

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON POLICY AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
SEPTEMBER 11, 2019
EXCERPT FROM MINUTES**

15. City Support for the September 2019 Global General Strike for Climate

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

WHEREAS:

1. Young people in Vancouver and around the world have been leading *Youth Climate Strike* and *Friday for Future* rallies to focus attention on the urgent need for action on the global climate emergency, especially by elected officials;
2. Youth are now calling on adults, workers, and people everywhere to join them in the week of September 20 to 27, 2019, when *Fridays for Future* and the *Youth Climate Strike* movements are calling for a global general strike for climate, stating:

"We don't feel like we have a choice: it's been years of talking, countless negotiations, empty deals on climate change... We have learned that if we don't start acting for our future, nobody else will make the first move... We're asking adults to step up alongside us...step up and out of your comfort zone for our climate. Let's all join together, with your neighbours, co-workers, friends, family and go out on to the streets to make your voices heard and make this a turning point in our history... We're counting on you;"
3. In January, 2019, Vancouver City Council unanimously passed the motion: *Ramping Up Vancouver's Climate Action in Response to the Climate Emergency*, committing the city to the bold action needed to avert a climate catastrophe;
4. Vancouver youth, led by the Vancouver Sustainabiliteens, are organizing a major *Global General Strike for Climate* event at Vancouver City Hall, scheduled for 1 pm on Friday, September 27, 2019. As of August 28, 8,149 people have accepted their social media invitation to attend (see https://www.facebook.com/pg/sustainabiliteens/events/?ref=page_internal)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. Council direct staff to contact the Sustainabiliteens to discuss ways in which the City can support the youth-initiated non-violent *Global General Strike for Climate* activity scheduled for 1 pm on Friday September 27, 2019 at Vancouver City Hall.
- B. Council direct staff to use the September 2019 *Global General Strike for Climate* as an opportunity to:
 - i. provide information to staff about why climate action is critically important to our city; and

- ii. initiate an ongoing process of collaboratively engaging staff on ways and means to achieve bolder and more effective climate mitigation and adaptation measures.
- C. Council support in principle the September 2019 youth-led Global General Strike for Climate and direct staff to consider potential ways for staff to voluntarily support or participate, with no loss of pay or other penalty, in the September 2019 Global General Strike for Climate activities in Vancouver, particularly the major event organized by Sustainabiliteens for 1 pm on September 27, 2019, consulting with representatives of the union locals that represent City of Vancouver and Park Board staff.

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