



REPORT TO COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON POLICY AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

JUNE 24, 2020

A meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on Policy and Strategic Priorities was held on Wednesday, June 24, 2020, at 9:33 am, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall. This Council meeting was convened by electronic means as authorized under the *Order of the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General of the Province of British Columbia – Emergency Program Act, Ministerial Order No. M192*.

PRESENT:

- Councillor Adriane Carr, Chair
- Mayor Kennedy Stewart*
- Councillor Rebecca Bligh (Leave of Absence – Personal Reasons, 1 pm to 4 pm)*
- Councillor Christine Boyle
- Councillor Melissa De Genova*
- Councillor Lisa Dominato
- Councillor Pete Fry (Leave of Absence – Civic Business, 9:30 am to 11 am)*
- Councillor Colleen Hardwick
- Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung*
- Councillor Jean Swanson
- Councillor Michael Wiebe

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Rosemary Hagiwara, Acting City Clerk
Tina Penney, Deputy City Clerk
Tamarra Wong, 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 De Genova

THAT Council adopt Item 2, on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Councillor Fry absent for the vote due to Civic Business)

1. Presentation: Vancouver Plan Update – Focus on Recovery and Long-term Community Resilience

Gil Kelley, General Manager, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability, Susan Haid, Deputy Director of Long Range and Strategic Planning, and Karis Hiebert, Manager, Vancouver Plan, presented on the above-noted item, and along with Amanda Gibbs, Manager of Public Engagement, Vancouver Plan, responded to questions.

2. Funding Application to BC Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Mapping and Flood Mitigation Planning May 27, 2020

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council approve a funding application to Union of BC Municipalities' (UBCM) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Mapping and Flood Mitigation Planning for \$150,000 toward the Engineering Design Reference for Shoreline Flood Protection project.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT (Vote No. 06135)

(Councillor Fry absent for the vote due to Civic Business)

3. Developing an #AllOnBoard and #RaiseARider Pilot

At the Council meeting on June 23, 2020, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on June 24, 2020, in order to hear from speakers.

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

* * * * *

During the hearing of speakers, it was

MOVED by Councillor Swanson

THAT the meeting be extended past noon to complete hearing from speakers for Item 3.

LOST HAVING NOT

RECEIVED THE REQUIRED MAJOIRTY

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

MOVED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the meeting be extended past noon to hear from one additional speaker before the recess.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY HAVING

RECEIVED THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

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The Committee recessed at 11:56 am and reconvened at 3:11 pm.

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Following the recess, the Chair acknowledged the passing of Captain Steve Letourneau, Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services. A moment of silence was observed to recognize Captain Letourneau's service and sacrifice and to express condolences to Captain Letourneau's family, friends and Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services.

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

MOVED by Councillor Swanson

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. On Wednesday, January 16, 2019, Council voted to “endorse the #AllOnBoard Campaign” and to urge TransLink to develop a plan to provide free public transit for minors and to provide reduced-price transit based on a sliding scale using the Market Basket Measure for all low-income people;
2. The Vancouver School Board and Vancouver Park Board have also endorsed the #AllOnBoard campaign for “free transit access for children under 18 years of

- age” and “the proposal of reduced-price transit, based on a sliding scale using the Market Basket Measure, for all low-income people”;
3. TransLink has stated that new provincial funding “would be required to implement expanded discounts,” and the provincial government has not yet committed to funding TransLink or BC Transit to implement poverty reduction measures directly;
 4. Every major urban region neighbouring Vancouver (Edmonton, Calgary, Seattle and Portland) has a discounted transit pass program based on income;
 5. In 2012, United Way Calgary & Area found that youth with access to free transit passes had higher attendance and completion rates; in 2018 in Seattle, 80% of students who received a free transit pass said it improved their attendance at school;
 6. The City of Victoria (December 1, 2019) and the Resort Municipality of Whistler (January 1, 2020) have introduced programs to provide free transit passes for youth, funded through increased parking revenue;
 7. The City of Vancouver owns most EasyPark lots and is expecting to collect over \$63 million in on-street parking revenue in 2020, in addition to contracts with car share companies and fees from ride-hailing service providers;
 8. Big Move #2 in the City of Vancouver’s Climate Emergency Response is “Safe and convenient active transportation and transit,” and research shows that making transit more accessible for youth helps raise life-long transit users;
 9. The City of Vancouver has recognized and has demonstrated its commitment to residents’ health and well-being. The lack of transportation is one of the most common reasons for missing medical appointments and a significant barrier to social inclusion and labour market inclusion for low-income adults and youth;
 10. Transit and transportation was identified as a key theme in the March 2019 City of Vancouver Poverty Reduction Plan What We Heard: Phase 1 report:
 - People with various mobility issues [often must] take multiple trips in one day;
 - People [without] enough income at any one time to buy a longer-term pass ... are forced to pay more on a per-trip basis;
 - People who can find steady work often do not find it near social or low-income housing. This means they have to take bus trips often across multiple zones to get to and from work ... [which] significantly eats into their pay;
 - People with families have to pay for all the members of the family which makes the simplest outing very expensive;

11. The City of Vancouver Poverty Reduction Plan What We Heard: Phase 1 report also described the detrimental impacts of poverty and wealth gaps, including social isolation and being subjected to increased policing; and the Plan will be received in Summer 2020;
12. Rider strikes and protests in numerous cities have shown that movements for reduced emissions, poverty, and racism are linked; Vancouver has an opportunity to show its leadership in these areas by advocating for free and affordable transit initiatives; and
13. COVID has reduced transit ridership and free and low cost fares would be a way to incentivize a return to transit use and keep people out of polluting cars.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to seek an update from TransLink on its Fare Policy Review status, including the cost estimates and implementation considerations for free transit for youth ages 5–18 and the introduction of alternatives to fare evasion fines for those below the poverty line.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to report back to Council by Q3 with a discussion of the feasibility of a pilot project proposal to provide free transit passes for youth and a discounted or free pass for low-income residents, targeting Indigenous and racialized residents living below the poverty line, and other identified equity-seeking groups, including partnerships with TransLink, targeted schools, community centres, academic and other partners;

FURTHER that the pilot proposal highlights opportunities and challenges of the pilot as well as its relation to the Vancouver Plan, forthcoming poverty Reduction Plan and the city's equity goals.

- C. THAT staff further explore sources of revenue for the pilot project that may include existing general revenue, or transportation specific revenue sources (parking, carshare, ride hail), potential future transportation revenue sources (transport pricing, zero emission parking) and municipal poverty reduction grant opportunities, and report back.
- D. THAT Council direct staff to explore the inclusion of an equity and affordability lens in any submissions to TransLink as part of the review and update of TransLink's Transport 2050 plan and Metro Vancouver's Climate 2050 Plan, and to reflect an equity and affordability lens in relation to the Vancouver's Transportation 2040 plan as 'action while planning' in the Vancouver Plan, and the forthcoming Poverty Reduction Strategy.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the first clause in B be amended as follows:

- Strike out the word "Q3" and insert the words "Q1 2021";

- Insert the word “joint” between the words “of a” and “pilot project”
- Insert the words “with Translink as a key funding partner” between the words “pilot project” and “to provide”;
- Insert the words “further partnerships” between the words “including” and “with Translink”; and
- Insert the word “and” between the words “with Translink” and “targeted schools”.

FURTHER THAT C be amended by inserting the words “in partnership with Translink” between the words “further explore” and “sources of”;

FURTHER THAT D be amended by inserting the word “further” between the words “staff to” and “explore the”;

AND FURTHER THAT the following be added as E:

THAT Council request the Mayor to write a letter to the Translink Mayor’s Council with the purpose of sharing the motion entitled “Developing an #AllOnBoard and #RaiseARider Pilot.

carried

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry

THAT the first clause in B be amended by striking out the words “as a key funding partner”.

CARRIED (Vote No. 06115)

(Councillors Dominato and Hardwick opposed)

(Councillor Bligh absent for the vote due to personal reasons)

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Dominato

THAT C be amended by striking out the phrase “for the pilot project that may include existing general revenue, or transportation specific revenue sources (parking, carshare, ride hail), potential future transportation revenue sources (transport pricing, zero emission parking) and” and replacing it with the phrase “from Translink operating funds and”.

not put

The Chair ruled the amendment to the amendment out of order per section 8.7(d) of the *Procedure By-law* due to it conflicting with the resolution passed in the previous amendment to the amendment.

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Dominato

THAT C be amended by striking out the phrase “for the pilot project that may include existing general revenue, or transportation specific revenue sources (parking, carshare, ride hail), potential future transportation revenue sources (transport pricing, zero emission parking) and replacing it with the word “from”.

LOST (Vote No. 06116)

(Councillors Boyle, Carr, Fry, Swanson, Wiebe and Mayor Stewart opposed)

(Councillor Bligh absent for the vote due to personal reasons)

The amendment to the amendments having carried, lost and not put, the amendment as amended was put and CARRIED (Vote No. 06117) with Councillors Boyle and Swanson opposed and Councillor Bligh absent for the vote due to personal reasons.

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Boyle

THAT the following be added as F:

THAT Council direct the Mayor to send a letter to Translink and the Mayor’s Council, encouraging Translink to reduce or eliminate armed transit police and reallocate fare evasion enforcement funds toward #AllOnBoard and #RaiseARider programs providing free transit passes for youth and a discounted or free pass for low-income residents.

carried

At 4:11 pm, during discussion on the amendment, Councillor De Genova rose on a point of order under section 8.7(a) of the *Procedure By-law* on the basis of it not being compatible with the purposes and objectives of the *Vancouver Charter* including the good rule and government of the City, or the health, safety and welfare of its inhabitants. Councillor De Genova also noted that transit police are separate from the Vancouver Police Department and is beyond the role of the City of Vancouver.

The Chair ruled the amendment in order as it is a letter that is encouraging Translink to take action and is not a specific action taken by the City of Vancouver.

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Mayor Stewart

THAT the amendment to add F be amended as follows:

- Strike out the words “reduce or eliminate” and insert the words “review the use of”; and
- Strike out the words “and reallocate” and insert the words “and consider allocating”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 06118)

(Councillor Boyle abstained from the vote)

The amendment to the amendment having carried unanimously, the amendment as amended was put and CARRIED (Vote No. 06119) with Councillor De Genova opposed and Councillor Swanson abstaining from the vote.

Prior to the vote, Council agreed to separate the components of the motion and with the amendments having either lost or carried, the motion as amended was put with A, B, D and E having CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote Nos. 06120, 06121, 06123 and 06124), C having CARRIED (Vote No. 06122) with Councillor Dominato and Kirby-Yung opposed and F having CARRIED (Vote No. 06125) with Councillors De Genova and Hardwick opposed.

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

WHEREAS

1. On Wednesday, January 16, 2019, Council voted to “endorse the #AllOnBoard Campaign” and to urge TransLink to develop a plan to provide free public transit for minors and to provide reduced-price transit based on a sliding scale using the Market Basket Measure for all low-income people;
2. The Vancouver School Board and Vancouver Park Board have also endorsed the #AllOnBoard campaign for “free transit access for children under 18 years of age” and “the proposal of reduced-price transit, based on a sliding scale using the Market Basket Measure, for all low-income people”;
3. TransLink has stated that new provincial funding “would be required to implement expanded discounts,” and the provincial government has not yet committed to funding TransLink or BC Transit to implement poverty reduction measures directly;
4. Every major urban region neighbouring Vancouver (Edmonton, Calgary, Seattle and Portland) has a discounted transit pass program based on income;
5. In 2012, United Way Calgary & Area found that youth with access to free transit passes had higher attendance and completion rates; in 2018 in Seattle, 80% of students who received a free transit pass said it improved their attendance at school;
6. The City of Victoria (December 1, 2019) and the Resort Municipality of Whistler (January 1, 2020) have introduced programs to provide free transit passes for youth, funded through increased parking revenue;
7. The City of Vancouver owns most EasyPark lots and is expecting to collect over \$63 million in on-street parking revenue in 2020, in addition to contracts with car share companies and fees from ride-hailing service providers;
8. Big Move #2 in the City of Vancouver’s Climate Emergency Response is “Safe and convenient active transportation and transit,” and research shows that making transit more accessible for youth helps raise life-long transit users;

9. The City of Vancouver has recognized and has demonstrated its commitment to residents' health and well-being. The lack of transportation is one of the most common reasons for missing medical appointments and a significant barrier to social inclusion and labour market inclusion for low-income adults and youth;
10. Transit and transportation was identified as a key theme in the March 2019 City of Vancouver Poverty Reduction Plan What We Heard: Phase 1 report:
 - People with various mobility issues [often must] take multiple trips in one day;
 - People [without] enough income at any one time to buy a longer-term pass ... are forced to pay more on a per-trip basis;
 - People who can find steady work often do not find it near social or low-income housing. This means they have to take bus trips often across multiple zones to get to and from work ... [which] significantly eats into their pay;
 - People with families have to pay for all the members of the family which makes the simplest outing very expensive;
11. The City of Vancouver Poverty Reduction Plan What We Heard: Phase 1 report also described the detrimental impacts of poverty and wealth gaps, including social isolation and being subjected to increased policing; and the Plan will be received in Summer 2020;
12. Rider strikes and protests in numerous cities have shown that movements for reduced emissions, poverty, and racism are linked; Vancouver has an opportunity to show its leadership in these areas by advocating for free and affordable transit initiatives; and
13. COVID has reduced transit ridership and free and low cost fares would be a way to incentivize a return to transit use and keep people out of polluting cars.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to seek an update from TransLink on its Fare Policy Review status, including the cost estimates and implementation considerations for free transit for youth ages 5–18 and the introduction of alternatives to fare evasion fines for those below the poverty line.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to report back to Council by Q1 2021 with a discussion of the feasibility of a joint pilot project with Translink to provide free transit passes for youth and a discounted or free pass for low-income residents, targeting Indigenous and racialized residents living below the poverty line, and other identified equity-seeking groups, including further partnerships with TransLink and targeted schools, community centres, academic and other partners;

FURTHER that the pilot proposal highlights opportunities and challenges of the pilot as well as its relation to the Vancouver Plan, forthcoming poverty Reduction Plan and the city's equity goals

- C. THAT staff further explore, in partnership with Translink, sources of revenue for the pilot project that may include existing general revenue, or transportation specific revenue sources (parking, carshare, ride hail), potential future transportation revenue sources (transport pricing, zero emission parking) and municipal poverty reduction grant opportunities, and report back.
- D. THAT Council direct staff to further explore the inclusion of an equity and affordability lens in any submissions to TransLink as part of the review and update of TransLink's Transport 2050 plan and Metro Vancouver's Climate 2050 Plan, and to reflect an equity and affordability lens in relation to the Vancouver's Transportation 2040 plan as 'action while planning' in the Vancouver Plan, and the forthcoming Poverty Reduction Strategy.
- E. THAT Council request the Mayor to write a letter to the Translink Mayor's Council with the purpose of sharing the motion entitled "Developing an #AllOnBoard and #RaiseARider Pilot".
- F. THAT Council direct the Mayor to send a letter to Translink and the Mayor's Council, encouraging Translink to review the use of armed transit police and consider reallocating fare evasion enforcement funds toward #AllOnBoard and #RaiseARider programs providing free transit passes for youth and a discounted or free pass for low-income residents.

4. A Call for Race-Based and Socio-Demographic Data in B.C.

At the Council meeting on June 23, 2020, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on June 24, 2020, in order to hear from speakers.

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

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During the hearing of speakers, it was

MOVED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the meeting be extended past 5 pm in order complete hearing from the first speaker on Item 4.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY**

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The Committee recessed at 5:04 pm and reconvened at 6:03 pm.

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Following the recess, the Committee heard from nine speakers in support of the motion.

MOVED by Councillor Boyle
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. It is clear from other jurisdictions, including the United States, that the COVID-19 pandemic and other health concerns disproportionately impact racialized community members and those who experience systemic, marginalizing barriers to healthcare access and treatment as well as precarious work due to economic exclusion and structural racism;
2. B.C. and Canada do not capture race-based data or socioeconomic data in relation to health care access, which effectively buries the disproportionate rates of occurrence, impact of illness and disease on certain groups within the larger population data, resulting in missed opportunities to address long-standing health inequities;
3. Canadian and international studies on social determinants of health (SDH) show that social and economic factors such as race, immigration status, income level, and housing impact people's health outcomes. Racialized people are found to experience systemic barriers in accessing needed health care services. Newcomers, despite arriving in Canada in good health, experience poorer health over time. There is also a relationship between income level and health outcomes, for example life expectancy in the Downtown Eastside Community Health Service Area is 22% (19 years) shorter than for the city overall. Collecting race-based and sociodemographic data will help us better understand and address the inequities in health care access and health outcomes in B.C. and inform the work to save lives;
4. As Indigenous organizations such as the [Yellowhead Institute](#) have emphasized, Indigenous health data may require its own strategy, led by and for Indigenous people, due to historic and present-day practices that misuse data or focus only on negative findings;
5. Due to ongoing anti-Black racism and a long history of structural anti-Black racism in Canada and in B.C., scholars, policy makers, scientists, and frontline practitioners have named the need for a research protocol focused on the unique demands for the ethical engagement of Black communities in research, data collection and evaluation processes. The Research, Education, Data Ethics-Protocol for Black Populations (REDE4BlackLives.com) has been developed for this purpose, and advocated for alongside the need for consistent

- use of transparent governance tools and processes that are customized to best respect local experiences within a collective and national context;
6. People impacted by marginalization such as racialized communities, migrant workers including temporary foreign workers, and people living in poverty must play an active role in co-creating research studies and sharing ownership of the data in order to ensure a justice-based approach;
 7. B.C. has experienced a lower than average illness and casualty rates primarily because of leadership and decision making rooted in evidence based data;
 8. Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. [Theresa Tam](#), has stated that the federal health agency is working with Statistics Canada, along with the provinces and territories on efforts to collect information on the race and ethnicity of coronavirus patients. British Columbia's Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, has stated that the province is actively discussing the issue. To-date B.C. has conducted a population health survey that will allow for disaggregated data on perceived health and self-reported risk factors, symptoms and testing for COVID-19. However direct data on COVID-19 cases and fatalities is only disaggregated by age, sex and pre-existing health conditions;
 9. Support for the collection of intersectional and race-based disaggregated data have come from racialized communities, as well as health and advocacy organizations, including but not limited to: The [Canadian Public Health Association](#), the [Alliance for Healthy Communities](#), [Hogan's Alley Society](#), the [Federation of Black Canadians](#), [Black in B.C. Mutual Aid](#), the Tulayan Filipino Diaspora Society, the [Yellowhead Institute](#), [Canada's federal, provincial and territorial human rights commissions](#), and more.
 10. The City of Vancouver's Racial and Ethno-Cultural Advisory Committee passed the following motion on June 4th, 2020:

THAT the City Council urges the Province of B.C. to take action on health inequities by mandating the collection, use and analysis of disaggregated, socio-demographic and race-based data in health and social service sectors; and ensuring that the collection of data is led by critical race researchers who identify as having racialized identities and experiences to ensure that the data collection measures meaningfully contribute to building a culturally safe health care system and is not used for any other purposes.

THAT the committee calls on City Council pass a motion for the City of Vancouver also to mandate the collection, use and analysis of disaggregated, socio-demographic and race-based data in health and social service sectors; and ensuring that the collection of data is led by critical race researchers who identify as having racialized identities and experiences to ensure that the data collection measures meaningfully contribute to building a culturally safe health care system and is not used for any other purposes.
 11. In May 2020, [Manitoba](#) became the first province to track the ethnicity of COVID-19 patients in an effort to detect inequities in the toll of the pandemic. Dr. Marcia Anderson, a Cree-Anishinaabe public health doctor and vice-dean for Indigenous

health at the University of Manitoba said that, “Numbers on the ethnic makeup of COVID-19 cases can help target public health messages and resources at communities in the greatest need, as well as shine light on inequalities in housing, labour market access and pre-existing health conditions.” The City of Toronto, and the Province of Ontario, have followed suit.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council directs the Mayor to write to the Provincial and Federal Ministers of Health requesting that the Provincial and Federal Governments as well as local health authorities collect and report disaggregated data including race, income, disability, and other social determinants of health that will inform evidence-based health-care and social program interventions;

FURTHER THAT the data is collected with the intention of being understood as indicators of systemic and structural oppression to identify root causes of disparity and to inform action to address these root causes;

AND FURTHER THAT the data is co-owned, analyzed and interpreted with leadership from racialized communities, and that Provincial and Federal Governments establish ethical and governance guidelines and protocols specific to this data collection while taking into account the protection of privacy and human rights.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 06127)

5. Corner Stores in 21st Century Vancouver: Achieving Complete Communities and Food-Friendly Neighbourhoods

At the Council meeting on June 23, 2020, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on June 24, 2020, in order to hear from speakers.

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

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

WHEREAS

1. Vancouver committed to six big moves in its efforts to tackle climate change, including the objective of Walkable Complete Communities where 90% of people live within an easy walk/roll of their daily needs by 2030;
2. Vancouver is made up of a number of smaller neighbourhoods and communities that reflect the distinct culture and character of the different areas of our city and its diverse population (*Note: it's commonly understood to be 23 distinct geographical areas in the city*);
3. The City of Vancouver uses community plans to provide clear but flexible frameworks to guide positive change and development in neighbourhoods, with each plan considering long-range and shorter-term goals and the broader objectives established for the entire city and at regional and provincial levels;

4. The City of Vancouver supports food-friendly neighbourhoods that provide all residents with easy access to fresh, healthy foods, and the means to sustainably dispose of food waste;
5. The Vancouver Food Strategy is the City's plan to create a just and sustainable food system for the city. It builds on years of food systems initiatives and grassroots community development, considering all aspects of the food system;
6. Traditional corner stores played a key role in creating social connection in neighbourhoods, as well as supporting daily needs. Traditional corner stores have been declining in number for decades due to changing consumer patterns and, critically, due to zoning restrictions;
7. To ensure food-friendly neighbourhoods are supported throughout the city, Vancouver has committed to planning for the unique aspects of each area when implementing the Food Strategy. "Healthy corner stores" figure prominently among the requirements cited on the City's website for building and maintaining strong food systems across the city;ⁱ
8. Expressions of the City's commitment to food-friendly neighbourhoods include farmers markets that have grown dramatically in number and popularity in recent years, with plans prior to the COVID-19 pandemic to continue to expand them to supply locally-grown foods into neighbourhoods across the city;
9. Community Food Markets, i.e., small pop-up markets that sell fresh fruits, vegetables, and other foods, represent another expression of the commitment to food-friendly neighbourhoods. These markets are typically offered in neighbourhoods with few food stores nearby, or where residents' mobility may prevent them from getting to stores. They emphasize low prices and good quality and are indicative of a community need that is not being met in some of Vancouver's neighbourhoods. The Vancouver Food Strategy Goal to increase Community Food Markets from four to 15 by the year 2020 has not been met;ⁱⁱ
10. At the February 23, 2016, Council Meeting, amendments to the *Zoning and Development By-law* and *Business License By-law* regarding Urban Farming were adopted on consent, including allowing Urban Farming - Class A in residential districts and Urban Farming - Class B in commercial and industrial districts;
11. As part of the Urban Farm Guidelines Review led by Arts, Culture, and Community Services, staff are currently considering the implications of allowing on-site sales from Urban Farm – Class A in residential zones;
12. The City has embarked on an Employment Lands and Economy Review to develop a long-range land use policy plan that will ensure an appropriate supply of land for businesses and jobs to support the future growth of our city's economy;
13. In November 2018, Council directed staff to undertake scoping to expedite development of a city-wide plan. Subsequently, in November 2019, City Staff

embarked on the Vancouver Plan planning and engagement process and began asking the public questions to better understand the challenges and priorities of residents;ⁱⁱⁱ

14. On March 19, 2020, the City of Vancouver declared a local state of emergency in response to the global Covid-19 pandemic and is now developing a ReStart Smart Vancouver plan to support economic and community recovery, with a focus on supporting local business and rebuilding for the future emphasizing access to community-based services;
15. In April 2020, the City of Vancouver declared farmers markets to be an essential food source and took steps to ensure they could function as access points for fresh and prepared foods;
16. During the height of COVID-19 restrictions, restaurants and cafes in many cities began selling grocery and produce – often to support their business viability, but also to address gaps in small-scale neighbourhood food access;
17. The world that emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic with more people working from home than ever before, will inevitably result in a greater need for neighbourhood amenities and local food infrastructure of coffee shops, restaurants, services, and shopping including the need to access goods right in their own neighbourhood. Local corner stores once filled this role in Vancouver neighbourhoods, providing a place where locals bought fresh milk, cheese, some staples, while also serving as a social gathering place for community;
18. Policies to retain existing small-scale, neighbourhood commercial retail spaces (on and off of arterials) – ones that could help to achieve food-friendly neighbourhoods and complete communities – can apply to different classes of businesses including to some legally conforming and some non-conforming businesses. The Grandview-Woodland Community Plan for example, incorporated policy to support the retention of such small-scale spaces and staff are currently exploring ways to expand this policy to other neighbourhoods. As a first stage, an inventory of relevant sites in the city was undertaken in 2019 and is currently being used as a basis to identify potential retention approaches. Specific planning responses that may emerge could vary depending on the status of a business as well as the prevailing zoning in the neighbourhood (i.e., RS, RT or RM). In the short-term, staff have recommended approval of site-specific rezonings, such as the recent rezoning of the Caffè La Tana site on Commercial Drive;
19. With reference to policies to support the creation of new small-scale neighbourhood commercial retail spaces (on and off of arterials), ones that could help to achieve food-friendly neighbourhoods and complete communities include exploring ways to ensure convenient access to these daily needs as part of the Complete Communities component of the Vancouver Plan and the Climate Emergency Response (Big Move #1) – including looking at a variety of retail, commercial service spaces and ‘third spaces’ where people spend time between home (‘first’ space) and work (‘second’ space) to exchange ideas and build relationships – a role corner stores once played in many neighbourhoods;

20. Staff have identified various elements of a work plan that would enable the retention and creation of new small-scale neighbourhood commercial retail spaces to achieve food-friendly neighbourhoods and complete communities, namely:
- Engagement with various communities regarding neighbourhood assets and a complete communities strategy;
 - A review of the *Zoning and Development By-law* and related district schedules;
 - Addressing considerations around parking and loading, as well as other COVID-19 recovery measures (e.g. street reallocation);
 - Discussions with Development, Buildings, and Licensing around permitting questions;
 - Exploration of various potential solutions: e.g., amendments to the *Zoning and Development By-law*, broader city-wide policies, possible rezoning policies, and potential amendments to the *Building Code*;
21. The Vancouver Plan will ultimately set new directions to guide the city's future priorities into 2050 and beyond, including where new housing forms and densities to satisfy the "missing middle" will be located and where local services and 21st century corner stores will be needed; and
22. There are several examples of modern shops in the city, such as Le Marché St. George in Mount Pleasant, the Federal Store on Quebec Street and the Wilder Snail on Keefer Street, which each represent successful 21st Century embodiments of the corner store experience and in many ways satisfy the role corner stores once served and could serve again in new and reimagined forms with appropriate neighbourhood-friendly zoning and supports to achieve the goal of complete communities and food-friendly neighbourhoods.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to include, as a prominent part of the Vancouver Plan public engagement process, questions related to the emerging needs of communities and neighbourhoods in the city that could potentially be met by a resurgence and reimagining of corner stores in a post-pandemic context, consistent with the City's commitment to achieving complete communities where residents live within an easy walk/roll of their daily needs, as well as food-friendly neighbourhoods that provide all residents with easy access to fresh, healthy foods, and other retail and commercial amenities;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to report back in Fall 2020 with a preliminary overview of early actions and potential policy directions Council could pursue in the short-term and/or include as part of the Land and Economy Action Plan and the Vancouver Plan process with respect to promoting food-friendly and local store supported neighbourhoods, including neighbourhood-friendly zoning options and other considerations such as options for small-scale commercial retail spaces on and off of arterials, that could support a resurgence of corner stores and other local food amenities and infrastructure as we shift into recovery and a new reality.

ⁱ Corner stores figure alongside Community and collective gardens, Farmers and community markets, Food storage facilities, and Community composting facilities in achieving food-friendly neighbourhoods and building and maintaining strong food systems across the city.

ⁱⁱ Community food markets address accessibility challenges that are sometimes associated with regular farmers markets, such as physical access or affordability. Neighbourhood houses, BC Housing sites, community centres, and other social serving organizations can organize and manage community food markets. Community food markets can operate year-round. For market locations and times, visit the market websites.

- [Cedar Cottage Food Network External web site, opens in new tab](#) - Saturdays year-round, multiple locations
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ⁱⁱⁱ At the March 11, 2020, meeting of the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities, Council received a update on Phase 1 of the Vancouver Plan process. Background and context information was included in the Staff presentation and the following points were noted as to why there is a need for a plan and why now:

- It's a moment in time for Vancouver
- High level of public anxiety about present and future
- The power of a unifying vision and action strategy
- Leveraging regional alignment and partnerships
- Framework for better decision-making
- Reforming ongoing civic engagement and building trust

The thoughts that have been gathered during the process are considered to be valuable and will guide the next phase of the Vancouver Plan process and conversations on "The Future We Want."

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the first clause be amended as follows:

- Insert the word "affordable" between the words "access to" and "fresh"; and
- Insert the words "and culturally appropriate" between the words "healthy" and "foods";

FURTHER THAT the second clause be amended as follows:

- Strike out the words “and other considerations” and substituting with the words “other forms of support for small businesses”; and
- Insert the word “affordable” between the words “options for” and “small-scale”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 06134)
(Mayor Stewart absent for the vote)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Bligh

THAT the following be added as a new clause:

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to recommend measures Council could enact on an urgent, immediate basis to permit Vancouver restaurants and cafes to sell grocery and produce items to support the viability of their businesses during this time of COVID-19 while also seeking to address – on an interim basis – existing gaps in small-scale neighbourhood food access, with direction to staff to also recommend urgent steps Council could take to expedite on-site sales from Urban Farms – Class A in residential zones in support of achieving small-scale neighbourhood food access, ideally with these recommendations from staff to be presented at the July 7, 2020, Council meeting or the July 8, 2020, City Finance and Services Committee meeting given the importance and timeliness of these potential small-scale actions.

not put

At 7:28 pm, Councillor De Genova rose on a point of order under section 8.7(f) of the *Procedure By-law*. The City Manager noted that it was not viable to respond to the request by the July 7, 2020, Council meeting and that Legal Services had concerns regarding the changes needed for the zoning by-laws. The Chair ruled that the amendment was in order; however, issues were raised with the feasibility of the timeline and implications of work in the Planning department.

Following the ruling of the Chair, Councillor Wiebe declared a conflict of interest on the amendment as it could have financial impacts on the restaurant he owns. Councillor Wiebe left the meeting at 7:35 pm.

At 7:41 pm, Councillor Kirby-Yung raised a point of order under section 8.7(f) of the *Procedure By-law* on the basis of it being redundant since the language is already captured in the whereas clause of the motion. The Chair ruled that the amendment was not in order on the basis of it being frivolous as it mirrors language in the original motion.

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Boyle

THAT the word “prominent” be struck from the first clause;

FURTHER THAT the phrase “in Fall 2020” be struck from the second clause.

carried and lost

* * * * *

At 7:49 pm, during discussion on the amendment, Councillor Wiebe re-joined the meeting as the previous amendment was ruled out order.

* * * * *

Prior to the vote, Council agreed to separate the components of the amendment with THAT having CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 06128) with Mayor Stewart absent for the vote and FURTHER THAT having lost (Vote No. 06130) with Councillors Bligh, Carr, De Genova, Dominato, Fry, Hardwick, Kirby-Yung, and Wiebe opposed and Mayor Stewart absent for the vote.

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the title of the motion be amended to insert the word “Grocer” between the words “Corner” and “Stores”;

FURTHER THAT the following whereas clauses be amended:

- In whereas clause 6, insert the word “grocer” between the words “traditional corner” and “stores”;
- Add a new whereas clause 7 to read as follows:
 7. There is a long history of independent corner grocer stores (including green grocers) that were minority-owned and played a key role in supporting culturally appropriate food access for Vancouver’s diverse ethnic and cultural communities, and continue to do so today;

Note: With the addition of a new whereas clause 7, the whereas clauses have been renumbered.

- In whereas clause 8, insert the word “grocer” between the words “Healthy corner” and “stores”;
- In whereas clause 18, insert the word “grocer” between the words “Local corner” and “stores”;
- In whereas clause 20, insert the word “grocer” between the words “role corner” and “stores”;
- In whereas clause 22, insert the word “grocer” between the words “century corner” and “stores”; and
- In the new whereas clause 23, insert the word “grocer” between the words “of the corner” and “stores” and insert the following to the end “There are also examples of stores that offer different price points such as McGill Grocery, Templeton Market, Sunrise Market and Arya Market”.

carried

At 8:01 pm, during discussion on the amendment, Councillor Bligh enquired if Councillor Wiebe was eligible to vote on the amended whereas clauses as he had declared a conflict of interest on a previous amendment that was ruled out of order as it mirrored language in the original

motion. The Chair explained the prior ruling and noted that the decision to declare a conflict of interest was up to Councillor Wiebe.

Councillor Wiebe stated that since the Vancouver Food Policy Council requested the changes to the whereas clauses and the amendment was not reflected in the motion, he did not have a conflict of interest and would be voting on the motion.

Subsequently, the amendment was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 06131). The motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 06132).

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

Corner Grocer Stores in 21st Century Vancouver: Achieving Complete Communities & Food-Friendly Neighbourhoods

WHEREAS

1. Vancouver committed to six big moves in its efforts to tackle climate change, including the objective of Walkable Complete Communities where 90% of people live within an easy walk/roll of their daily needs by 2030;
2. Vancouver is made up of a number of smaller neighbourhoods and communities that reflect the distinct culture and character of the different areas of our city and its diverse population (*Note: it's commonly understood to be 23 distinct geographical areas in the city*);
3. The City of Vancouver uses community plans to provide clear but flexible frameworks to guide positive change and development in neighbourhoods, with each plan considering long-range and shorter-term goals and the broader objectives established for the entire city and at regional and provincial levels;
4. The City of Vancouver supports food-friendly neighbourhoods that provide all residents with easy access to fresh, healthy foods, and the means to sustainably dispose of food waste;
5. The Vancouver Food Strategy is the City's plan to create a just and sustainable food system for the city. It builds on years of food systems initiatives and grassroots community development, considering all aspects of the food system;
6. Traditional corner grocer stores played a key role in creating social connection in neighbourhoods, as well as supporting daily needs. Traditional corner grocer stores have been declining in number for decades due to changing consumer patterns and, critically, due to zoning restrictions;
7. There is a long history of independent corner grocer stores (including green grocers) that were minority-owned and played a key role in supporting culturally appropriate food access for Vancouver's diverse ethnic and cultural communities, and continue to do so today;
8. To ensure food-friendly neighbourhoods are supported throughout the city, Vancouver has committed to planning for the unique aspects of each area when

implementing the Food Strategy. “Healthy corner grocer stores” figure prominently among the requirements cited on the City’s website for building and maintaining strong food systems across the city;ⁱ

9. Expressions of the City’s commitment to food-friendly neighbourhoods include farmers markets that have grown dramatically in number and popularity in recent years, with plans prior to the COVID-19 pandemic to continue to expand them to supply locally-grown foods into neighbourhoods across the city;
10. Community Food Markets, i.e., small pop-up markets that sell fresh fruits, vegetables, and other foods, represent another expression of the commitment to food-friendly neighbourhoods. These markets are typically offered in neighbourhoods with few food stores nearby, or where residents’ mobility may prevent them from getting to stores. They emphasize low prices and good quality and are indicative of a community need that is not being met in some of Vancouver’s neighbourhoods. The Vancouver Food Strategy Goal to increase Community Food Markets from four to 15 by the year 2020 has not been met;ⁱⁱ
11. At the February 23, 2016 Council Meeting, amendments to the Zoning and Development By-law and Business License Bylaw regarding Urban Farming were adopted on consent, including allowing Urban Farming - Class A in residential districts and Urban Farming - Class B in commercial and industrial districts.
12. As part of the Urban Farm Guidelines Review led by Arts, Culture, and Community Services, staff are currently considering the implications of allowing on-site sales from Urban Farm – Class A in residential zones;
13. The City has embarked on an Employment Lands and Economy Review to develop a long-range land use policy plan that will ensure an appropriate supply of land for businesses and jobs to support the future growth of our city’s economy;
14. In November 2018, Council directed staff to undertake scoping to expedite development of a city-wide plan. Subsequently, in November 2019, City Staff embarked on the Vancouver Plan planning and engagement process and began asking the public questions to better understand the challenges and priorities of residents;ⁱⁱⁱ
15. On March 19, 2020, the City of Vancouver declared a local state of emergency in response to the global Covid-19 pandemic and is now developing a ReStart Smart Vancouver plan to support economic and community recovery, with a focus on supporting local business and rebuilding for the future emphasizing access to community-based services;
16. In April 2020 the City of Vancouver declared farmers markets to be an essential food source and took steps to ensure they could function as access points for fresh and prepared foods;

17. During the height of Covid-19 restrictions, restaurants and cafes in many cities began selling grocery and produce – often to support their business viability, but also to address gaps in small-scale neighbourhood food access;
18. The world that emerges from the Covid-19 pandemic with more people working from home than ever before, will inevitably result in a greater need for neighbourhood amenities and local food infrastructure of coffee shops, restaurants, services, and shopping including the need to access goods right in their own neighbourhood. Local corner grocer stores once filled this role in Vancouver neighbourhoods, providing a place where locals bought fresh milk, cheese, some staples, while also serving as a social gathering place for community;
19. Policies to retain existing small-scale, neighbourhood commercial retail spaces (on and off of arterials) – ones that could help to achieve food-friendly neighbourhoods and complete communities – can apply to different classes of businesses including to some legally conforming and some non-conforming businesses. The Grandview-Woodland Community Plan for example, incorporated policy to support the retention of such small-scale spaces and staff are currently exploring ways to expand this policy to other neighbourhoods. As a first stage, an inventory of relevant sites in the city was undertaken in 2019 and is currently being used as a basis to identify potential retention approaches. Specific planning responses that may emerge could vary depending on the status of a business as well as the prevailing zoning in the neighbourhood (i.e., RS, RT or RM). In the short-term, staff have recommended approval of site-specific rezonings such as the recent rezoning of the Caffe La Tana site on Commercial Drive;
20. With reference to policies to support the creation of new small-scale neighbourhood commercial retail spaces (on and off of arterials), ones that could help to achieve food-friendly neighbourhoods and complete communities include exploring ways to ensure convenient access to these daily needs as part of the Complete Communities component of the Vancouver Plan and the Climate Emergency Response (Big Move #1) – including looking at a variety of retail, commercial service spaces and ‘third spaces’ where people spend time between home (‘first’ space) and work (‘second’ space) to exchange ideas and build relationships – a role corner grocer stores once played in many neighbourhoods;
21. Staff have identified various elements of a work plan that would enable the retention and creation of new small-scale neighbourhood commercial retail spaces to achieve food-friendly neighbourhoods and complete communities, namely:
 - Engagement with various communities regarding neighbourhood assets and a complete communities strategy
 - A review of the Zoning and Development Bylaw and related district schedules
 - Addressing considerations around parking and loading, as well as other COVID-19 recovery measures (e.g. street reallocation)
 - Discussions with Development, Buildings, and Licensing around permitting questions

- Exploration of various potential solutions: e.g., amendments to the Zoning and Development bylaw, broader city-wide policies, possible rezoning policies, and potential amendments to the Building Code
22. The Vancouver Plan will ultimately set new directions to guide the city's future priorities into 2050 and beyond, including where new housing forms and densities to satisfy the "missing middle" will be located and where local services and 21st century corner grocer stores will be needed;
23. There are several examples of modern shops in the city, such as Le Marché St. George in Mount Pleasant, the Federal Store on Quebec Street and the Wilder Snail on Keefer Street, which each represent successful 21st Century embodiments of the corner grocer store experience and in many ways satisfy the role corner stores once served and could serve again in new and reimagined forms with appropriate neighbourhood-friendly zoning and supports to achieve the goal of complete communities and food-friendly neighbourhoods. There are also examples of stores that offer different price points such as McGill Grocery, Templeton Market, Sunrise Market and Arya Market.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to include, as a-part of the Vancouver Plan public engagement process, questions related to the emerging needs of communities and neighbourhoods in the city that could potentially be met by a resurgence and reimagining of corner stores in a post-pandemic context, consistent with the City's commitment to achieving complete communities where residents live within an easy walk/roll of their daily needs, as well as food-friendly neighbourhoods that provide all residents with easy access to affordable, fresh, healthy and culturally appropriate foods, and other retail and commercial amenities;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to report back in Fall 2020 with a preliminary overview of early actions and potential policy directions Council could pursue in the short-term and/or include as part of the Land and Economy Action Plan and the Vancouver Plan process with respect to promoting food-friendly and local store supported neighbourhoods, including neighbourhood-friendly zoning options and other forms of support for small businesses such as options for affordable small-scale commercial retail spaces on and off of arterials, that could support a resurgence of corner stores and other local food amenities and infrastructure as we shift into recovery and a new reality.

ⁱ Corner stores figure alongside Community and collective gardens, Farmers and community markets, Food storage facilities, and Community composting facilities in achieving food-friendly neighbourhoods and building and maintaining strong food systems across the city.

ⁱⁱ Community food markets address accessibility challenges that are sometimes associated with regular farmers markets, such as physical access or affordability. Neighbourhood houses, BC Housing sites, community centres, and other social serving organizations can organize and manage community food markets. Community food markets can operate year-round. For market locations and times, visit the market websites.

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iii At the March 11, 2020, meeting of the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities, Council received a update on Phase 1 of the Vancouver Plan process. Background and context information was included in the Staff presentation and the following points were noted as to why there is a need for a plan and why now:

- It's a moment in time for Vancouver
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The thoughts that have been gathered during the process are considered to be valuable and will guide the next phase of the Vancouver Plan process and conversations on "The Future We Want."

6. Community-based Crisis Management Through Understanding and De-escalation

At the Council meeting on June 23, 2020, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on June 24, 2020, in order to hear from speakers.

Prior to the start of the item, Councillor Kirby-Yung conferred with Legal Services and declared a conflict of interest as links to the broader conversation could lead to the Vancouver Police Department. As she has an immediate family member who is employed by the Vancouver Police Department, Councillor Kirby-Yung left the meeting at 8:11 pm and did not return for the remainder of the item.

Councillor De Genova conferred with Legal Services and declared a conflict of interest as she has an immediate family member who is employed by the Vancouver Police Department. Councillor De Genova left the meeting at 8:16 pm and did not return for the remainder of the item.

The registered speakers were not present.

MOVED by Councillor Fry
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. Jane Jacobs famously posited: "*The public peace—the sidewalk and street peace—of cities is not kept primarily by the police, necessary as police are. It is kept primarily by an intricate, almost unconscious, network of voluntary controls and standards among the people themselves, and enforced by the people themselves.*".¹
2. The public peace can be challenged in particular through confrontation between businesses and residents with street entrenched and people experiencing

homelessness. Concerns around crime and safety, neighbourhood decline, and chronic street nuisance result in higher volumes of reactive police and non-emergency calls, requests for more security, and compassion fatigue;

3. Street entrenched and homeless people have often experienced traumas including intergenerational and childhood trauma; sexual and physical victimization; physical and/or mental health challenges and addictions; compounded by the trauma of experiencing homelessness, social isolation or living in substandard housing;²
4. In 2014, Vancouver City Council adopted the Caring for All Report³ with a call to action to support and advocate for safe and inclusive communities for all residents:

“By making use of its full range of social development tools, from advocacy to direct services, the City is well positioned to support partnerships to help transform existing services and approaches in the arena of mental health and addictions.”

5. In 2014, Vancouver City Council adopted A Healthy City For All strategy⁴ with a focus under Healthy Communities - Cultivating Connections, to:

“Examine regulations, policies, and processes that affect our relationships with and between residents - past, present and future.”

6. The B.C. Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions’ ten-year mandate: *A Pathway to Hope* (2017)⁵, lays out a roadmap for making mental health and addictions care better for people in British Columbia. The vision noted that B.C. has the country’s highest rate of hospitalization due to mental illness and substance use; and called for new collaborative partnerships with other stakeholders, highlighting that:

“Stigma and affordability stand out as substantial systemic barriers to care. Fear and misunderstanding often lead to prejudice against people with mental illness, substance use and addiction challenges.”

7. Vancouver is at the centre of a mental health and addictions crisis, and as priority actions the City of Vancouver⁶ is working to:
 - a. promote healthy families and communities and protect child development;
 - b. make sure individuals have access to services that help them lead healthier lives;
 - c. reduce the spread of deadly communicable diseases, and prevent drug overdose deaths; and
 - d. recognize the need for peace and quiet, public order, and safety;

8. The 2016 *Vancouver Police Mental Health Strategy*⁷ reports increasing incidences of police interactions with people living with mental illness and often struggling with substance abuse, that may not be receiving necessary medical care and community support. The Strategy recognizes that some of these people may be in a state of crisis, and includes a continuum of discretionary

de-escalation techniques including non-engagement, disengagement, and delaying custody before proceeding with apprehension under the *Mental Health Act* or arrest, with the caveat:

“History has shown that police interactions with persons living with mental illness, and who are in crisis, sometimes have the potential for violence. Occasionally, the mere presence of the police can elevate the tenor of the interactions and complicate communication further.”

9. According to the *B.C. Police Act*⁸, Vancouver “must bear the expenses necessary to generally maintain law and order in the municipality.”;
10. Recent campaigns to reallocate police funding have highlighted that in Vancouver, poverty, unstable housing, and mental health and addictions issues represent decades of underfunding and gaps in provincial programming that has resulted in increased policing;
11. On June 12, 2020, Premier John Horgan committed to a review of the *B.C. Police Act* with a focus on increasing funding for health services, including mental health and addictions, and funding for housing to address the issue of homelessness;
12. First responders, non-profits, outreach workers, as well as shelter and housing providers are all variously trained in some form of de-escalation techniques through non-violent crisis intervention instruction and trauma-informed workshops;
13. The City of Vancouver’s Arts, Culture and Community Services department, currently support peer workers including service as community first responders, in programs led by people with lived experience (mental health, substance use, poverty); and in partnership with service and housing providers, provincial partners and Vancouver Police Department;
14. Many cities are beginning to prioritize community-based crisis worker teams to work with and independently of police in response to mental health crisis, addictions and homelessness on the street;
15. In Eugene Oregon, the Crisis Assistance Helping Out on the Streets (CAHOOTS) program handled 18% of the 133,000 calls to 911 in 2019, requesting police backup only 150 times. The program also offers de-escalation training that provides an overview of assessment and intervention skills so that a lay-person can maintain personal safety and recognize when someone might need help;⁹
16. Increasingly the private sector, including BIAs and security providers^{10, 11} are learning de-escalation techniques through non-violent crisis intervention instruction and trauma-informed workshops, and offering instruction to their members. For example: Toronto’s Downtown Yonge BIA¹² holds information sessions (facilitated by the Canadian Mental Health Association) for business owners and managers who want to learn more about techniques for de-escalation when individuals enter their establishments in distress; and

17. Many businesses and residents of Downtown Vancouver find themselves ill-equipped for any sort of community-based crisis management or de-escalation, and amidst increasing reports of conflict surrounding chronic street nuisance and disorder, many Vancouverites don't know who to call, how to help or how to get help.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Vancouver City Council commit to supporting a community-based crisis management strategy informed by understanding and de-escalation, that promotes public safety and prioritizes non-policing interventions where applicable and appropriate as a first response.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to develop within the strategy a pilot community-based crisis management program of public information, education, and engagement that:
- a. Is inclusive and accessible to residents and businesses in Vancouver;
 - b. Is informed by destigmatized, decolonial and anti-racist practice;
 - c. Is rooted in non-violent crisis intervention and de-escalation;
 - d. Is rooted in compassion and mutual understanding;
 - e. Is informed by best practices and lived experience;
 - f. Provides participants a better understanding of issues around mental health, addictions and trauma;
 - g. Provides participants tools to help someone experiencing a mental health of substance use emergency;
 - h. Considers place-making opportunities to counter impressions and incidence of street disorder and chronic street nuisance; and
 - i. Reduces call volumes for police response, while redirecting more appropriate resources as applicable;

FURTHER THAT this pilot program include input from Vancouver Coastal Health, Vancouver Police Department, Canadian Mental Health Association, Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, and others (including but not limited to community groups, peer supporters and BIAs) as applicable;
AND FURTHER THAT a preliminary work plan for the strategy and pilot program inform 2021 Budget considerations.

- C. THAT the Mayor on behalf of Council write to the Premier, Minister of Public Safety, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and Minister of Poverty Reduction requesting increased investment in social services directed to poverty, public safety, unstable housing, mental health and addictions in Vancouver, as well as support for a community-based crisis management strategy.

References:

1. Jane Jacobs: The Death and Life of Great American Cities
2. Homeless Hub: Trauma Informed Services
<https://homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/23 - Trauma Informed Services.pdf>

3. Caring for All report on priority actions to address mental health and addictions
<https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/mayors-task-force-mental-health-addictions-priority-actions.pdf>
4. City of Vancouver: A Healthy City for All
<https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/Healthy-City-Strategy-Phase-2-Action-Plan-2015-2018.pdf>
5. BC Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions: A Pathway to Hope
https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/initiatives-plans-strategies/mental-health-and-addictions-strategy/bcmentalhealthroadmap_2019web-5.pdf
6. City of Vancouver: Mental Health and Addictions
<https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/mental-health-and-addiction.aspx>
7. Vancouver Police Mental Health Strategy
<https://vancouver.ca/police/assets/pdf/reports-policies/mental-health-strategy.pdf>
8. B.C. Police Act
http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96367_01#section15
9. CAHOOTS: Direct Services, Education and Community, Eugene OR
<https://whitebirdclinic.org/trainings/>
10. Vancouver Courier: Vancouver office building managers' response to homeless people has shifted
<https://www.vancourier.com/real-estate/vancouver-office-building-managers-response-to-homeless-people-has-shifted-1.23861305>
11. Hastings Crossing BIA: HxBIA provides free workshops on de-escalation techniques, opioid response training
<https://www.hxbia.com/deescalation-workshops.html>
12. Downtown Yonge BIA - For Businesses: Mental Health Recognition and Response Workshop
<https://downtownyonge.com/events/31/>

referred

REFERRAL MOVED by Mayor Stewart

THAT the motion entitled "Community-based Crisis Management Through Understanding and De-escalation" be referred to a Council meeting after the Provincial Review of Police Act Terms of Reference have been established and made public.

CARRIED (Vote No. 06133)

(Councillors Dominato, Fry and Wiebe opposed)

(Councillors De Genova and Kirby-Yung absent due to conflict of interest)

The Committee adjourned at 8:49 pm.

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

JUNE 24, 2020

A meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Wednesday, June 24, 2020, at 8:50 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. This Council meeting was convened by electronic means as authorized under the *Order of the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General of the Province of British Columbia – Emergency Program Act, Ministerial Order No. M192*.

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

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Tina Penney, Director, Legislative Operations
Tamarra Wong, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities
Wednesday, June 24, 2020

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

1. Presentation: Vancouver Plan Update – Focus on Recovery and Long-term Community Resilience
2. Funding Application to BC Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Mapping and Flood Mitigation Planning
3. Developing an #AllOnBoard and #RaiseARider Pilot
4. A Call for Race-Based and Socio-Demographic Data in B.C.
5. Corner Stores in 21st Century Vancouver: Achieving Complete Communities and

- Food-Friendly Neighbourhoods
6. Community-based Crisis Management Through Understanding and De-escalation

Items 1 to 6

MOVED by Councillor Bligh
SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities at its meeting of June 24, 2020, as contained in items 1 to 6 , be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillor De Genova absent for the vote)

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Hardwick
SECONDED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council adjourned at 8:52 pm.

* * * * *