

## MOTION

### 9. **Increasing Access for Emergency Services: Examining How the City of Vancouver Can Increase Access to Strata and Rental Multi-Residential Buildings for All Emergency Services**

At the Council meeting on November 5, 2019, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on November 6, 2019, in order to hear from speakers.

Submitted by: Councillor De Genova

#### WHEREAS

1. In June 2014, the Vancouver Police Department announced the launch of Project Access “to assist Vancouverites in getting the police resources they need in the event of an emergency”. The project included a voluntary partnership between building management and the VPD to secure a method of entry to allow police access to residential condominium and rental buildings in the event of an emergency;
2. Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services are able to access multi-residential buildings via a lockbox that allows fire-fighters and rescue workers to enter buildings without causing extra damage during an emergency;
3. Richmond RCMP can gain access to multi-family residential buildings that opt into the City of Richmond Voluntary Building Access Program, using an electronic signal for building access. A media release from RCMP dated March 23, 2017, confirms the planned solution includes “*a Bluetooth-enabled lockbox that uses a smartphone to open the box where keys or key fobs can be stored. And should the smartphone get lost, in addition to requiring a passcode to open the app, the app itself can be removed from the device remotely, adding increased security. Further, every time the box is opened with the smartphone, a transaction gets sent to a database that’s managed by the fire department. While typical lockboxes are surface-mounted to the wall, this one is flush-mounted, making it virtually impenetrable*”;
4. Currently, police officers and paramedics do not have the same level of access as Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services;
5. There have been emergency situations in the City of Vancouver where paramedics and police have required access to buildings;
6. British Columbia Ambulance Service (BCAS) and the Vancouver Police Department both respond to a variety of situations, examples include: emergency mental health issues, suicide attempts, domestic violence, serious medical emergencies requiring medical attention and transport to hospital. Response time and the ability of emergency services to access multi-residential buildings can greatly affect and be a determining factor in the outcome of emergency calls.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to explore options available to the City of Vancouver to increase access and/or require new multi-family residential buildings to grant access to all Emergency Services in emergency circumstances.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to consider ways to encourage existing strata and rental buildings to opt into programs allowing access to all emergency services in Vancouver.
- C. THAT staff report back to Council with possible recommendations as soon as possible, and no later than Q4 2021.

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