

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

10. Providing Free Menstrual Products in City of Vancouver Civic Facilities Washrooms

Co-Submitted by: Councillor De Genova and Councillor Bligh

WHEREAS

1. January 17, 2018, Vancouver City Council unanimously adopted "Vancouver: A City of All Women, Women's Equity Strategy 2018-2028";
2. July 12, 2018, the government of British Columbia United Way of the Lower Mainland has launched the Period Promise Campaign with the objective to reduce isolation and vulnerability caused by poverty;
3. The United Way Period Promise Research Project was funded by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, along with support from Pacific BlueCross, Vancity, Always and Tampax. Twelve partner agencies will be supplied with menstrual products to distribute, at no-cost to clients. These agencies will also provide information to United Way of the Lower Mainland and the data and findings will be included in a report to the government of British Columbia in July 2020;
4. October 23, 2018, the City's Women's Advisory Committee received a verbal presentation and carried the following resolution:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Women's Advisory Committee recommends to Council that the City of Vancouver work to get free-vending tampon and pad dispensers in schools, colleges, government service centres and homeless shelters;

5. A ministerial order was issued April 5, 2019, requiring public schools to provide free menstrual products for students in school washrooms by the end of 2019. \$300,000 of provincial start-up funding has been allocated to this initiative;
6. February 10, 2020, the Vancouver Park Board passed the motion titled "Free Menstrual Products at Park Board Facilities";
7. The Chair of the Women's Advisory Committee has sent a letter to both of the Committee's Council Liaisons stating support for the resolutions; and
8. A motion was put forward at the February 18, 2020, Women's Advisory Committee Working Group, to support the motion "PROVIDING FREE MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS IN CITY OF VANCOUVER CIVIC FACILITIES

WASHROOMS". The Committee intends to retroactively move a motion to include this this action at the next regular meeting;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A. THAT Council direct staff to explore a plan for providing free menstrual products in civic facilities.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to consider funding initiatives including, but not limited to, partnerships with manufacturers of menstrual products, non-profit organizations and funding available from senior governments.
- C. THAT staff report back to Council on A and B above with any recommendations on or before Q4 2020.

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