



REPORT TO COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON CITY FINANCE AND SERVICES

FEBRUARY 26 AND MARCH 3, 2020

A meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on City Finance and Services was held on Wednesday, February 26, 2020, at 9:35 am, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall. Subsequently, the meeting reconvened on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at 3:06 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Melissa De Genova, Chair (Leave of Absence – Civic Business - 3:30-4 pm, February 26, 2020)
Mayor Kennedy Stewart*
Councillor Rebecca Bligh (Leave of Absence – Civic Business – March 3, 2020)*
Councillor Christine Boyle
Councillor Adriane Carr
Councillor Lisa Dominato (Leave of Absence – Personal Reasons - 3:45-6:15 pm, March 3, 2020)*
Councillor Pete Fry, Vice-Chair*
Councillor Colleen Hardwick*
Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung*
Councillor Jean Swanson
Councillor Michael Wiebe

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Rosemary Hagiwara, Deputy City Clerk
Tina Penney, Deputy City Clerk
Terri Burke, 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.

PROCLAMATION – Pink Shirt Day

The Mayor proclaimed February 26, 2020, as Pink Shirt Day in the city of Vancouver.

MATTERS ADOPTED ON CONSENT

MOVED by Councillor Dominato

THAT Council adopt Item 5, on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillor Kirby-Yung absent for the vote)

1. 2020 Renter Services Grants and Renter Office Update February 12, 2020

Jennifer Hales, Social Planner II, Homelessness Services and Affordable Housing Programs, provided a presentation on the 2020 Renter Services Grants and Renter Office Update.

The Committee heard from one speaker in support of, and one speaker opposed to, the recommendations.

MOVED by Councillor Carr
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve fourteen (14) Renter Services Grants totalling \$550,000, including recommended conditions on the grants, to the Agencies listed in Column 1 of Appendix A of the Report dated February 12, 2020, entitled "2020 Renter Services Grants and Renter Office Update", in the amounts recommended for each Agency in Column 3 of Appendix A of the same report. Source of funding is the 2020 Affordable Housing Operating Budget (EHT Allocation).
- B. THAT Council approve one (1) SRO Revitalization Grant totalling \$75,000, including recommended conditions on the grant, to the Downtown Eastside SRO Collaborative Society. Source of funding is the 2020 Capital Budget - SRO Upgrade Granting Program.
- C. THAT, pursuant to Section 206(1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council deems any organization that is to receive a grant pursuant to A and B above and is listed in Appendix A of the Report dated February 12, 2020, entitled "2020 Renter Services Grants and Renter Office Update", which is not a registered charity with Canada Revenue Agency, to be an organization contributing to the health and welfare of the City.
- D. THAT Council authorize the General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services to negotiate and execute agreements to disperse the grants described in A through C above on the terms and conditions set out herein or such other terms and conditions as are satisfactory to the General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services and the Director of Legal Services.

- E. THAT no legal rights or obligations will arise or be created by Council's adoption of A through C 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. 05595)
(Councillor Fry absent for the vote)

**2. 2020 Community Services and Other Social Grants
February 14, 2020**

The General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services provided opening comments.

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Prior to questions to staff, it was

MOVED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the Committee hear from speakers on item 2 prior to asking questions to staff.

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

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The Committee heard from 10 speakers in support of, and 18 opposed to, the recommendation to not provide Vancouver Rape Relief Society a grant.

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During the hearing of speakers, Councillor Kirby-Yung noted she had a conflict of interest regarding the grant to SUCCESS in recommendation A, as she has an immediate family member involved in the organization. She noted she would not participate in discussion and decision for that grant.

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During the hearing of speakers, the Committee recessed at 12 pm and reconvened at 3:06 pm.

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Vice-Chair Fry assumed the role of Chair from 3:34 pm to 4:30 pm.

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The Committee recessed at 5:05 pm and reconvened at 6:05 pm.

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During questions to staff, it was

MOVED by Councillor Hardwick

THAT the Committee enter into a second round of questions to staff on Item 2 "2020 Community Services and Other Social Grants".

CARRIED

(Councillors Bligh, Boyle, De Genova, Swanson and Mayor Stewart opposed)

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MOVED by Councillor Carr

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A1. THAT Council approve 107 Direct Services Grants totaling \$4,012,651, including recommended conditions on the grants, to the Agencies listed in Column 1 of Appendix A-1 of the Report dated February 14, 2020, entitled "2020 Community Services and Other Social Grants" in the amounts recommended for each Agency in Column 2 of Appendix A-1 of the same report. Source of funding is the 2020 Social Policy Grants Operating budget.
- A2. THAT Council approve three Direct Services Grants totaling \$119,864, including recommended conditions on the grants, to the United Chinese Community Enrichment Services Society dba S.U.C.C.E.S.S, listed in Column 1 of Appendix A-1 of the Report dated February 14, 2020, entitled "2020 Community Services and Other Social Grants". Source of funding is the 2020 Social Policy Grants Operating budget.
- B. THAT Council approve 17 Organizational & Other Capacity Building Grants totalling \$539,627, including recommended conditions on the grants, to the Agencies listed in Column 1 of Appendix B-1 of the Report dated February 14, 2020, entitled "2020 Community Services and Other Social Grants" in the amounts recommended for each Agency in Column 2 of Appendix B-1 of the same report. Source of funding is the 2020 Social Policy Grants Operating Budget.
- C. THAT Council approve 11 Neighbourhood Organization Grants totalling \$1,041,677 to the Agencies listed in Column 1 of Appendix C of the Report dated February 14, 2020, entitled "2020 Community Services and Other Social Grants" in the amounts recommended for each Agency in Column 2 of Appendix C of the same report. Source of funding is the 2020 Social Policy Grants Operating Budget.
- D. THAT Council approve 11 Indigenous Healing and Wellness Grants, totalling \$180,000 to the Agencies listed in Column 1 of Appendix D-1 of the Report dated February 14, 2020, entitled "2020 Community Services and Other Social Grants"

in the amounts recommended for each Agency in Column 2 of Appendix D-1 of the same report. Source of funding is the 2020 Social Policy Grants Operating Budget.

- E. THAT Council approve 13 Sustainable Food Systems grants totalling \$180,408 to the Agencies listed in Column 1 of Appendix E of the Report dated February 14, 2020, entitled “2020 Community Services and Other Social Grants” in the amounts recommended for each Agency in Column 2 of Appendix E of the same report. Source of funding is the 2020 Social Policy Grants Operating Budget.
- F. THAT Council approve 3 Rent Subsidy Grants totalling \$114,893 to the Agencies listed in Column 1 of Appendix F of the Report dated February 14, 2020, entitled “2020 Community Services and Other Social Grants” in the amounts recommended for each Agency in Column 2 of Appendix F of the same report. Source of funding is the 2020 Social Policy Grants Operating Budget.
- G. THAT Council approve 1 grant totalling \$150,000 to Eastside Movement for Business and Economic Renewal Society (EMBERS) to operate a low barrier employment and income generation hub in the Downtown Eastside. Source of funding is the 2020 Social Policy Grants Operating Budget.
- H. THAT Council authorize 46 Childcare Enhancement Grants totalling \$995,663, including recommended conditions on the grants, to the Agencies listed in Column 1 of Appendix G of the Report dated February 14, 2020, entitled “2020 Community Services and Other Social Grants” in the amounts recommended for each Agency in Column 2 of Appendix G of the same report Source of funding is the 2020 Social Policy Grants Operating Budget - Childcare.
- I. THAT Council approve 2 Childcare Administration Grants, totalling \$376,000, to the Agencies listed in Column 1 of Appendix H of the Report dated February 14, 2020, entitled “2020 Community Services and Other Social Grants” in the amounts recommended for each Agency in Column 2 of Appendix H of the same report. Source of funding is the 2020 Social Policy Grants Operating Budget - Childcare.
- J. THAT Council approve 22 Infant/Toddler Grants totalling \$657,195, to the Agencies listed in Column 1 of Appendix I of the Report dated February 14, 2020, entitled “2020 Community Services and Other Social Grants” in the amounts recommended for each Agency in Column 2 of Appendix I of the same report. Sources of funding are the 2020 Childcare Reserve (\$617,595); and, 2020 Social Policy Grants Operating Budget – Childcare (\$39,600).
- K. THAT Council approve 8 Social Responsibility Fund grants totalling \$335,120 from the Edgewater Social Responsibility Fund to the Agencies listed in Column 1 of Appendix J-1 of the Report dated February 14, 2020, entitled “2020 Community Services and Other Social Grants” in the amounts recommended for each Agency in Column 2 of Appendix J-1 of the same report. Source of funding is the Edgewater Casino Social Responsibility Reserve.

- L. THAT Council approve 1 grant of \$150,000 to Streetohome Foundation for 2020. Source of funding is the 2020 Arts, Culture and Community Services (ACCS) Operating Budget.
- M. THAT Council approve 3 School Food Program grants totalling \$459,000 to the Agencies listed in Column 1 of Appendix K of the Report dated February 14, 2020, entitled "2020 Community Services and Other Social Grants" in the amounts recommended for each Agency in Column 2 of Appendix K of the same report. Source of funding is the 2020 Social Policy Grants Operating Budget.
- N. THAT Council approve 6 Greenest City Grants totalling \$270,652 to the Agencies listed in Column 1 of Appendix L-1 of the Report dated February 14, 2020, entitled "2020 Community Services and Other Social Grants" in the amounts recommended for each Agency in Column 2 of Appendix L-1 of the same report. Source of funding is the 2020 Other Grants - Greenest City Grants Budget.
- O. THAT Council approve 1 grant totalling \$30,000 to Good Night Out Vancouver Society for 2020. Source of funds is the 2020 Social Policy Grants Operating Budget.
- P. THAT, pursuant to Section 206(1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council deems any organization that is to receive a grant pursuant to A to O above and is listed in Appendices A to J of the Report dated February 14, 2020, entitled "2020 Community Services and Other Social Grants" or named in G, L and O above, which is not a registered charity with Canada Revenue Agency, to be an organization contributing to the health or welfare of the City.
- Q. THAT Council authorize the General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services to negotiate and execute agreements to disperse the grants described in to O above on the terms and conditions set out herein or such other terms and conditions as are satisfactory to the General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services and the Director of Legal Services.
- R. THAT no legal rights or obligations will arise or be created by Council's adoption of A through O above unless and until all legal documentation has been executed and delivered by the respective parties.

carried unanimously

The Committee agreed to separate the vote on the components of the motion, and vote on A1 and A2, followed by B through R. A1 was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY (Vote No. 05596).

Prior to voting on A2, Councillor Kirby-Yung left the chamber at 7:06 pm; the vote was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY (Vote No. 05597), with Councillor Kirby-Yung absent due to conflict of interest. Councillor Kirby-Yung returned to the chamber at 7:07 pm, and the vote for B through R was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND B TO O BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY (Vote No. 05598).

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At the conclusion of Item 2, it was

REFERRAL MOVED by Councillor Swanson

THAT Items 7 to 10 be referred to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on March 11, 2020.

LOST

(Councillors Bligh, Boyle, Carr, De Genova, Dominato, Fry, Hardwick, Kirby-Yung, Wiebe and Mayor Stewart opposed)

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**3. One Year Trial Period – Duplexes in Most RS Zones
January 27, 2020**

MOVED by Councillor Hardwick
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT the Report dated January 27, 2020, entitled “One Year Trial Period – Duplexes in Most RS Zones”, be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 05599)

**4. Approval of Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Area Renewal and
Mount Pleasant Business Improvement Area Expansion 2020
February 10, 2020**

Prior to discussion on this item, Councillor Wiebe noted he had a conflict of interest on recommendation B as he was the former president of the Mount Pleasant Business Improvement Association.

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

- A. THAT Council approve the application of the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (DVBIA) as described in the Report dated February 10, 2020, entitled “Approval of Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Area Renewal and Mount Pleasant Business Improvement Area Expansion 2020”;

FURTHER THAT Council instruct the Director of Legal Services, in consultation with the Director of Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability, to bring forward by-laws to re-establish the Downtown Vancouver BIA, to establish a new funding ceiling, and to remit monies for the business promotion scheme.

- B. THAT Council approve the application of the Mount Pleasant Commercial Improvement Society (MPCIS) as described in the Report dated February 10, 2020, entitled “Approval of Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Area Renewal and Mount Pleasant Business Improvement Area Expansion 2020”;

FURTHER THAT Council instruct the Director of Legal Services, in consultation with the Director of Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability, to bring forward by-laws to establish the proposed Mount Pleasant Expansion #2 BIA, to establish a funding ceiling for the expansion, and to remit monies for the business promotion scheme.

carried unanimously

The Committee agreed to separate the vote on the components of the motion. A was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 05600). At 7:25 pm, prior to the vote on B, Councillor Wiebe left the chamber; the vote was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 05601), with Councillor Wiebe absent for the vote due to conflict of interest. Councillor Wiebe returned to the chamber at 7:26 pm.

**5. Contract Award for Supply and Delivery of Street Lighting and Traffic Signal Poles
February 13, 2020**

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, the City's Director of Legal Services, and the City's Chief Procurement Officer and enter into a contract with Nova Pole International Inc. for the supply and delivery of street lighting and traffic signal poles, for an initial term of three (3) years, with the City's option to extend for two (2) additional two (2) year terms, with an estimated contract value of \$5,529,853.00 plus applicable taxes over the initial 3-year term, to be funded through the 2020 Engineering approved Capital Budgets and future Capital Budgets.
- B. THAT the City's 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.
- C. THAT no legal rights or obligations will be created by Council's adoption of Recommendations 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. 05615)
(Councillor Kirby-Yung absent for the vote)

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The Committee recessed at 7:26 pm and reconvened at 7:36 pm.

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6. Declaring a Homelessness Emergency: Making an Emergency Plan to Drastically Reduce Homelessness

The Committee heard from two speakers in support of the recommendations.

MOVED by Councillor Swanson
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. At least 2,223 people were counted as homeless across Vancouver in 2019;
2. At least 7,655 were counted as homeless across British Columbia;
3. At least 30,000 are homeless in Canada in any one day with 235,000 experiencing homelessness in a year;
4. Homelessness robs people of their security, dignity, rights and lives - homeless people have about half the life expectancy as housed people;
5. Canadians are upset by the fact that we have homelessness in a rich country, and that people have to live on the streets. On June 21, 2019, the Governor General of Canada signed into law Bill C-97, which contained the National Housing Strategy Act, and the federal right to housing legislation - which enshrines "adequate housing as a fundamental human right";
6. Numerous academic studies have established that providing secure housing is a more cost-effective solution to homelessness than maintaining temporary shelters and incurring additional policing, mental health service, and health care costs;
7. The full continuum of housing needs far outweigh local government's available resources and funding required to effectively address this issue, and desperately needs the support of both the Provincial and Federal governments;
8. BC Housing and other social housing providers have long wait lists and a lack of available housing, while:
 - a. Low rent housing is being lost to rent increases when tenants move out;
 - b. Not enough social housing at welfare rate is coming on-stream to make up for the loss of low rent housing; and
 - c. Modular housing works well to house people who have been homeless, but the province isn't funding enough of them to meet

the demand;

9. Single Room Occupancy (SRO) hotels are often the last resort before homelessness. SROs are being bought by investors who are evicting current low income tenants by renovating and increasing the rents. Vancouver could lose hundreds of SRO rooms to this practice;
10. Welfare and disability shelter rates as determined by the province are too low at \$375 per month to even cover operating costs for an SRO room;
11. Skyrocketing prices for housing and land over the past 10 years, spurred by low-interest rates and financial speculation, have turned Vancouver into one of the most expensive housing markets in the world, far out of reach of most local incomes;
12. On January 29, 2020, following a unanimous council vote, Ottawa became the first city in Canada to declare a housing and homelessness emergency; and
13. The circumstances and extent of homelessness in Vancouver constitute a crisis and emergency situation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Vancouver City Council declares a Homelessness Emergency.
- B. THAT Council urge the federal and provincial governments as well as regional and local governments along with other partners, to make a Homelessness Emergency plan to build or find dignified, affordable housing for at least 80 percent of counted homeless people within three years.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to incorporate this target into the existing Housing and Homelessness Strategy and be a key focus of the Housing and Homelessness Strategy ongoing.
- D. THAT this Homelessness Emergency plan includes raising social assistance shelter rates so people can afford to pay rent.
- E. THAT this Homelessness Emergency plan includes recommendations for implementing vacancy control as a tool to preserve existing lower rent accommodation.
- F. THAT Council direct staff to prepare and submit the following Homelessness Emergency declaration and request for a plan, along with whereas clauses 2, 4 and 5, as a resolution to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM):
 - i. THAT the UBCM declare a province-wide Homelessness Emergency and call upon the Province to work with local governments, BC Housing and other partners on a Homelessness Emergency Plan to build or find dignified, affordable housing for at

- least 80 percent of counted homeless people within three years;
and
 - ii. THAT the UBCM recommends the province implement vacancy control as a tool to preserve existing lower rent accommodation.
- G. THAT Council direct staff to prepare and submit this Homelessness Emergency declaration and request for a plan, along with whereas clauses 3, 4 and 5, as a resolution to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM):
- i. THAT the FCM declare a nation-wide Homelessness Emergency and call upon the Federal Government to work with local and provincial governments, and other partners on a Homelessness Emergency Plan to build or find dignified, affordable housing for at least 80 percent of counted homeless people within three years.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry

THAT F and G be struck and replaced with the following:

- F. THAT Council direct staff to prepare and submit the following Homelessness Emergency declaration and request for a plan, along with background information (see FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED below) as a resolution to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM):

WHEREAS British Columbia has at least 7,655 homeless people, and homelessness robs people of their security, dignity, rights and lives, as homeless people have about half the life expectancy as housed people;

AND WHEREAS Bill C-97 (June 21, 2019) containing the National Housing Strategy Act, and the federal right to housing legislation enshrines “adequate housing as a fundamental human right.”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the UBCM declare a province-wide Homelessness Emergency and call upon the Province to work with all orders of governments, BC Housing and other partners on a Homelessness Emergency Plan to build or find dignified, affordable housing for at least 80 percent of counted homeless people within three years.

- G. THAT Council direct staff to prepare and submit this Homelessness Emergency declaration and request for a plan along with background information (see FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED below), as a resolution to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM):

WHEREAS Canada has at least 30,000 people who are homeless on any one day with 235,000 experiencing homelessness in a year, and homelessness robs people of their security, dignity, rights and lives, as homeless people have about half the life expectancy as housed people;

AND WHEREAS Bill C-97 (June 21, 2019) containing the National Housing Strategy Act, and the federal right to housing legislation enshrines “adequate housing as a fundamental human right.”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the FCM declare a nation-wide Homelessness Emergency and call upon the Federal Government to work with all orders of governments, and other partners on a Homelessness Emergency Plan to build or find dignified, affordable housing for at least 80 percent of counted homeless people within three years.

carried unanimously

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT C be struck;

FURTHER THAT, in E, the word “targeted” be inserted between the words “implementing” and “vacancy”.

withdrawn

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Prior to discussion on the amendment to the amendment, the Chair noted the amendment to the amendment was not germane to the amendment, as the amendment was amending F and G. Councillor Kirby-Yung agreed to withdraw the amendment to the amendment.

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The amendment to the amendment having been withdrawn, the amendment was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 05602).

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT C be struck;

FURTHER THAT, in E, the word “targeted” be inserted between the words “implementing” and “vacancy”.

carried

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Prior to voting on the amendment, the Mayor asked the Chair for a ruling on whether recommendation C was in order, as per Section 8.7 of the Procedure By-law, because C was addressing a different policy. The Chair sought advice from staff and the City Manager, and then ruled C in order.

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The Committee agreed to separate the vote on the components of the amendment. Striking C was put and CARRIED (Vote No. 05603), with Councillors Carr, Fry, Swanson and Wiebe in opposition, and Councillor Boyle abstaining from the vote. The additional language for E was put and CARRIED (Vote No. 05604), with Councillor Swanson opposed.

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT F be amended by striking the words “declare a province-wide Homelessness Emergency and” between the words “UBCM” and “call”, and inserting the words “call upon the Province to declare a Homelessness Emergency and”, between the words “to” and “work”;

FURTHER THAT G be amended by striking the words “declare a province-wide Homelessness Emergency and” between the words “FCM” and “call”, and inserting the words “declare a Homelessness Emergency and”, between the words “to” and “work”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 05605)

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During debate, it was

MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT under Section 8.8 of the Procedure By-law, Council members be permitted an additional five minutes to speak to the motion.

*CARRIED
(Councillors Boyle and Fry opposed)*

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AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT E be struck.

LOST (Vote No. 05606)
(Councillors Bligh, Boyle, Carr, Fry, Swanson and Wiebe opposed)
(Councillor Hardwick abstained from the vote)

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Prior to voting on the amended motion, it was

MOVED by Councillor Dominato

THAT debate and decision on this item be referred to a future meeting.

not put

Councillor Dominato withdrew her motion, and Council agreed.

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Note: the lettering of the motion as voted on was changed due to C being struck.

The Committee agreed to separate the vote on the components of the amended motion. A to D and E and F were put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 05607), with Councillor De Genova abstaining from the vote. D was then put and CARRIED (Vote No. 05608), with Councillors De Genova and Kirby-Yung and Mayor Stewart opposed, and Councillors Dominato and Hardwick abstaining from the vote.

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

WHEREAS

1. At least 2,223 people were counted as homeless across Vancouver in 2019;
2. At least 7,655 were counted as homeless across British Columbia;
3. At least 30,000 are homeless in Canada in any one day with 235,000 experiencing homelessness in a year;
4. Homelessness robs people of their security, dignity, rights and lives - homeless people have about half the life expectancy as housed people;
5. Canadians are upset by the fact that we have homelessness in a rich country, and that people have to live on the streets. On June 21, 2019, the Governor General of Canada signed into law Bill C-97, which contained the National Housing Strategy Act, and the federal right to housing legislation - which enshrines "adequate housing as a fundamental human right";
6. Numerous academic studies have established that providing secure housing is a more cost-effective solution to homelessness than maintaining temporary shelters and incurring additional policing, mental health service, and health care costs;
7. The full continuum of housing needs far outweigh local government's available

resources and funding required to effectively address this issue, and desperately needs the support of both the Provincial and Federal governments;

8. BC Housing and other social housing providers have long wait lists and a lack of available housing, while:
 - a. Low rent housing is being lost to rent increases when tenants move out;
 - b. Not enough social housing at welfare rate is coming on-stream to make up for the loss of low rent housing; and
 - c. Modular housing works well to house people who have been homeless, but the province isn't funding enough of them to meet the demand;
9. Single Room Occupancy (SRO) hotels are often the last resort before homelessness. SROs are being bought by investors who are evicting current low income tenants by renovating and increasing the rents. Vancouver could lose hundreds of SRO rooms to this practice;
10. Welfare and disability shelter rates as determined by the province are too low at \$375 per month to even cover operating costs for an SRO room;
11. Skyrocketing prices for housing and land over the past 10 years, spurred by low-interest rates and financial speculation, have turned Vancouver into one of the most expensive housing markets in the world, far out of reach of most local incomes;
12. On January 29, 2020, following a unanimous council vote, Ottawa became the first city in Canada to declare a housing and homelessness emergency; and
13. The circumstances and extent of homelessness in Vancouver constitute a crisis and emergency situation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Vancouver City Council declares a Homelessness Emergency.
- B. THAT Council urge the federal and provincial governments as well as regional and local governments along with other partners, to make a Homelessness Emergency plan to build or find dignified, affordable housing for at least 80 percent of counted homeless people within three years.
- C. THAT this Homelessness Emergency plan includes raising social assistance shelter rates so people can afford to pay rent.
- D. THAT this Homelessness Emergency plan includes recommendations for implementing targeted vacancy control as a tool to preserve existing lower rent accommodation.
- E. THAT Council direct staff to prepare and submit the following Homelessness

Emergency declaration and request for a plan, along with background information (see below) as a resolution to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM):

WHEREAS British Columbia has at least 7,655 homeless people, and homelessness robs people of their security, dignity, rights and lives, as homeless people have about half the life expectancy as housed people;

AND WHEREAS Bill C-97 (June 21, 2019) containing the National Housing Strategy Act, and the federal right to housing legislation enshrines “adequate housing as a fundamental human right.”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the UBCM call upon the Province to declare a Homelessness Emergency and work with all orders of governments, BC Housing and other partners on a Homelessness Emergency Plan to build or find dignified, affordable housing for at least 80 percent of counted homeless people within three years.

- F. THAT Council direct staff to prepare and submit this Homelessness Emergency declaration and request for a plan along with background information (see below), as a resolution to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM):

WHEREAS Canada has at least 30,000 people who are homeless on any one day with 235,000 experiencing homelessness in a year, and homelessness robs people of their security, dignity, rights and lives, as homeless people have about half the life expectancy as housed people;

AND WHEREAS Bill C-97 (June 21, 2019) containing the National Housing Strategy Act, and the federal right to housing legislation enshrines “adequate housing as a fundamental human right.”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the FCM call upon the Federal Government to declare a Homelessness Emergency and work with all orders of governments, and other partners on a Homelessness Emergency Plan to build or find dignified, affordable housing for at least 80 percent of counted homeless people within three years.

Background information

Declaring a Homelessness Emergency: Making an Emergency Plan to Drastically Reduce Homelessness

From 2013–2016, the estimate of the number of Canadians experiencing homelessness rose from 200,000 to 235,000. More recent federal data is not available, but growing counts in Vancouver suggest that homelessness is on the rise across the country ([https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/SOHC2013_execsummary_web.p](https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/SOHC2013_execsummary_web.pdf)df 2016 report: https://homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/SOHC16_final_20Oct2016.pdf). In

addition, most counts show that Indigenous comprise over one third of people who are homeless, despite being only a tiny percentage of the population.

Studies have shown that people who are homeless have about half the life expectancy as people with homes and that it's cheaper to house homeless people than leave them on the street. Local government agencies are often the first point of contact for concerns about people being homeless in their area, or ask that something be done to help people who are homeless. Local governments spend millions of property tax dollars on police, clean up services, homeless services, and shelters because we have so much homelessness.

We haven't always had a lot of homelessness in Canada. In the 1970's when tens of thousands of units of social housing were being built each year, and when welfare was high enough to pay rent and eat, homelessness was much much lower, so low that it wasn't even counted. It wasn't until the 1990s, when the federal government backed out of most housing programs and stopped contributing half of province's social assistance revenue, that homelessness began escalating. We can't allow ourselves to accept homelessness when it is doable to house everyone who needs dignified housing, as the modular housing has shown. While local governments feel the brunt of complaints about homelessness and while it's our precious residents who are suffering and homeless, local governments have one main source of revenue, property tax, that is not progressive.

That's why it's so important that local governments unite on a call for a plan that will actually end homelessness in a measurable way, with contributions from all orders of government that have access to progressive taxation.

While homeless counts are not able to account for everyone who is actually homeless, they do provide a way to measure whether or not we are making progress in ending homelessness. If we count 7655 homeless people in BC in 2018 and, say 5000 in 2021, we'll know that progress is being made.

However if we count progress based on the number of new units constructed and don't take into account units lost to people who have low incomes because rents are going up or because new people coming on social and disability assistance can't afford rents, we won't have an accurate way of measuring progress on homelessness.

This motion calls for a plan that deals with the three main drivers of homelessness: lack of decent affordable housing for people with low incomes, inadequate social and disability rates (which provide a mere \$375 a month for shelter), and loss of units due to rising rents. If all orders of government act on these three homelessness drivers, we could see homeless numbers falling soon.

Why did we pick reducing counted homelessness by 80% in three years? The 2018 provincial allocation of 2000 modular housing units for the province could have worked wonders for reducing homelessness if low social and disability rates and rising rents hadn't increased the demand for affordable housing units. One third of 80% of 7655 is about 2000, the number of units of modular housing the province put in the budget for 2018, which is doable because it has been done.

Now all we need is for the new units to be built, hopefully with contributions from all orders of government and for changes in social and disability rates and restrictions on rising rents in low income units. This resolution calls for us to unite in this call on all orders of government for an

immediate realistic and measurable plan that will do the three things that actually will reduce homelessness.

* * * * *

At the conclusion of item 6, it was

REFERRAL MOVED by Councillor Fry

THAT the Committee hear from speakers for items 7 to 9 and refer debate and decision on the items to the reconvened Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on Thursday, February 27, 2020.

amended

AMENDMENT to REFERRAL MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the motion be struck and substituted with the following:

THAT the Committee hear from speakers for items 7 to 10 and refer debate and decision on the items to the Council meeting following the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2020;

CARRIED

(Councillor Bligh, Boyle, Carr, Fry and Wiebe opposed)

Note: The motion was reconsidered later in the meeting and the referral date was changed to March 3, 2020, and items 7 and 8 were added to the Council meeting following the Standing Committee.

* * * * *

7. Declaring Support for an Eastside Arts District

The Committee heard from one speaker in support of the recommendations.

Note: The Committee postponed this item to continue hearing from speakers on the remaining items. Subsequently, debate and decision for this item was referred to the reconvened Council meeting following the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on March 3, 2020.

8. Relief and Rehabilitation of Aggressive Dog Designation

The Committee heard from four speakers. Two spoke in support of the recommendations, one spoke in opposition, and one spoke to other aspects of the recommendations.

Note: The Committee postponed this item to continue hearing from speakers on the remaining items. Subsequently, debate and decision for this item was referred to the reconvened Council

meeting following the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on March 3, 2020.

* * * * *

During the hearing of speakers, it was

MOVED by Councillor Carr

THAT the meeting be extended to complete hearing from speakers for all items, and convene in Council to adopt the Committee's recommendations and deal with by-laws.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

* * * * *

9. Universal No-Cost Coverage of Prescription Contraception

The Committee heard from two speakers in support of the recommendations.

* * * * *

At the conclusion of hearing from the first speaker, it was

RECONSIDERATION MOVED by Mayor Stewart

THAT the Committee reconsider its decision to refer debate and decision on items 7 to 10 to the Standing Committee on March 11, 2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillor Hardwick absent for the vote)

* * * * *

MOVED by Councillor Wiebe

THAT the Committee recess and reconvene on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at 3 pm, to continue to hear from speakers, and have debate and decision on items 9 and 10;

FURTHER THAT the Committee refer debate and decision on items 7 and 8 to the Council meeting following the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting, as Unfinished Business, on Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillor Hardwick absent for the vote)

* * * * *

The Committee recessed at 10:40 pm on Wednesday, February 26, 2020, and reconvened at 3:06 pm on Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

* * * * *

MOVED by Councillor Swanson
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. Cost is a significant barrier to people accessing contraception, particularly to people with low incomes, youth, and people from marginalized communities;
2. Providing free prescription contraception has been shown to improve health outcomes for parents and infants by reducing the risks associated with unintended pregnancy, and is likely to reduce direct medical costs on the provincial health system; and
3. Contraceptive methods targeted at men (such as condoms or vasectomies) are available at low cost or are covered by BC's Medical Services Plan, whereas contraceptive methods for people with uteruses (such as birth control pills, intra-uterine devices, or hormone injections) have high up-front costs, making access to contraception unequal and gendered.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council directs the Mayor to urge the Provincial Government to make all prescription contraception in BC available at no cost under the Medical Services Plan.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 05619)
(Councillor Bligh absent for the vote)

10. Unintended Consequences: Reconsideration of a Council Direction That May Affect Housing in the City of Vancouver

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Prior to debate and decision on item 10, Chair De Genova relinquished the Chair to Vice-Chair Fry in order to participate in discussion. She assumed the role of Chair at the completion on the item.

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The Committee recessed at 3:28 pm and reconvened at 3:32 pm.

* * * * *

MOVED by Councillor De Genova
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. On November 26, 2019, Council adopted a resolution directing staff to prepare a report for consideration for referral to public hearing to amend the Rental Housing Stock Official Development Plan to extend rental replacement requirements to the C-2, C-2C, C-2B and C-2B-1 zoning districts;
2. The motion was moved and adopted without consulting land owners in these zoning districts, and, if enacted, the proposed by-law will have significant impacts on the land and development rights of these owners;
3. The Rental Housing Stock Official Development Plan already covers approximately 80% of purpose-built rental housing in the City;
4. The C-2 zoning districts account for only 4% of purpose-built rental units in the City, and the vast majority of these buildings are not rental apartments, but include a few rental units above the commercial shops (e.g. units for shop owners to live above businesses); and
5. There has been no net loss of rental units in the C-2 zones, but a net gain of 420 rental units in C-2 zoned areas over the last decade.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council rescind the resolution regarding extending the Rental Housing Stock ODP to the C-2 zoning districts, adopted at the November 26, 2019, meeting (Vote No. 05196);

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to continue to monitor the rental housing stock in C-2 areas, and report out on the overall net gain or loss of rental housing, and the implementation of the TRPP and tracking of tenant impacts (eg. displacement due to lack of right of first refusal) as part of the Annual Progress Report in Q2 of 2020.

withdrawn

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the following be added to the end of the motion:

FURTHER THAT Council instruct staff to consult with the public, including landowners, renters, small businesses and non-profit societies that own and/or operate housing, as to how the Rental Housing Stock Official Development Plan could be improved to protect, preserve and sustain the most affordable rental housing in Vancouver;

AND FURTHER THAT staff prepare a report with recommendations for referral to public hearing, including consideration for amendments to the Rental Housing Stock Official Development Plan to extend rental replacement requirements to

C-2, C-2C, C-2B and C-2B-1 zoning districts city-wide, and any other options staff recommend that both demonstrate support from the public consultation process and improve the Rental Housing Stock Official Development Plan.

not put

* * * * *

Prior to discussion on the above amendment, Councillor Boyle rose on a point of order to inquire if the amendment was in order as it conflicts with the motion itself and it is frivolous as it is an issue Council already voted on. Vice-Chair Fry sought advice from staff and the City Manager and ruled the amendment out of order.

* * * * *

Councillor De Genova rose on a point of order to ask if her motion to rescind carried, would Council then vote on the original amendment. Vice-Chair Fry consulted with staff and the City Manager and informed Councillor De Genova that if her motion carried it would be as if the approved amendment never happened.

* * * * *

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the motion be struck and replaced with the following:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council reconsider the resolution regarding extending the Rental Housing Stock ODP to the C-2 zoning districts, adopted at the November 26, 2019 meeting (Vote No. 05196);

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to continue to monitor the rental housing stock in C2 areas, and report out on the overall net gain or loss of rental housing, and the implementation of the TRPP and tracking of tenant impacts (eg. displacement due to lack of right of first refusal) as part of the Annual Progress Report in Q2 of 2020;

FURTHER THAT Council instruct staff to consult with the public, including landowners, renters, small businesses and non-profit societies that own and/or operate housing, as to how the Rental Housing Stock Official Development Plan could be improved to protect, preserve and sustain the most affordable rental housing in Vancouver;

AND FURTHER THAT staff prepare a report with recommendations for referral to public hearing, including consideration for amendments to the Rental Housing Stock Official Development Plan to extend rental replacement requirements to

C-2, C-2C, C-2B and C-2B-1 zoning districts city-wide, and any other options staff recommend that both demonstrate support from the public consultation process and improve the Rental Housing Stock Official Development Plan.

not put

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The Chair ruled the amendment out of order as Council is not able to make amendments to a motion to rescind.

* * * * *

Councillor Kirby-Yung rose on a point of order to ask if the motion could be amended. The Vice-Chair consulted with staff and the City Manager and noted that it could be amended, however, the amendment Councillor Kirby-Yung had proposed had the last two clauses ruled out of order earlier in the meeting. Following the Vice-Chairs ruling, the Vice-Chair again consulted with staff and ruled instead that it is not possible to amend a motion to rescind.

* * * * *

Following the final ruling of the Vice-Chair, it was

MOVED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the motion entitled "Unintended Consequences: Reconsideration of a Council Direction That May Affect Housing in the City of Vancouver", be withdrawn.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillor Kirby-Yung abstained from the vote)
(Councillors Bligh and Dominato absent for the vote)

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Mayor Stewart

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillors Bligh and Dominato absent for the vote)

The Committee adjourned at 4:44 pm on March 3, 2020.

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**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON
CITY FINANCE AND SERVICES**

FEBRUARY 26 AND MARCH 3, 2020

A meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Wednesday, February 26, 2020, at 10:41 pm, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, following the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting, to consider the recommendations and actions of the Committee. Subsequently, the meeting reconvened on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at 3:12 pm and at 4:45 pm.

PRESENT: Mayor Kennedy Stewart
Councillor Rebecca Bligh (Leave of Absence – Civic Business - March 3, 2020)*
Councillor Christine Boyle
Councillor Adriane Carr
Councillor Melissa De Genova
Councillor Lisa Dominato (Leave of Absence – Personal Reasons - 3:45-6:15 pm, March 3, 2020)*
Councillor Pete Fry
Councillor Colleen Hardwick*
Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung
Councillor Jean Swanson
Councillor Michael Wiebe

ABSENT: Councillor Colleen Hardwick (February 26, 2020)

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Tina Penney, Director, Legislative Operations
Terri Burke, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Standing Committee on City Finance and Services
Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Council considered the report containing the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services. Its items of business included:

1. 2020 Renter Services Grants and Renter Office Update
2. 2020 Community Services and Other Social Grants
3. One Year Trial Period – Duplexes in Most RS Zones

4. Approval of Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Area Renewal and Mount Pleasant Business Improvement Area Expansion 2020
5. Contract Award for Supply and Delivery of Street Lighting and Traffic Signal Poles
6. Declaring a Homelessness Emergency: Making an Emergency Plan to Drastically Reduce Homelessness
7. Declaring Support for an Eastside Arts District
8. Relief and Rehabilitation of Aggressive Dog Designation
9. Universal No-Cost Coverage of Prescription Contraception
10. Unintended Consequences: Reconsideration of a Council Direction That May Affect Housing in the City of Vancouver

Items 1 to 10

MOVED by Councillor Carr
SECONDED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services at its meeting of February 26, 2020, as contained in items 1 to 10, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillor Hardwick absent for the vote)

BY-LAWS

MOVED by Councillor Carr
SECONDED by Councillor De Genova

THAT Council enact the by-laws listed on the agenda for this meeting as numbers 1 through 3 inclusive and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign and seal the enacted by-laws.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillor Hardwick absent for the vote)

1. A By-law to enter into an agreement among the Participating Municipalities regarding an Inter-municipal Transportation Network Services Business Licence Scheme (By-law No. 12648)
2. A By-law to enter into an Inter-municipal TNS Business Licence Scheme (By-law No. 12649)
3. A By-law to amend License By-law No. 4450 regarding the Inter-municipal TNS Business Licence Scheme (By-law No. 12650)

* * * * *

Council recessed at 10:41 pm on February 26, 2020, and reconvened at 3:12 pm on March 3, 2020.

* * * * *

URGENT BUSINESS

1. Request for Leave of Absence – Councillor Bligh

MOVED by Councillor De Genova
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT Councillor Bligh be granted a Leave of Absence for Civic Business from meetings on March 3, 2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillors Bligh and Dominato absent for the vote)

2. Request for Leave of Absence – Councillor Dominato

MOVED by Councillor De Genova
SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT Councillor Dominato be granted a Leave of Absence for personal reasons from meetings during the hours of 3:45 pm to 6:15 pm on March 3, 2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillors Bligh and Dominato absent for the vote)

3. Request for Leave of Absence – Councillor Dominato

MOVED by Councillor De Genova
SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT Councillor Dominato be granted a Leave of Absence for personal reasons from meetings during the hours of 5 to 7 pm on March 10, 2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillors Bligh and Dominato absent for the vote)

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Council recessed at 3:14 pm and reconvened at 4:45 pm.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Standing Committee on City Finance and Services
Tuesday, March 3, 2020

Council considered the report containing the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services. Its items of business included:

9. Universal No-Cost Coverage of Prescription Contraception
10. Unintended Consequences: Reconsideration of a Council Direction That May Affect Housing in the City of Vancouver

Items 9 and 10

MOVED by Councillor De Genova
SECONDED by Councillor Boyle

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services at its meeting of March 3, 2020, as contained in items 9 and 10, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillors Bligh and Dominato absent for the vote)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Declaring Support for an Eastside Arts District

At the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on February 26, 2020, the Committee referred debate and decision on this item to the reconvened Council meeting following the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on March 3, 2020.

MOVED by Councillor Fry
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. The area of Vancouver commonly referred to as the East Side: roughly and generally-speaking Columbia Street to Victoria Drive and 1st Avenue to the waterfront; is a distinct locality that supports a diverse ecosystem of residential,

industrial, commercial, and cultural uses;

2. Of all major Canadian cities, Vancouver has the highest population of artists and cultural workers (Hill Strategies: “Artist and Cultural Workers in Canadian Municipalities” 2014). The highest concentration of artists in Vancouver are found in the East Side, specifically postal region neighbourhoods V6A and V5L (Hill Strategies: “Artists by Neighbourhood in Canada” 2005);
3. The Eastside Culture Crawl is an annual 4-day visual arts festival that involves artists on Vancouver’s East Side opening their studios to the public, the event serves to highlight and advocate the importance of the arts as a cultural and economic driver for the region;
4. Since the Eastside Culture Crawl started in Strathcona in 1997, the event has grown to include over 500 artists, crafts-people and designers, attracting an audience of more than 45,000 people. Today, the Eastside Culture Crawl has partnerships with a variety of local venues, galleries, studios and maker-spaces and has become a prominent feature of the East Side’s cultural identity and place-making;
5. The Eastside Culture Crawl Society recently reported that almost 400,000 square feet of artist studio spaces have disappeared in the last 10 years in their catchment. The Society’s 2019 “A City Without Art? No Net Loss, Plus!” report also went on to document that of 1,612 artists with studios in the area, 1,332 face an imminent threat of displacement due to future property development;
6. Vancouver’s 2019 Culture|Shift Strategy and Making Space for Arts and Culture specifically identifies the need to secure affordable industrial spaces for arts and culture; the insecure rental tenure coupled with an affordability crisis have exacerbated the displacement of cultural spaces and artists;
7. Vancouver’s 2019 Culture|Shift Strategy and Making Space for Arts and Culture Action 19 specifically identifies “cultural districts” along with density bonusing and commercial linkage fees as a potential tool to prevent displacement and secure spaces for affordable non-profit arts and cultural space in commercial and industrial zones;
8. In its National Cultural Districts Exchange Toolkit Americans for the Arts (the US’ leading arts advocacy non-profit) describes the importance of cultural districts to strengthen local economies, create an enhanced sense of place and deepen local cultural capacity. The toolkit further advises the use of local partnerships and consultants, engagement, planning, placemaking, and funding as imperatives to developing and advancing a cultural district;
9. The official recognition of the Eastside Arts District along with policies and dedicated funding would serve as a catalyst for building community identity, tourism, and economic growth. (Eastside Culture Crawl Society: “A City Without Art? No Net Loss, Plus!” 2019); and

10. The False Creek Flats Grade-Separated Road Alignment approved by Council on October 22, 2019 recommended:
 - a) (F) THAT staff work with the Strathcona neighbourhood to prepare a summary of capital investment priorities for the next 10-15 years, including investments in community facilities, and parks and open spaces, and report back to Council in mid-2020;
 - b) (A) FURTHER THAT Council endorse that the Prior/Venables Street underpass include an all-ages-and-abilities route for the Adanac Bikeway, provide accessible walking connections, facilitate access to local businesses via Raymur Avenue, and be integrated with public spaces and an enjoyable public realm.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to report back on recommendations for the declaration of an Eastside Arts District.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to consult with the Eastside Culture Crawl Society, as well as local artists, residents and businesses on scoping an Eastside Arts District Strategy, complimentary to the report back on recommendations for the declaration of an Eastside Arts District, and include:
 - i. Determining district boundaries and scale;
 - ii. Identifying resources, stakeholders and partners;
 - iii. Considerations around land use policy and regulatory frameworks;
 - iv. Look for potential sources of long term funding, programming and sustainability, including but not limited to incentives, density bonusing and partnerships.
- C. THAT this Declaration and Strategy be developed in conjunction with existent and ongoing work on the Vancouver Plan, Making Spaces for Arts and Culture, Employment Lands and Economy Review and overlapping local area plans;

FURTHER THAT staff provide an interim report back on the declaration of an Eastside Arts District as part of the larger culture plan update later this year.
- D. THAT pursuant to Council direction from October 22, 2019, staff include planning and implementation of an Eastside Arts District and Strategy as one of the possible recommendations in a summary of capital investment priorities and integration of public spaces and an enjoyable public realm.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT B of the motion be amended by inserting the words “to support the primary goal of combatting the loss of artist production space” between the words “district” and “and”, to read as follows:

- B. THAT Council direct staff to consult with the Eastside Culture Crawl Society, as well as local artists, residents and businesses on scoping an Eastside Arts District Strategy, complimentary to the report back on recommendations for the declaration of an Eastside Arts District to support the primary goal of combatting the loss of artist production space, and include:
- i. Determining district boundaries and scale;
 - ii. Identifying resources, stakeholders and partners;
 - iii. Considerations around land use policy and regulatory frameworks;
 - iv. Look for potential sources of long term funding, programming and sustainability, including but not limited to incentives, density bonusing and partnerships.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 05621)
(Councillors Bligh and Dominato absent for the vote)

* * * * *

Prior to voting on the amended motion, it was

*MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung
SECONDED by Councillor De Genova*

THAT the meeting be extended to complete the items of business.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillors Bligh and Dominato absent for the vote)

* * * * *

Following the vote to extend the meeting, the amended motion was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 05622), with Councillors Bligh and Dominato absent for the vote.

2. Relief and Rehabilitation of Aggressive Dog Designation

At the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on February 26, 2020, the Committee referred debate and decision on this item to the reconvened Council meeting following the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on March 3, 2020.

MOVED by Councillor Fry
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver Animal Control By-law, By-Law No. 9150, (“the By-law”) establishes the pound with the ability to license and regulate dogs and other animals:
 - a) The By-law defines “aggressive dog” to mean:
 - i. a dog with a known propensity, tendency, or disposition to attack without provocation other domestic animals or human beings; or
 - ii. a dog which has bitten another domestic animal or human being without provocation;
 - b) Section 4.3 of the By-law states that a person who keeps an “aggressive dog” must not permit, suffer, or allow the dog to be on a street or other public place or on any other property that such person does not own or control unless such person has muzzled the dog to prevent it from biting another animal or a person;
2. Under the authority of Section 324.1 of the *Vancouver Charter* an animal control officer may opine that a dog is “dangerous;” and
 - a) An animal control officer is authorized to enter a premise with or without a warrant and seize a “dangerous dog;” and
 - b) In addition to any other authority, if an animal control officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a dog is a “dangerous dog”, the officer may apply to the Provincial Court for an order that the dog be destroyed in the manner specified in the order;
3. The By-law codifies the designation of “aggressive” dog as a life-sentence of muzzling, restricted socialization, reduced exercise, and reduced training opportunities, which is a detriment to both animal welfare and the long term assurance of public safety;
4. The *Vancouver Charter* codifies the designation of “dangerous dog” as a death sentence, unless the dog guardian is able to succeed in court to save the dog’s life;
5. Muzzles, restricted socialization, and restricted off-leash opportunities are only a part of a comprehensive strategy to adequately and humanely manage and rehabilitate aggressive dogs;
6. Neither the By-law nor the *Vancouver Charter* distinguish between the various reasons dogs can be aggressive, nor do these laws provide the potential to recognize the prognosis of dogs. These laws also do not recognize that there are different types of management and rehabilitation tools available to meet the

needs of specific dogs;

7. Animal behaviourists identify at least a dozen underlying causes for aggressive behaviour such as past trauma, fear, anxiety, inadequate socialization, medical issues, resource-guarding, and others. Dogs can also bite because of prey drive;
8. Current evidence suggests that in many cases, positive reinforcement-based behaviour modification techniques under the guidance of a qualified Animal Behaviorist can be used to effectively rehabilitate and manage dogs labeled as “aggressive” or “dangerous;”
9. Qualified Animal Behaviourists have earned a minimum MSc, or PhD in animal behaviour, and typically work closely with veterinarians to provide expertise in:
 - a) behaviour modification, so they know the techniques that produce changes in behavior;
 - b) the normal behaviour of the species they’re treating, so they can recognize how and why an animal’s behavior is abnormal; and
 - c) teaching and counseling people, so they can effectively understand and work with their pet;
10. The By-law does not specifically allow for appeal, relief or reversal of the designation “aggressive dog” following successful behaviour modification; however;
 - a) The Judicial Review Procedure Act does allow for appeal of “aggressive dog” designation before a provincial court, however in precedent setting *Lee vs City of Vancouver and Cristofoli 2002 BSC 240* (paragraph 40) the Judge states that an aggressive dog designation is not a “decision” subject to judicial review;
 - b) Other municipalities have developed an appeal process after an aggressive designation has been issued. The City of New Westminster allows the owner of an “aggressive dog” to apply to the supervisor for relief from the requirements of the bylaw with respect to aggressive dogs; after one year, no additional complaints, and proof that the owner and the dog have successfully completed a course by a recognized and accredited institution or trainer to address the dog’s aggressive behaviour; and
11. For the last 15 years, provincial court judges released “dangerous dogs” on conditions pursuant to the *Vancouver Charter*. However, as result of a recent B.C. Court of Appeal decision, this is no longer allowed. “Dangerous dogs” are now at much greater risk of being euthanized instead of being given a chance to be properly rehabilitated and managed.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the designation of “dangerous” or “aggressive” dog and attendant regulations can be an important tool for the protection of the public and other animals.
- B. THAT after working with a qualified professional Animal Behaviourist to assess and modify the behaviour of a dog, a dog custodian should be allowed to apply for a re-assessment and possible re-evaluation of an “aggressive dog” to the satisfaction of and at no cost to the City of Vancouver Animal Control authority, no less than one year after such a designation is made.
- C. THAT prior to the final determination of an “aggressive dog” by authorized City Official, a qualified Animal Behaviourist should be consulted to provide an opinion on whether the dog is aggressive.
- D. THAT Council direct staff to prepare appropriate legal language and present a by-law change to allow relief of “aggressive dog” designation per resolution B.
- E. THAT Council direct staff to prepare appropriate legal language and present a by-law change to redefine the definition of “aggressive” such that an “aggressive dog” is one that a qualified animal behaviourist believes is an aggressive dog, after an assessment is done by that behaviourist and a full investigation is conducted by the City’s animal control department, per resolution C.
- F. THAT before any sections of the by-law are updated, staff report back with any recommendations, and include considerations of other jurisdictions where modernized, progressive animal control by-laws have been enacted, including New Westminster, Coquitlam and Fraser Valley Regional District.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT B of the motion be amended by adding the words “veterinarian and/or”, between the words “qualified” and “professional”;

FURTHER THAT C of the motion be amended by adding the words “veterinarian and/or”, between the words “qualified” and animal”;

AND FURTHER THAT E of the motion be amended by adding the words “veterinarian and/or”, between the words “qualified” and animal”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 05623)
(Councillors Bligh and Dominato absent for the vote)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor De Genova
SECONDED by Councillor Fry

THAT the following be added as G:

THAT Council direct staff to consider people that cannot afford the services of qualified veterinarians and/or qualified animal behaviourist and report back to Council with findings and possible recommendations.

CARRIED (Vote No. 05624)
(Councillor Kirby-Yung opposed)
(Councillors Bligh and Dominato absent for the vote)

Following the votes on the amendments, the amended motion was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 05625), with Councillors Bligh and Dominato absent for the vote.

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver Animal Control By-law, By-Law No. 9150, (“the By-law”) establishes the pound with the ability to license and regulate dogs and other animals:
 - a) The By-law defines “aggressive dog” to mean:
 - i. a dog with a known propensity, tendency, or disposition to attack without provocation other domestic animals or human beings; or
 - ii. a dog which has bitten another domestic animal or human being without provocation;
 - b) Section 4.3 of the By-law states that a person who keeps an “aggressive dog” must not permit, suffer, or allow the dog to be on a street or other public place or on any other property that such person does not own or control unless such person has muzzled the dog to prevent it from biting another animal or a person;
2. Under the authority of Section 324.1 of the *Vancouver Charter* an animal control officer may opine that a dog is “dangerous;” and
 - a) An animal control officer is authorized to enter a premise with or without a warrant and seize a “dangerous dog;” and
 - b) In addition to any other authority, if an animal control officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a dog is a “dangerous dog”, the officer may apply to the Provincial Court for an order that the

dog be destroyed in the manner specified in the order;

3. The By-law codifies the designation of “aggressive” dog as a life-sentence of muzzling, restricted socialization, reduced exercise, and reduced training opportunities, which is a detriment to both animal welfare and the long term assurance of public safety;
4. The *Vancouver Charter* codifies the designation of “dangerous dog” as a death sentence, unless the dog guardian is able to succeed in court to save the dog’s life;
5. Muzzles, restricted socialization, and restricted off-leash opportunities are only a part of a comprehensive strategy to adequately and humanely manage and rehabilitate aggressive dogs;
6. Neither the By-law nor the *Vancouver Charter* distinguish between the various reasons dogs can be aggressive, nor do these laws provide the potential to recognize the prognosis of dogs. These laws also do not recognize that there are different types of management and rehabilitation tools available to meet the needs of specific dogs;
7. Animal behaviourists identify at least a dozen underlying causes for aggressive behaviour such as past trauma, fear, anxiety, inadequate socialization, medical issues, resource-guarding, and others. Dogs can also bite because of prey drive;
8. Current evidence suggests that in many cases, positive reinforcement-based behaviour modification techniques under the guidance of a qualified Animal Behaviorist can be used to effectively rehabilitate and manage dogs labeled as “aggressive” or “dangerous;”
9. Qualified Animal Behaviourists have earned a minimum MSc, or PhD in animal behaviour, and typically work closely with veterinarians to provide expertise in:
 - a) behaviour modification, so they know the techniques that produce changes in behavior;
 - b) the normal behaviour of the species they’re treating, so they can recognize how and why an animal’s behavior is abnormal; and
 - c) teaching and counseling people, so they can effectively understand and work with their pet;
10. The By-law does not specifically allow for appeal, relief or reversal of the designation “aggressive dog” following successful behaviour modification; however;
 - a) The Judicial Review Procedure Act does allow for appeal of “aggressive dog” designation before a provincial court, however in precedent setting *Lee vs City of Vancouver and Cristofoli 2002*

BSC 240 (paragraph 40) the Judge states that an aggressive dog designation is not a “decision” subject to judicial review;

- b) Other municipalities have developed an appeal process after an aggressive designation has been issued. The City of New Westminster allows the owner of an “aggressive dog” to apply to the supervisor for relief from the requirements of the bylaw with respect to aggressive dogs; after one year, no additional complaints, and proof that the owner and the dog have successfully completed a course by a recognized and accredited institution or trainer to address the dog’s aggressive behaviour; and
11. For the last 15 years, provincial court judges released “dangerous dogs” on conditions pursuant to the *Vancouver Charter*. However, as result of a recent B.C. Court of Appeal decision, this is no longer allowed. “Dangerous dogs” are now at much greater risk of being euthanized instead of being given a chance to be properly rehabilitated and managed.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the designation of “dangerous” or “aggressive” dog and attendant regulations can be an important tool for the protection of the public and other animals.
- B. THAT after working with a qualified veterinarian and/or professional animal behaviourist to assess and modify the behaviour of a dog, a dog custodian should be allowed to apply for a re-assessment and possible re-evaluation of an “aggressive dog” to the satisfaction of and at no cost to the City of Vancouver Animal Control authority, no less than one year after such a designation is made.
- C. THAT prior to the final determination of an “aggressive dog” by authorized City Official, a qualified veterinarian and/or animal behaviourist should be consulted to provide an opinion on whether the dog is aggressive.
- D. THAT Council direct staff to prepare appropriate legal language and present a by-law change to allow relief of “aggressive dog” designation per B above.
- E. THAT Council direct staff to prepare appropriate legal language and present a by-law change to redefine the definition of “aggressive” such that an “aggressive dog” is one that a qualified veterinarian and/or animal behaviourist believes is an aggressive dog, after an assessment is done by that behaviourist and a full investigation is conducted by the City’s animal control department, per C above.
- F. THAT before any sections of the by-law are updated, staff report back with any recommendations, and include considerations of other jurisdictions where modernized, progressive animal control by-laws have been enacted, including New Westminster, Coquitlam and Fraser Valley Regional District.

- G. THAT Council direct staff to consider people that cannot afford the services of qualified veterinarians and/or qualified animal behaviourist and report back to Council with findings and possible recommendations.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor De Genova
SECONDED by Councillor Hardwick

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillors Bligh and Dominato absent for the vote)

Council adjourned at 5:25 pm on March 3, 2020.

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