor are exposed to as much or more traffic pollution than neighbourhoods closest to North America's busiest highway, the 401 north of Toronto, according to a [July 2018 study](#) by University of Toronto professors in collaboration with Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, and Metro Vancouver.
2. The researchers put the blame for the high levels of traffic pollution along the Clark-Knight Corridor, which has 10 times less traffic than the 401, on the high number of older, heavy-duty diesel trucks travelling back and forth to the Port of Vancouver.
3. Exposure to high levels of traffic pollution is linked to increased risk of residents and workers developing respiratory diseases, such as asthma and heart disease, according to Health Canada. Of particular danger is soot, which is indicative of diesel exhaust, a carcinogen associated with lung cancer.
4. The study's authors warned that elevated levels of traffic pollution can be detected as far as 250 metres from major roads, putting millions across the country and thousands living in Vancouver at risk of suffering serious health issues from living on or near major roads.
5. A 2017 study by a professor at UBC's School of Population and Public Health found Canada ranked third the highest rate per 100,000 of new cases of childhood asthma with traffic pollution responsible for about 20% of the cases, indicating that Metro Vancouver guidelines for pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide may not be strong enough to prevent disease.
6. In 2017, the Clark Drive air quality monitoring station was the only one in Metro Vancouver that failed to meet the region's standards to limit nitrogen dioxide emissions.

7. Vancouver's high housing costs and low vacancy rates mean that it's the residents with the lowest incomes, especially families with children and seniors, who end up living near the Clark-Knight Corridor, putting them at risk of serious health consequences.
8. The City of Vancouver's planning and zoning policies as well as the cost of land have historically favoured putting social housing, multi-family projects, purpose-built rentals and now modular housing along arterial routes, exposing exponentially more people to the hazards of traffic pollution.
9. Environment and Climate Change Canada plans to step up air-quality monitoring across the country; the BC Government is developing initiatives to cut greenhouse gas emissions, including new standards for fuels and incentive programs to upgrade emission controls for older diesel trucks; and, the Port of Vancouver, TransLink and the trucking industry are investigating cleaner, alternative fuel options for heavy trucks.
10. The City of Vancouver is participating in C40 Cities Climate Change Leadership Group initiatives, including its Freight Academy, to tackle these issues while developing the City's Climate Emergency Response; and is committed to transitioning to 100 % renewal energy before 2050.
11. New buildings along major roads in the city now include mechanisms to reduce noise and air pollution on balconies and outdoor courtyards.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council request that the Mayor and Vancouver's Metro Vancouver delegates to:
  - 1) Seek an update from Metro Vancouver on progress made on its Air Quality and Climate Change Plan; and
  - 2) Initiate actions to strengthen the region's guidelines for permitted pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to investigate the status of actions the Port of Vancouver, the BC Government, TransLink, Transport Canada and the trucking industry are considering to develop fuel options that reduce emissions from heavy trucks using the Clark-Knight Corridor and other heavy truck routes and report back what actions Council can take to ensure speedy implementation.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to support Council-led motions to be submitted to the next Union of BC Municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities meetings to seek support for significant strengthening of provincial and federal regulations restricting traffic pollution, particularly of the particulates (soot) emitted by heavy trucks as well as requiring fuel alternatives that significantly reduce pollution on major roads.
- D. THAT Council direct staff, as part of the city wide planning process, to examine the City's zoning, building codes, and planning policies and practices, such as

prioritizing placement of multi-family buildings on arterials, to determine that the same standards of health and safety are applied equally to all residents.

- F. THAT Council direct staff to investigate methods to protect future housing developments on the Clark-Knight Corridor and other major truck routes until the City can ensure that the health of residents will not be unduly compromised.
- F. THAT Council direct staff to seek recommendations from Vancouver Coastal Health and Metro Vancouver for measures residents of existing housing can take to best mitigate the impact of traffic pollution such as improved air filters, sound proofing, air purifiers, that might help existing residents mitigate the impact of traffic pollution, including fully informing residents of the dangers of eating garden produce, leaving windows open.
- G. THAT Council direct staff to inform the Vancouver School Board (VSB) of these actions and work with the VSB determine the impact of ever-increasing traffic pollution on the three elementary schools most directly affected (Fleming, Queen Alexandra and McBride).

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry

THAT the following be added as 3) to the end of A.:

Call for a review of BC Ministry of Transportation's AirCare ON-ROAD Program specifically as pertains to the monitoring of heavy-duty truck diesel particulate matter emissions in urban settings.

THAT F be amended by adding the words "but not limited to public signage" between the words "including" and "fully informing".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 04591)  
(Mayor Stewart absent for the vote)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Dominato

THAT G be amended by deleting the words including and after "and", and replace with "to inform their planning for schools in the area."

CARRIED (Vote No. 04592)  
(Councillor Swanson opposed)  
(Mayor Stewart absent for the vote)

The Committee agreed to separate the components of the motion for the final vote.

- A. THAT Council request that the Mayor and Vancouver's Metro Vancouver delegates to:

- 1) Seek an update from Metro Vancouver on progress made on its Air Quality and Climate Change Plan; and
- 2) Initiate actions to strengthen the region's guidelines for permitted pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide.
- 3) Call for a review of BC Ministry of Transportation's AirCare ON-ROAD Program specifically as pertains to the monitoring of heavy-duty truck diesel particulate matter emissions in urban settings.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 04593)  
(Mayor Stewart absent for the vote)

- B. THAT Council direct staff to investigate the status of actions the Port of Vancouver, the BC Government, TransLink, Transport Canada and the trucking industry are considering to develop fuel options that reduce emissions from heavy trucks using the Clark-Knight Corridor and other heavy truck routes and report back what actions Council can take to ensure speedy implementation.

CARRIED (Vote No. 04594)  
(Councillors Bligh, De Genova and Dominato opposed)  
(Mayor Stewart absent for the vote)

- C. THAT Council direct staff to support Council-led motions to be submitted to the next Union of BC Municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities meetings to seek support for significant strengthening of provincial and federal regulations restricting traffic pollution, particularly of the particulates (soot) emitted by heavy trucks as well as requiring fuel alternatives that significantly reduce pollution on major roads.

CARRIED (Vote No. 04595)  
(Councillors Bligh and De Genova opposed)  
(Mayor Stewart absent for the vote)

- D. THAT Council direct staff, as part of the city-wide planning process, to examine the City's zoning, building codes, and planning policies and practices, such as prioritizing placement of multi-family buildings on arterials, to determine that the same standards of health and safety are applied equally to all residents.

CARRIED (Vote No. 04596)  
(Councillors Bligh and De Genova opposed)  
(Mayor Stewart absent for the vote)

- E. THAT Council direct staff to investigate methods to protect future housing developments on the Clark-Knight Corridor and other major truck routes until the City can ensure that the health of residents will not be unduly compromised.

LOST (Vote No. 04597)  
(Councillors Bligh, Boyle, De Genova, Dominato, Kirby-Yung, Hardwick and Wiebe opposed)  
(Mayor Stewart absent for the vote)

- F. THAT Council direct staff to seek recommendations from Vancouver Coastal Health and Metro Vancouver for measures residents of existing housing can take to best mitigate the impact of traffic pollution such as improved air filters, sound proofing, air purifiers, that might help existing residents mitigate the impact of traffic pollution, including fully informing residents of the dangers of eating garden produce, leaving windows open.

CARRIED (Vote No. 04598)  
(Councillor De Genova opposed)  
(Mayor Stewart absent for the vote)

- G. THAT Council direct staff to inform the Vancouver School Board (VSB) of these actions to inform their planning for schools in the area.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 04599)  
(Mayor Stewart absent for the vote)

### **FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED**

#### WHEREAS

1. Homes, schools and businesses lining Vancouver's Clark-Knight Corridor are exposed to as much or more traffic pollution than neighbourhoods closest to North America's busiest highway, the 401 north of Toronto, according to a [July 2018 study](#) by University of Toronto professors in collaboration with Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, and Metro Vancouver.
2. The researchers put the blame for the high levels of traffic pollution along the Clark-Knight Corridor, which has 10 times less traffic than the 401, on the high number of older, heavy-duty diesel trucks travelling back and forth to the Port of Vancouver.
3. Exposure to high levels of traffic pollution is linked to increased risk of residents and workers developing respiratory diseases, such as asthma and heart disease, according to Health Canada. Of particular danger is soot, which is indicative of diesel exhaust, a carcinogen associated with lung cancer.
4. The study's authors warned that elevated levels of traffic pollution can be detected as far as 250 metres from major roads, putting millions across the country and thousands living in Vancouver at risk of suffering serious health issues from living on or near major roads.
5. A 2017 study by a professor in UBC's school of population and public health found Canada ranked third the highest rate per 100,000 of new cases of childhood asthma with traffic pollution responsible for about 20% of the cases, indicating that Metro Vancouver guidelines for pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide may not be strong enough to prevent disease.



6. In 2017, the Clark Drive air quality monitoring station was the only one in Metro Vancouver that failed to meet the region's standards to limit nitrogen dioxide emissions.
7. Vancouver's high housing costs and low vacancy rates mean that it's the residents with the lowest incomes, especially families with children and seniors, who end up living near the Clark-Knight Corridor, putting them at risk of serious health consequences.
8. The City of Vancouver's planning and zoning policies as well as the cost of land have historically favoured putting social housing, multi-family projects, purpose-built rentals and now modular housing along arterial routes, exposing exponentially more people to the hazards of traffic pollution.
9. Environment and Climate Change Canada plans to step up air-quality monitoring across the country; the BC government is developing initiatives to cut greenhouse gas emissions, including new standards for fuels and incentive programs to upgrade emission controls for older diesel trucks; and, the Port of Vancouver, TransLink and the trucking industry are investigating cleaner, alternative fuel options for heavy trucks.
10. The City of Vancouver is participating in C40 Cities Climate Change Leadership Group initiatives, including its Freight Academy, to tackle these issues while developing the City's Climate Emergency Response; and is committed to transitioning to 100 % renewal energy before 2050.
11. New buildings along major roads in the city now include mechanisms to reduce noise and air pollution on balconies and outdoor courtyards.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council request that the Mayor and Vancouver's Metro Vancouver delegates to:
  - 1) Seek an update from Metro Vancouver on progress made on its Air Quality and Climate Change Plan;
  - 2) Initiate actions to strengthen the region's guidelines for permitted pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide; and
  - 3) Call for a review of BC Ministry of Transportation's AirCare ON-ROAD Program specifically as pertains to the monitoring of heavy-duty truck diesel particulate matter emissions in urban settings.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to investigate the status of actions the Port of Vancouver, the BC Government, TransLink, Transport Canada and the trucking industry are considering to develop fuel options that reduce emissions from heavy trucks using the Clark-Knight Corridor and other heavy truck routes and report back what actions Council can take to ensure speedy implementation.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to support Council-led motions to be submitted to the next Union of BC Municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities meetings to seek support for significant strengthening of provincial and federal

- regulations restricting traffic pollution, particularly of the particulates (soot) emitted by heavy trucks as well as requiring fuel alternatives that significantly reduce pollution on major roads.
- D. THAT Council direct staff, as part of the city-wide planning process, to examine the City's zoning, building codes, and planning policies and practices, such as prioritizing placement of multi-family buildings on arterials, to determine that the same standards of health and safety are applied equally to all residents.
- E. THAT Council direct staff to seek recommendations from Vancouver Coastal Health and Metro Vancouver for measures residents of existing housing can take to best mitigate the impact of traffic pollution such as improved air filters, sound proofing, air purifiers, that might help existing residents mitigate the impact of traffic pollution, including fully informing residents of the dangers of eating garden produce, leaving windows open.
- F. THAT Council direct staff to inform the Vancouver School Board of these actions to inform their planning for schools in the area.

#### **7. Punjabi Market at Fifty: Celebrating the Past and Planning for the Future**

At the Regular Council meeting on June 11, 2019, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on June 12, 2019, to hear from speakers, with a start time of 3pm.

The Committee heard from 12 speakers in support of the motion.

\* \* \* \* \*

*On June 19, 2019, during hearing speakers on Item 7, the Committee recessed at 5:29 pm and reconvened at 6:36 pm.*

\* \* \* \* \*

MOVED by Councillor Fry  
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

#### WHEREAS

1. Sikhism is a religion that originated during the 15th century in the Punjab region of India. Today, over 150,000 Metro Vancouverites identify as Sikh.
2. The first wave of Sikh immigration to Vancouver occurred in 1904. Despite many historic injustices and institutionalized racism, in 1947 Sikhs were given the right to vote and become Canadian citizens.
3. The Punjabi Market is a 3-block commercial district along Main Street between 48th and 51st avenues that has been a destination for South Asian culture and

commerce since Sucha Singh Claire opened a sari and fabric shop in the area on May 31, 1970.

4. The Punjabi Market, also known as Little India was the first and largest South Asian Market outside of South Asia and has historically included several Indian restaurants, sweet shops, jewellery stores, clothing stores, grocers, as well as other businesses catering to the South Asian community, local neighbourhood and tourists.
5. Vancouver was home to the first and largest Vaisakhi celebration outside of Punjab, traveling between Ross Street Temple and Punjabi Market, at its height, there were over 300 shops in the area. Punjabi Market was the first place in the world (outside of South Asia) to have Punjabi on street signs.
6. In recent years, the Punjabi Market has been struggling, and new construction and residential development has the potential to transform the area. Community concerns with regard to public realm, street level retail, and built form called for more comprehensive and collaborative planning for the future of Punjabi Market.
7. In 2016, responding to community concerns, Vancouver City Council directed staff to examine Chapter 23 of the Sunset Community Vision – “Main Street Shopping Area/Punjabi Market” and noted “a robust plan needs to be in place to preserve and sustain Punjabi Market for future generations.”
8. In 2017 the City commissioned *Retail Business Study of the Punjabi Market Area of Vancouver* (LOCO BC, Masala) which was delivered in March 2018.
9. In April 2018, staff proposed an Area Management Plan that would include the creation of an area Statement of Significance (including heritage values and key character defining elements) along with a local working group and strategies and actions for regeneration of Punjabi Market.
10. In November 2018, Vancouver City Council directed staff to expedite the development of a City-wide planning process, that would help to determine the shape of our neighbourhoods, guided by inclusion, heritage, and enjoyable well-designed gathering places, among other things.
11. The health and vitality of Vancouver's communities is one of the reasons the city is considered one of the best places on earth to live. City staff routinely advise Council on policies, strategies, and initiatives that meet the needs of Vancouver's multicultural and diverse communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A. THAT Council affirms that the Punjabi Market shopping area is an area with historic significance and present day importance.
- B. THAT the Mayor determine May 31, 2020, and the occasion of its 50th Anniversary as “Punjabi Market Day”.

- C. THAT Council direct staff to review work to date, including the *Sunset Community Vision, Retail Business Study of the Punjabi Market Area of Vancouver*, and work to date on the Area Management Plan and report back by Q4 2019.
- D. THAT Council direct staff, including Engineering, Arts Culture and Community Services, and Planning to consult with community and identify quick-wins along with necessary budget, resources and potential partnerships to deploy in advance of the occasion of the 50th Anniversary, including but not limited to public realm improvements, and report back by Q4 2019.
- E. THAT Council direct staff to report back by Q4 2019, with budget and resources for the creation of a collaborative and participatory community process on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Punjabi Market and as part of the City-wide planning process: to imagine the future of the Punjabi Market.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor De Genova

THAT D be amended by adding the words “including the Khalsa Diwan Society and the Punjabi Market Association” after the word “community”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 04600)  
(Councillor Hardwick absent for the vote)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Bligh

THAT the following be added at the end:

THAT Council direct staff to work with other governance bodies to support the advancement and opportunities in the Punjabi Market. This includes working with the Vancouver Park Board, Vancouver School Board, provincial and federal governments, along with the nations’ lands on which we reside and work, (upon which the Punjabi Market is situated), including the, xʷməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and the Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 04601)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Boyle

THAT the following be added to the end:

THAT Council direct staff to consult with the South Asian community and experts to research and review past discrimination against residents of South Asian descent. That based on these findings, staff recommend to Council steps and actions in support of reconciliation, including the possibility of a public acknowledgement and formal apology to the South Asian community. Note that this work could be modeled on the work completed in 2018 on the Historic Discrimination against Chinese people in Vancouver.

withdrawn

Councillor Boyle request to withdraw the amendment. The Committee so agreed.

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the following be added to the end:

THAT Council direct staff to apply a diversity, equity and inclusion lens in undertaking the aforementioned work, considering issues of safety generally, but also specifically for ethno-cultural communities, indigenous people, women and the LGBTQ2S+ community, as well as accessibility for people with disabilities.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 04602)

At 8:26 pm, Councillor Kirby-Yung rose on a Point Of Order, noting that Councillor Swanson's comments should avoid commenting on race and the distribution of wealth. The Chair reminded Councillors to avoid language that suggests one race may be wealthier than others.

The amendments having carried, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 04603)

Following adoption of the resolution, Councillor Fry put forward an amendment to the preamble clause.

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry

THAT "WHEREAS" clauses 1 and 2 be deleted and replaced with the following:

1. The first wave of South Asian immigration to Vancouver occurred in 1904. Despite many historic injustices and institutionalized racism, in 1947 South Asians were given the right to vote and become Canadian citizens.
2. The South Asian community in Vancouver is diverse in terms of its religions, ethnicities, identities and languages; and is growing. The South Asian community is the second largest visible minority group in the city and (according to Stats Canada and Census data) will make up the largest visible minority group in Canada within the next two decades

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 04604)

### **FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED**

WHEREAS

1. The first wave of South Asian immigration to Vancouver occurred in 1904. Despite many historic injustices and institutionalized racism, in 1947 South Asians were given the right to vote and become Canadian citizens.

2. The South Asian community in Vancouver is diverse in terms of its religions, ethnicities, identities and languages; and is growing. The South Asian community is the second largest visible minority group in the city and (according to Stats Canada and Census data) will make up the largest visible minority group in Canada within the next two decades.
3. The Punjabi Market is a 3-block commercial district along Main Street between 48th and 51st avenues that has been a destination for South Asian culture and commerce since Sucha Singh Claire opened a sari and fabric shop in the area on May 31, 1970.
4. The Punjabi Market, also known as Little India was the first and largest South Asian Market outside of South Asia and has historically included several Indian restaurants, sweet shops, jewellery stores, clothing stores, grocers, as well as other businesses catering to the South Asian community, local neighbourhood and tourists.
5. Vancouver was home to the first and largest Vaisakhi celebration outside of Punjab, traveling between Ross Street Temple and Punjabi Market, at its height, there were over 300 shops in the area. Punjabi Market was the first place in the world (outside of South Asia) to have Punjabi on street signs.
6. In recent years, the Punjabi Market has been struggling, and new construction and residential development has the potential to transform the area. Community concerns with regard to public realm, street level retail, and built form called for more comprehensive and collaborative planning for the future of Punjabi Market.
7. In 2016, responding to community concerns, Vancouver City Council directed staff to examine Chapter 23 of the Sunset Community Vision – “Main Street Shopping Area/Punjabi Market” and noted “a robust plan needs to be in place to preserve and sustain Punjabi Market for future generations.”
8. In 2017 the City commissioned *Retail Business Study of the Punjabi Market Area of Vancouver* (LOCO BC, Masala) which was delivered in March 2018.
9. In April 2018, staff proposed an Area Management Plan that would include the creation of an area Statement of Significance (including heritage values and key character defining elements) along with a local working group and strategies and actions for regeneration of Punjabi Market.
10. In November 2018, Vancouver City Council directed staff to expedite the development of a City-wide planning process, that would help to determine the shape of our neighbourhoods, guided by inclusion, heritage, and enjoyable well-designed gathering places, among other things.
11. The health and vitality of Vancouver's communities is one of the reasons the city is considered one of the best places on earth to live. City staff routinely advise Council on policies, strategies, and initiatives that meet the needs of Vancouver's multicultural and diverse communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council affirms that the Punjabi Market shopping area is an area with historic significance and present day importance.
- B. THAT the Mayor determine May 31, 2020, and the occasion of its 50th Anniversary as “Punjabi Market Day”.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to review work to date, including the *Sunset Community Vision, Retail Business Study of the Punjabi Market Area of Vancouver*, and work to date on the Area Management Plan and report back by Q4 2019.
- D. THAT Council direct staff, including Engineering, Arts Culture and Community Services, and Planning to consult with community, including the Khalsa Diwan Society and the Punjabi Market Association, and identify quick-wins along with necessary budget, resources and potential partnerships to deploy in advance of the occasion of the 50th Anniversary, including but not limited to public realm improvements, and report back by Q4 2019.
- E. THAT Council direct staff to report back by Q4 2019, with budget and resources for the creation of a collaborative and participatory community process on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Punjabi Market and as part of the City-wide planning process: to imagine the future of the Punjabi Market.
- F. THAT Council direct staff to work with other governance bodies to support the advancement and opportunities in the Punjabi Market. This includes working with the Vancouver Park Board, Vancouver School Board, provincial and federal governments, along with the nations’ lands on which we reside and work, (upon which the Punjabi Market is situated), including the, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and the Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh).
- G. THAT Council direct staff to apply a diversity, equity and inclusion lens in undertaking the aforementioned work, considering issues of safety generally, but also specifically for ethno-cultural communities, indigenous people, women and the LGBTQ2S+ community, as well as accessibility for people with disabilities.

**8. Exploring New Forms of Hospitality and Housing Tenure to Support Purpose Built Rental**

At the Regular Council meeting on June 11, 2019, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on June 12, 2019, to hear from speakers, with a start time of 3pm.

Prior to the introduction of the motion, it was,

REFERRAL MOVED by Councillor Swanson

THAT the Committee hear from speakers and engage in debate and decision on Item 8

today, and refer items 9 and 10, to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on June 26, 2019.

withdrawn

Councillor Swanson requested to withdraw the referral motion. The Committee so agreed.

Councillor Fry introduced the motion and the Committee asked clarifying questions.

The Committee heard from four speakers in support of the motion and one speaker opposed to the motion.

REFERRAL MOVED by Councillor Hardwick

THAT the Committee extend the meeting past 10:00 pm to finish hearing from speakers on Item 8 and refer debate and decision on the item to the Regular Council meeting on June 25, 2019, as Unfinished Business.

reconsidered

The motion to extend was LOST NOT HAVING RECEIVED THE REQUIRED UNANIMITY with Councillor Wiebe opposed.

MOVED by Councillor Wiebe

THAT Council extend the meeting past 10:00 pm to finish hearing from speakers and conclude debate and decision on Item 8.

LOST NOT HAVING RECEIVED  
THE REQUIRED UNANIMITY  
(Mayor Stewart and Councillor De Genova opposed)

RECONSIDERATION MOVED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the Committee reconsider the prior motion to extend the meeting past 10:00 pm to finish hearing from speakers on Item 8 and refer debate and decision on the item to the Regular Council meeting on June 25, 2019, as Unfinished Business.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Councillor Hardwick

THAT the Committee extend the meeting past 10:00 pm to finish hearing from speakers on Item 8 and refer debate and decision on the item to the Regular Council meeting on June 25, 2019, as Unfinished Business.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



MOVED by Councillor Fry  
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. More than half of the population of the City of Vancouver rent their home;
2. Rents are high and vacancy rates are low, which has been characterized as a crisis;
3. The City of Vancouver has committed to a target of 20,000 new purpose-built rental units to be approved by 2027;
4. Developer Cost Levies (DCLs) are an important source of revenue for City facilities like Parks, Childcare facilities, Social and non-profit housing, and Engineering infrastructure;
5. The City of Vancouver waives Developer Cost Levies (DCLs) to encourage the construction of purpose-built rental through the Moderate Income Rental Housing Pilot Program, and for “For Profit Affordable Housing” through the Rental 100 program;
6. Rents under Rental 100 typically exceed the measure of affordability for the median Vancouver household income (less than \$80,000);
7. Hotel and traveler accommodations support one of Vancouver and the region’s primary industries. In 2017, tourism contributed approximately \$4.8 billion to the Metro Vancouver economy and supported over 70,000 full time jobs;
8. For the last 15 years, the number of Vancouver hotel rooms have been in decline. The loss of hotel supply has put upward pressure on the market and the average costs of the remaining hotel stock are consistently among the highest in Canada;
9. Tourism Vancouver warned the City risks losing its competitive edge as a tourism destination over hotel room shortages; potentially over \$2 billion in visitor spending over 12 years (*Tourism in Vancouver: Hotel Demand, Supply and Impact - 12 April, 2019*);
10. Tourism Vancouver have undergone 2030 planning, and have recommended that between 3,000 - 4,000 hotel rooms are required to meet visitor demand;
11. Modern traveler preferences for Do-it-yourself (DIY) apartment-style accommodations have led to growth in individually-owned peer-to-peer (P2P) “short term rentals” (STRs) like Airbnb and VRBO; variously marketed under the slogan “live like a local.”;
12. P2P STRs like Airbnb and VRBO can replace long-term local (resident) rental housing supply with short-term visitor accommodations. Despite regulations, anecdotal reports and self-appointed watchdogs suggest P2P STRs are a threat

- to long-term rental stock;
13. Modern traveler preferences for Do-it-yourself (DIY) apartment-style accommodations are also inspiring the growth of “tech-enabled hospitality” options in the new form of corporate-run apartment-hotel hybrids like Stay Alfred, Lyric, and Sonder;
  14. The tech-enabled hospitality model avails:
    - a. Locations in purpose-built rental, strata, or commercial buildings;
    - b. Forgoing lobby, concierge, and otherwise traditional hotel amenities;
    - c. Opportunities to “live like a local,” with locations potentially inside or outside of traditional hotel districts;
    - d. An alternative to P2P STRs for the DIY traveler;
    - e. A discrete experience that is minimally impactful on long term local residents and neighbourhoods: Suites and floors are accessed by coded key fob, apps link guests to services operated out of remote locations, and sound monitors support good neighbour agreements;
  15. The tech-enabled hospitality model can also avail:
    - a. A financial incentive for developers to build new Purpose-Built Rental leveraging a time-limited master lease for a portion of hospitality use in the building.
    - b. The increased supply of new market rental, supported by tech-enabled hospitality units in new Purpose-Built Rental (PBR) buildings;
    - c. The increased supply of new market rental, once the tech-enabled hospitality units themselves are released from their lease;
  16. The Canadian company Sonder (named in *Forbes* as one of 2018’s Next Billion Dollar Startups) have undertaken master leases for entire floors of units in new purpose-built apartment buildings, and helping to build new PBR buildings. For example, in Central Philadelphia, Sonder have committed to master leases on hundreds of units in planned buildings which in turn has provided developers with financial security to build;
  17. Members of the development community have expressed interest in this model and tech-enabled hospitality providers have expressed interest in the Vancouver market, but the city lacks a comprehensive policy, so the barrier to entry is too high.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to explore new forms of hospitality and housing tenure with development and construction industry, tech-enabled hospitality operators, and lenders including CMHC.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to consider how limited term master leases for tech-enabled hospitality might function with regard to covenants, change of use, split classification tax, licensing, legal, zoning, and city-wide planning.

- C. THAT Council direct staff to consider in their July 2019 report on Rental Incentive Program Review if tech-enabled hospitality models in lieu of DCL waivers might improve the financial performance and delivery of for-profit purpose built rentals.
- D. THAT Council direct staff to include in their July 2019 report on Rental Incentive Program Review any budget and resource considerations.
- E. THAT Council direct staff to include in their Winter 2019 report back on Rental 100, how incentive (specifically tech-enabled hospitality models) options other than DCL waivers that might improve financial performance and delivery of for-profit purpose built rentals.

referred

### **9. A Comprehensive Strategy for Realizing the Full Potential of the Nighttime Economy in the City of Vancouver**

At the Regular Council meeting on June 11, 2019, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on June 12, 2019, to hear from speakers, with a start time of 3pm.

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

#### WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver's mission is to create a great city of communities that cares about its people, its environment, and the opportunities to live, work, and prosper;
2. Vancouver City Council recognizes that a resilient, diverse economy fosters dynamic businesses and sustainable employment, and helps to attract and retain professionals, families, and individuals who can live and work in our city;
3. The City of Vancouver has an Economic Action Strategy (2011), supported by Council, as well various initiatives that have been undertaken to promote and strengthen local business, to provide tools for Vancouver businesses to flourish (while incorporating sustainable practices), and to make Vancouver an attractive business locale and tourism destination for people from around the world;
4. The Vancouver Economic Commission (VEC), as the economic development agency for the City of Vancouver, works to strengthen Vancouver's economy by supporting local companies, attracting high-impact investment, and promoting international trade, with a particular focus on developing Vancouver's creative economy, knowledge economy, and green economy;
5. The City of Vancouver has embarked on a wide range of strategic initiatives, for example, the Music Strategy and Creative City Strategy which each seek to develop a comprehensive plan and vision for culture and creativity in Vancouver;

6. The City of Vancouver has a Healthy City Strategy that, among other goals and objectives, recognizes that a thriving, diverse economy, with opportunity for everyone, is the foundation of a liveable city, as well as recognizing that families with children are key to a diverse and vibrant society;
7. In recent years, cities around the world have begun to pay greater attention to the value and potential of the Nighttime Economy of their cities, whether it be the whole of a city's nightlife industry of dining and entertainment, various major nightlife components such as music and craft beverages, or secondary economic activity from transportation and related nightlife spending by patrons;
8. A recent study undertaken by the City of Toronto concluded that the Nighttime economy is the "*new competitive edge for post-industrial cities*" and that Toronto should undertake a vision and action plan to advance the night-time economy;
9. To underscore the value of the Nighttime Economy to the city of Vancouver and the Metro Vancouver region, the Hospitality Vancouver Association (HVA), an association that advocates for clubs, pubs, and other businesses along Granville Street and the Davie Village, notes that the Granville Entertainment District (GED) – as the social hub of Vancouver – employs thousands of people and generates tens of millions of dollars in annual economic activity, including more than 900 jobs and \$43.5 million in annual revenue alone generated by the GED's 14 liquor-primary businesses;
10. A June 2018 study of Vancouver's "Music Ecosystem" commissioned by the Music BC Industry Association, outlines several specific impediments to a thriving Nighttime Economy, as faced by the city's music sector, such as "obstacles with permits and curfews in high-activity areas" which has led to a paucity of music events, as well as "limited late transport options" available for music audiences in the city.;"
11. There is a general shortage of family-friendly, substance-free Nighttime Economy options and events in the city that are suitable for children, youth, and families, and despite the City's support for many aspects of the Nighttime Economy, Vancouver has gained a reputation for being a "no fun" city in the minds of many;
12. Attracting greater numbers of people to a downtown social district can yield greater nightlife vibrancy and economic growth, as noted by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), but it can also place demands on public safety and other municipal resources and therefore requires a strong foundation and a dedicated, comprehensive focus on the part of local governments and other government levels to capitalize on the economic opportunities;
13. At the May 2, 2018, meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on City Finance and Services, Vancouver City Council supported a series of nightlife actions and recommendations stemming from a staff report entitled "Update on Liquor Policy Implementation and Upgrading the Granville Entertainment District". These included an amendment directing staff, as part of the City's Creative City Strategy, to establish a "Nightlife Council" that combines safety,

security, transportation, economic development, and vibrant street life, as well as integrating lessons learned from the Granville Entertainment District Safety and Security Working Group;

14. Vancouver City Staff, in collaboration with students from Simon Fraser University and input from the VEC, recently commissioned a literature review and jurisdictional scan of Vancouver's nightlife economy, identifying the key themes of transportation, safety, access, and nightlife development, while acknowledging that the scope of the project was limited to nightlife, and not to the broader Nighttime economy, with recommendations for further investigation of the city's night economy;
15. The Nighttime Economy is more than just entertainment, leisure, and social events, it encompasses cultural, retail, tourism, and various corporate sectors, as well as nighttime workers who do not work in nightlife venues (e.g., health care workers, first responders, and police);
16. At the July 26, 2018, Public Meeting of the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation, TransLink staff reported on the NightBus service, including discussion of TransLink's engagement with the Province on ride-hailing, and TransLink's interest in partnering with ride-hailing services – particularly for first mile/last mile and late night services;
17. TransLink – at the recommendation of its Late Night Stakeholder Committee – recently piloted the NightBus service from a central hub located on West Georgia Street at Granville, where patrons can wait comfortably in a central, well-lit environment to help improve safety along the busy GED nightlife corridor, amid frequent calls for extended SkyTrain service hours and ride-hailing options;
18. In June of this year, TransLink will be releasing a report on late night transportation that will look at a range of seamless transit options for Metro Vancouver residents to return safely to their communities;
19. Ride-hailing has yet to become legal in British Columbia, and despite legislation introduced by the provincial government on November 19, 2018, that will ostensibly allow ride-hailing companies to enter the B.C. market in the fall of 2019, it remains to be seen how, when, where, and if ride-hailing will arrive and whether it can thrive and succeed in B.C.;
20. Cities such as Sydney and London have adopted night-time strategic plans, while other cities have created dedicated commissions and staff and global cities around the world are generally adopting strategic measures to grow their Nighttime economies to create local jobs and support a wide range of economic activity;
21. Despite the City of Vancouver's ongoing interest (past and present) in developing the potential of the city's Nighttime Economy, obstacles and impediments continue to exist, not the least of which relate to transportation, public safety, access, and regulatory restrictions, and the City lacks a comprehensive

overarching strategic policy framework that could bring the fullness of the city's Nighttime Economy into focus.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the current Vancouver City Council – sworn in on November 5, 2018 – affirm its unequivocal support for realizing the full economic potential of a Nighttime Economy and the role it can and does play in a strong, diverse local economy, one that supports small businesses and jobs, the local arts and culture sectors, and the goal for Vancouver to be a sustainable, liveable city with opportunities for everyone.
- B. THAT Vancouver City Council direct staff to work with the Vancouver Economic Commission to develop recommendations for a comprehensive citywide Nighttime Economy Strategy, one that encompasses all aspects of the Nighttime Economy and serves to focus the range of necessary actions required by Council and the City to remove obstacles and impediments to realizing the economic and other potentials of Vancouver's Nighttime Economy, in consultation with all appropriate stakeholders, with work to begin in 2020, and for a draft strategy to be presented to Council for its consideration on or before June 2021; and

FURTHER THAT Vancouver City Council direct staff to apply a child, youth, and families' lens in formulating recommendations for a comprehensive Nighttime Economy Strategy to ensure that family-friendly, substance-free events and street activations that foster social connectedness are included and well-represented in the strategy; and

FURTHER THAT Vancouver City Council direct staff to apply a gender diversity and inclusion lens in formulating recommendations for a comprehensive Nighttime Economy Strategy to consider issues of safety generally, but also specifically for women and the LGBTQ2S+ community, as well as accessibility for people with disabilities.

- C. THAT Vancouver City Council affirm its support for a regional Night Transit Strategy that seamlessly connects Metro Vancouver communities, in support of the Vancouver and regional Nighttime Economies, including affirming Council's support for TransLink to explore transit options for Metro Vancouver residents to return safely to their communities whether that be within the City of Vancouver or for residents of Surrey, Burnaby, Coquitlam, Richmond and other Metro Vancouver municipalities or for underserved residents of the UBC Endowment Lands.

referred

REFERRAL MOVED by Mayor Stewart

THAT, due to time constraints, the Committee refer items 9 and 10 to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on June 26, 2019 starting at 3:00 pm, in order to hear from speakers.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**10. Cannabis as an Alternative to Opiates and More Dangerous Drugs on the Downtown Eastside**

At the Regular Council meeting on June 11, 2019, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on June 12, 2019, to hear from speakers, with a start time of 3pm.

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. In 2015, following several days of Public Hearings, Vancouver City Council approved licensing rules for medical-cannabis dispensaries, including the creation of an exclusion zone in the Downtown Eastside where marijuana sales are prohibited except for sites with a property line on Hastings Street or Main Street;
2. The City's intention in creating an exclusion zone in the Downtown Eastside in 2015 was to limit the proximity of dispensaries to youth and vulnerable populations;
3. On October 17, 2018, the federal *Cannabis Act* came into effect, making recreational cannabis legal in Canada;
4. Prior to the October 17, 2018 legalization of cannabis in Canada, i.e., in June 2018, the federal government passed the bill to legalize recreational cannabis in Canada, leading the provincial governments – including B.C. – to implement new regulations for cannabis businesses to operate, and leading the City of Vancouver to update its Zoning and Development and License by-laws to ensure that Vancouver cannabis retailers operate in adherence to all regulations;
5. On December 20, 2018, a Special Meeting of Vancouver City Council was held for the purpose of receiving a report from the Mayor's Overdose Emergency Task Force and to consider recommendations for immediate action on the overdose crisis – recommendations Council unanimously supported;
6. On April 14, 2019, the City of Vancouver marked "the 1090th day since B.C. declared the increase in overdose deaths as a public health emergency" by declaring that the City would "fly the city's flag at half-mast on this day each year until B.C.'s provincial health officer rescinds the current state of public health emergency.";

7. Since April 14, 2016, more than 3,600 people have lost their lives to overdose in B.C., with more than 1,000 of these deaths occurring in Vancouver, driven by an increasingly toxic, unregulated drug supply that is contaminated by fentanyl, carfentanil, and other contaminants;
8. Recent scientific findings have raised the possibility that cannabis might have a beneficial role to play in the overdose crisis, with preliminary evidence linking cannabis to reductions in the risk of experiencing drug-related harms, notably through research conducted by UBC Professor M-J Milloy which showed that among 2,500 hard drug users in the Downtown Eastside, cannabis helped 20 per cent to stay with treatment after a six-month period;
9. Vancouver City Council and the City of Vancouver generally support the exploration of studies related to the opioid overdose crisis facing the city and the role of cannabis in potentially addressing the situation, including two related actions in the Mayor's Emergency Overdose Task Force currently underway;
10. The CBC quotes Dr. Keith Ahamad, Medical Director for the Regional Addiction Program at Vancouver Coastal Health, an addiction medicine clinician at St. Paul's Hospital, and a clinical researcher with the B.C. Centres on Substance Use, as stating that the Downtown Eastside exclusion zone makes no sense from a public health point of view and that the City's "... current drug policy... is obviously not working and actually worsening harm. It's literally bad drug policy.";
11. Health workers, addiction experts, and others working on the frontlines of the Downtown Eastside have reported that the situation on the Downtown Eastside has become much more dire since 2015, and have suggested that the exclusion zone created by the City of Vancouver in 2015 has only served to further stigmatize the Downtown Eastside instead of protecting its vulnerable population, leaving people at the epicentre of the opioid crisis with no low-cost, legal options if they want to use cannabis as an alternative to more dangerous drugs;
12. High Hopes Social Enterprise (HHSE), an organization that seeks to increase the general well-being of the DTES community and support the sustainability and resilience of its community and residents, has identified a need to enable low-cost, legal cannabis options on the Downtown Eastside for the most vulnerable people situated at the epicentre of the opioid crisis, people who may want to use cannabis as an alternative to more dangerous drugs but cannot afford market retail prices as stipulated by the province;
13. The Vancouver Overdose Prevention Society and High Hopes Social Enterprise (HHSE) make note of support for low-cost, legal cannabis options on the Downtown Eastside (potentially on the model of a community cannabis store with a social enterprise and research focus), from, among others:
  - **Professor Evan Wood**, MD, PhD, FRCPC, ABAM Dip, FASAM; Professor of Medicine, UBC; Canada Research Chair in Inner City Medicine; Director, British Columbia Centre on Substance Use; and Executive Director of the British Columbia Centre on Substance Use (BCCSU).



- **Professor M-J Milloy**, PhD, Canopy Growth professor of cannabis science, Assistant professor, Department of Medicine, University of British Columbia; Research scientist, British Columbia Centre on Substance Use; New Investigator, Canadian Institutes of Health Research; Scholar, Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research.
  - **Dr. Mark Tyndall**, Executive Medical Director BC Centre for Disease Control
14. All cannabis retail stores require a Provincial licence to operate and are regulated and enforced by the BC Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch under the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act*;
  15. There are currently four cannabis retail locations in the Downtown Eastside with approved Development Permits, all of which will be eligible and expected to apply for a provincial cannabis retail licence to operate as legal cannabis stores:
    - 529 E Hastings Street (Hastings and Jackson St)
    - 151 E Hastings Street (Hastings between Main and Columbia)
    - 369 Columbia Street (Hastings and Columbia)
    - 231 Abbott Street (Abbott and Cordova);
  16. In order for the four cannabis retail locations noted above, all of which have received Development Permits from the City, to proceed to the license application phase with the provincial government, they will be required to close with no guarantee that they will be granted a license or any clear indication as to the timeframe for any license that may ultimately be issued, leaving the Downtown Eastside without any retail cannabis locations for those who may wish to use cannabis as an alternative to more dangerous drugs;
  17. Despite the legalization of recreational marijuana in Canada, and regulatory structures in place provincially and at the City of Vancouver, there does not appear to be a regulatory option available that would enable low-cost, legal cannabis (potentially on the model of a community cannabis store with a social enterprise and research focus) for the Downtown Eastside and its most vulnerable residents who may want to use cannabis as an alternative to opiates and more dangerous drugs;
  18. The City of Vancouver's recent April 14, 2019 News Release ("*Vancouver mourns the lives lost to overdose on third-year anniversary of B.C.'s public health emergency*") states: "The City is committed to addressing the issues that further exacerbate the struggles around substance use. A comprehensive approach to illicit substance use including prevention, harm reduction and treatment, will save so many lives. We call upon health professionals, all levels of government, and the public to join us in advocating for a safe drug supply, in Vancouver and elsewhere in Canada, to protect residents and prevent any more unnecessary deaths."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Vancouver City Council direct staff to make recommendations to Council with respect to Section 11 of the City of Vancouver Zoning and Development By-law with proposals on how this zoning by-law could be amended to allow well-considered exceptions to the City's current prohibition on Cannabis Stores in the Downtown Eastside exclusion zone, consistent with the City's commitment to a comprehensive approach to illicit substance use, including prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and addressing the issues that exacerbate the struggles around substance use, and consistent with the dire, well-recognized nature of the opioid crisis and the immense, devastating impact it is having on the people of the City's Downtown Eastside in particular;

FURTHER THAT Vancouver City Council direct staff to engage with the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) to indicate Vancouver City Council's desire to address unintended aspects of the City's current Zoning and Development By-law as it pertains to facilitating well-considered exceptions to the City's Zoning and Development By-law in relation to cannabis Stores in the city, as well as engagement around the province's regulatory processes for licensing cannabis retail stores.

- B. THAT Vancouver City Council direct staff to make urgent recommendations to Council with respect to regulatory options and potential pathways that could enable low-cost, legal cannabis options for the Downtown Eastside (potentially on the model of a community cannabis store with a social enterprise and research focus) for those people who may want to use cannabis as an alternative to opiates and more dangerous drugs but cannot afford the market retail prices stipulated by provincial regulations for a cannabis retail store.

referred

REFERRAL MOVED by Mayor Stewart

THAT, due to time constraints, the Committee refer items 9 and 10 to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on June 26, 2019 starting at 3:00 pm, in order to hear from speakers.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On June 19, 2019, the Committee adjourned at 10:11 pm.

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**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON  
POLICY AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

**JUNE 12 AND 19, 2019**

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Wednesday, June 12, 2019, at 9:54 pm, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, following the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting, to consider the recommendations and actions of the Committee. Subsequently, the Council reconvened on Wednesday, July 19, 2019, at 3:07 pm.

**PRESENT:**

- Mayor Kennedy Stewart\*
- Councillor Rebecca Bligh
- Councillor Christine Boyle
- Councillor Adriane Carr
- Councillor Melissa De Genova
- Councillor Lisa Dominato
- Councillor Pete Fry
- Councillor Colleen Hardwick
- Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung
- Councillor Jean Swanson
- Councillor Michael Wiebe\*

**CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE:** Sadhu Johnston, City Manager (June 12, 2019)  
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager (June 19, 2019)

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Rosemary Hagiwara, Deputy City Clerk  
Denise Swanston, Meeting Coordinator

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Report of Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities  
Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Council considered the report containing the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities. Its items of business included:

- 1a. 2019 Homeless Count and Rapid Responses to Homelessness through Partnerships
- 1b. 2019 Homelessness Action Week and Supportive Housing Grants, and Grant to Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council
2. New Edition of the Fire By-law (2019 Fire By-law)
3. Contract Award for Supply and Delivery of Ready Mix Concrete
4. Supporting the Call for Changing the Cheque Day Paradigm
5. Protecting Rental Housing Stock along Arterial Streets
11. Renter's Office Report Back

Items 1-5 and 11

MOVED by Councillor De Genova  
SECONDED by Councillor Boyle

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities at its meeting of June 12, 2019, as contained in items 1-5 and 11, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

*Note: Recommendations A and B of Item 1b require two-thirds affirmative votes of all Council members per section 206 (1) of the Vancouver Charter.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*On June 12, 2019, Council agreed to deal with an item of Urgent Business prior to the Unfinished Business Item.*

\* \* \* \* \*

## **URGENT BUSINESS**

### **1. Request for Leave of Absence**

MOVED by Councillor De Genova  
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT Mayor Stewart be granted a Leave of Absence on Wednesday, June 19, 2019, from 3:00 to 6:00 pm for Civic Business.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

\* \* \* \* \*

*On June 12, 2019, Council recessed at 9:59 pm.*

*On June 19, 2019, at 3:07 pm Council reconvened with Deputy Mayor Kirby-Yung in the Chair, to deal with an Urgent Business item, prior to reconvening Standing Committee.*

\* \* \* \* \*

## **URGENT BUSINESS**

### **1. Request for Leave of Absence**

MOVED by Councillor De Genova  
SECONDED by Councillor Boyle

THAT Councillor Dominato be granted a Leave of Absence for Civic Business, for today's meeting from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Mayor Stewart and Councillor Wiebe absent for the vote)

\* \* \* \* \*

*On June 19, 2019, Council recessed at 3:09 pm and reconvened at 10:11 pm.*

\* \* \* \* \*

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Report of Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities  
Wednesday, June 19, 2019

Council considered the report containing the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities. Its items of business included:

6. Reducing Truck Pollution in Clark-Knight Corridor and Other City Streets
7. Punjabi Market at Fifty: Celebrating the Past and Planning for the Future

Items 6 and 7

MOVED by Councillor Wiebe  
SECONDED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities at its meeting of June 19, 2019, as contained in items 6 and 7, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **1. Designation of Vancouver Affordable Housing Agency as Agent of the City to Develop City Land Assets at 2031 and 2037 Stainsbury Avenue**

- A. THAT Council designates the Housing Agency to act as the agent of the City to enable the development of affordable housing on City-owned land at 2031 and 2037 Stainsbury Avenue, legally described as Lot 7, Blocks 6 to 8, District Lot 195, Plan 1976; Lot 8 Blocks 6 to 8 District Lot 195 Plan 1976; PIDs: 014-138-301 and 004-763-114 respectively (“the Properties”).
- B. THAT, subject to approval of Recommendation A, Council authorize the transfer of the Properties from the Property Endowment Fund to the Capital Fund for \$2.4 million; source of funding to be the approved 2019 Capital Budget for Affordable Housing Land Acquisition.

referred

REFERRAL MOVED by Councillor De Genova  
SECONDED by Councillor Hardwick

THAT the Unfinished Business item from this meeting be moved to the Regular Council meeting on Tuesday, June 15, 2019, as Unfinished Business.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Councillor Fry  
SECONDED by Councillor Bligh

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On June 19, 2019, Council adjourned at 10:13 pm.

\* \* \* \* \*