



## REPORT TO COUNCIL

### STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON POLICY AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

**JULY 22, 23, 24 AND 27, 2020**

A meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on Policy and Strategic Priorities was held on Wednesday, July 22, 2020, at 9:30 am, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall. Subsequently, the meeting recessed and reconvened at 1:06 pm on Thursday, July 24, 2020, at 1:02 pm on Friday, July 24, 2020, and at 9:30 am on Monday, July 27, 2020. 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\* (Leave of Absence – Civic Business, July 22 and 27, 2020, 9:30 am to 12 pm)
- Councillor Rebecca Bligh\* (Leave of Absence – Personal Reasons, July 23, 2020, 1 to 2 pm)
- Councillor Christine Boyle
- Councillor Melissa De Genova\*
- Councillor Lisa Dominato
- Councillor Pete Fry
- Councillor Colleen Hardwick
- Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung\*, Vice-Chair
- 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, Deputy City Clerk  
Terri Burke, Meeting Coordinator  
Irina Dragnea, Meeting Coordinator  
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**

During discussion on matters adopted on consent, it was

REFERRAL MOVED by Councillor Dominato

THAT, due to time constraints, Council refer the motion entitled “Enabling Creative and Easily Replicated “Missing Middle” Housing Pilots”, to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on September 16, 2020, to hear speakers, debate and decision.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Mayor Stewart absent for the vote due to civic business)

### **1. Presentation: 2019-2022 Capital Plan Recalibration**

Patrice Impey, General Manager, Finance, Risk and Supply Chain Management, along with Grace Cheng, Director of Long-term Financial Strategy, and Michel Desrochers, Manager of Capital Strategy and Planning, provided a presentation on the 2019-2022 Capital Plan Recalibration.

Staff from Finance, Risk and Supply Chain Management, along with staff from Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability, and the City Manager, responded to questions.

\* \* \* \* \*

*During questions to staff, it was*

*MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung*

*THAT Council allow a second round of questions to staff.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Mayor Stewart absent for the vote due to civic business)

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### **2. Capital Budget Adjustments for Heritage Hall Capital Maintenance Work and Three Childcare Projects July 13, 2020**

Staff from Finance, Risk and Supply Chain Management, responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council approve an increase of \$2,586,542 to the Multi-Year Capital Project Budgets for the Heritage Hall Building Envelope and three Childcare projects (Lord Nelson Elementary, Fleming Elementary, Tennyson Elementary) with the following

funding sources:

- \$1,886,542 for the Heritage Hall Building Envelope with \$1,400,000 Debenture funding from the 2019-2022 Capital Plan for Capital Maintenance of Cultural Facilities, and \$486,542 reallocation from within the Multi-Year Capital Project Budgets for 2018 City-wide Seismic Program, 2019 Seismic Program, and PNE Garden Auditorium Re-Roof;
- \$700,000 for the three Childcare projects with City-wide Development Cost Levies for Childcare.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 06231)  
(Mayor Stewart absent for the vote due to Civic Business)

**3. Report Back on Establishing the Office of the Auditor General for the City of Vancouver  
July 3, 2020**

John Reed, President and CEO, Canadian Audit Accountability Foundation, provided a presentation and responded to questions.

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*During the presentation, it was*

*MOVED by Councillor Hardwick*

*THAT Council extend the meeting past 12 pm, in order to finish hearing the presentation and ask questions of the presenter.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Mayor Stewart absent for the vote due to Civic Business)

\* \* \* \* \*

*The Committee recessed on July 22, 2020, at 12:10 pm and reconvened at 3:10 pm.*

\* \* \* \* \*

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

MOVED by Councillor Hardwick  
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council receive for information the report entitled "Establishing an Independent Auditor General Office for the City of Vancouver", attached as Appendix "A" to the Report dated July 3, 2020, entitled "Report Back on Establishing the Office of the Auditor General for the City of Vancouver",

prepared by the Canadian Audit and Accountability Foundation (the “CAAF Report”).

- B. THAT Council approve in principle the recommendations of the Canadian Audit and Accountability Foundation (CAAF) in the CAAF Report.
- C. THAT Council direct the City Solicitor to prepare a By-law to implement the recommendations in the Canadian Audit and Accountability Foundation (CAAF) Report, and bring the By-law to Council on or before November 30, 2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 06232)

#### **4. Ending Street Checks in Vancouver**

At the Council meeting on July 21, 2020, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on July 22, 2020, in order to hear from speakers.

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*Prior to debate on this matter, Councillor Kirby-Yung rose to declare a conflict of interest, as she was receiving distressing communication from members of the public and did not want the perception of how she may vote to interfere with the process.*

*The Mayor rose and requested a ruling of the Chair, as he did not think her declaration was a conflict of interest. The Chair consulted with staff and the City Manager, and ruled the conflict of interest out of order as she was recusing herself due to being targeted inappropriately, and not because she was in conflict.*

*Following the ruling of the Chair, Councillor Kirby-Yung rose and declared a conflict of interest out of an abundance of caution, as she was potentially in conflict in the perception of bias. She left the meeting at 4:41 pm and did not return until 9:16 pm, at the completion of the item.*

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The Committee heard from 34 speakers in support of the recommendations.

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*During the hearing of speakers, it was*

*MOVED by Councillor Hardwick*

*THAT Council complete hearing speaker 2, and asking questions of them, prior to the*

*5 pm recess.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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*The Committee recessed on July 22, 2020, at 5:01 pm and reconvened at 6:03 pm.*

\* \* \* \* \*

MOVED by Mayor Stewart  
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. People and organizations around the world and in Vancouver (including the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association, Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs, Black Lives Matter Vancouver, and the Hogan's Alley Society) are calling for reforms to how police services are delivered, including ending street checks - the practice of stopping a person outside of an investigation, and often obtaining and recording their personal information;
2. Data released by the Vancouver Police Department in 2018 showed almost 100,000 street checks were conducted by the VPD between 2008 and 2017, with Indigenous and Black people being significantly overrepresented in these checks compared to their proportion of the population;
3. Following the implementation of new provincial guidelines in January 2020, VPD has reported a 91% reduction in street checks;
4. The Vancouver Police Board has recently committed to new actions to improve policing services including: establishing a new Black and African Diaspora Advisory Committee, providing historical awareness and cultural sensitivity training for current and future officers regarding the experiences of Black people, participating in anti-bias and cultural sensitivity training, working with the existing Indigenous Advisory Committee to improve training for current and future officers regarding Indigenous Peoples cultural sensitivity, enhancing communication between the Board, Vancouver City Council, and the Musqueam regarding the provision of policing services in Vancouver, and, reviewing the efficacy of the new street check policy;
5. Police Act Section 26 states "In consultation with the chief constable, the municipal police board must determine the priorities, goals and objectives of the municipal police department" and that "in determining the priorities, goals and objectives of the municipal police department, the municipal police board must take into account....the priorities, goals and objectives of the council of the municipality";
6. The Vancouver Police Board has the authority to end the practice of street checks in Vancouver; and

7. While Police Act Section 25 states the Mayor of Vancouver chairs the Vancouver Police Board in an ex-officio capacity without the ability to vote on Police Board matters except in the event of a tie and cannot move board motions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct the Mayor to write to the Vancouver Police Board to inform the Board that while Council deeply appreciates recent efforts to reform policing services and the efforts of the Police Department to quickly implement related changes, Vancouver City Council's priority is to end the practice of street checks in Vancouver.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 06233)  
(Councillor Kirby-Yung absent for the vote due to conflict of interest)

**5. Amendment to the City's Audit Committee  
June 17, 2020**

The Deputy City Manager responded to questions.

POSTPONEMENT MOVED by Councillor De Genova  
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council postpone the Report dated June 17, 2020, entitled "Amendment to the City's Audit Committee", and its recommendations to after the City Solicitor brings forward a by-law on the establishment of an Auditor General to Council, expected at a meeting of Council on or before November 30, 2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 06234)

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*The Committee recessed on July 22, 2020, at 9:39 pm, and reconvened at 1 pm on  
July 23, 2020.*

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**6. Retail Revolution: Bringing Digital Main Street to Vancouver to Support Brick and Mortar Neighbourhood Small Business**

At the Council meeting on July 21, 2020, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on July 22, 2020, in order to hear from speakers.

The Committee heard from one person in opposition to the recommendations.

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

WHEREAS

1. The COVID-19 pandemic has inflicted significant negative economic impact with many Vancouver businesses forced to close or severely limit operations due to health and physical distancing restrictions;
2. According to Statistics Canada, retail sales fell 26.4 percent to \$34.7 billion in April from March, leaving them down 33.6 percent since physical distancing measures were implemented in mid-March. StatsCan says about one-third of retailers were closed because of the pandemic. On average, economists had expected a lower drop in April of 15.1 percent according to financial markets data firm Refinitiv;
3. While essential services like grocery stores remained open, most retailers did not offer in-store shopping in April due to public health restrictions. Online sales surged to a record high, representing 9.5 percent of the total retail market. Many businesses started or expanded their online presence and curbside pick-up services in response to closures. However, many small businesses have not had the knowledge or resources to effectively expand online;
4. Vancouver has many retail-commercial districts across the city, with 22 Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) and roughly 15,000 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) within them;
5. 98 percent of Vancouver businesses are SMEs with fewer than 50 employees. These businesses have a significant impact on Vancouver's local economy generating significant jobs and tax revenue. 34 percent of Provincial Gross Domestic Product is attributable to the small business sector;
6. BIAs across Vancouver cited that up to 90% of businesses in their districts closed – either voluntarily or due to mandatory orders – since the implementation of restrictions to support physical distancing. Many businesses are now reopening and struggling to adapt to the 'new normal';
7. Despite the easing of restrictions, small business and retail survival post-COVID-19 is uncertain due to continued health restrictions, increased safety and sanitation costs, economic recession, diminished consumer confidence, and increased preference and adaptation to the convenience and safety of shopping online;
8. A recent survey conducted by the BC Chamber of Commerce of 8,000 businesses in BC, showed 73 percent of businesses expect their revenues will drop by 50 percent or more, with nearly a quarter saying revenues will drop by 100 percent, as a result of current restrictions;
9. Permanent closure of storefronts in Vancouver would have significant negative impact on local employment and the vibrancy of neighbourhoods diminishing

- complete communities, local feel, and social connection;
10. Digital Main Street (DMS) was developed to support small 'bricks and mortar' businesses to be more competitive in online retail through digital transformation. DMS assists small businesses with building online presence and sales capacity through online resources and training and one-on-one coaching;
  11. Digital Main Street was created by the City of Toronto and the Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas (TABIA) in 2016. Funding from the Province of Ontario followed shortly after;
  12. Small business retailers and operators still face high rents while struggling with lower customer counts. Online commerce and initiatives like DMS to augment physical location sales will be key to small business survival;
  13. The idea of bringing DMS to Vancouver and to BC led by Small Business BC is supported by the Vancouver BIA Partnership, BIA BC as well as the Vancouver Economic Commission and City staff;
  14. Vancouver City Council and the City have a key role to play in championing and supporting economic recovery;
  15. Initiatives like room to queue and room to load that have been implemented as a pandemic response, should be examined as a means to support a new type of retail anticipating increased pickup activity for orders placed online;
  16. If Vancouver loses our small business, we lose the strength of our local economy. A LOCO BC survey found that spending at a local business equals 4.6X more impact with \$63 of every \$100 recirculating back into the local economy vs \$14 from spending at multinationals; and
  17. With many small businesses on the verge of collapse, online commerce will help the sector survive, recover and create economic resilience for future crises. DMS is one great initiative that will need to be rolled into a larger recalibration that recognizes the wholesale shift in retail. Supports needed for our main streets span from taxation changes to placemaking and adjacent housing.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Mayor on behalf of Council write to the Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages and the Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion for the Government of Canada and the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness for the Province of BC stating Council's support for bringing the Digital Main Street Program to Vancouver and to BC, and for Small Business BC to lead this initiative working in collaboration with Business Improvement Associations;

FURTHER THAT the above-mentioned letter be shared with Small Business BC, the Vancouver BIA Partnership, BIA BC and the Vancouver Economic Commission.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 06245)  
(Councillor Bligh absent for the vote due to civic business)



## 7. Decriminalizing Poverty and Supporting Community-led Safety Initiatives

At the Council meeting on July 21, 2020, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on July 22, 2020, in order to hear from speakers.

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*At 1:24 pm, on July 23, 2020, prior to start of item 7, Councillor De Genova rose to declare a conflict of interest, out of an abundance of caution and on the advice from the City's legal staff, as she has an immediate family member in the Vancouver Police Department. She left the meeting and did not return.*

*At 1:26 pm, on July 23, 2020, prior to start of item 7, Councillor Kirby-Yung rose to declare a conflict of interest, out of an abundance of caution and on the advice from the City's legal staff, as she has an immediate family member in the Vancouver Police Department. She left the meeting and did not return.*

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The Committee heard from 144 people in support of, and two opposed to, the recommendations.

\* \* \* \* \*

*During the hearing of speakers on July 23, 2020, it was*

*MOVED by Mayor Stewart*

*THAT the Committee recess and reconvene on Friday, July 24, 2020, at 1 pm.*

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

*(Councillors De Genova and Kirby-Yung absent for the vote due to conflict of interest)*

\* \* \* \* \*

*The Committee recessed at 4:52 pm on Thursday, July 23, 2020, and reconvened on Friday, July 24, 2020, at 1:02 pm.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*During the hearing of speakers on July 24, 2020, it was*

*MOVED by Mayor Stewart*

*THAT the Committee hear from one more speaker and then recess and reconvene on*

*Monday, July 27, 2020, at 9:30 am.*

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

*(Councillors De Genova and Kirby-Yung absent for the vote due to conflict of interest)*

\* \* \* \* \*

*The Committee recessed at 5:02 pm on Friday, July 24, 2020, and reconvened on Monday, July 27, 2020, at 9:30 am.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*At 11:31 am, on Monday, July 27, 2020, during the hearing of speakers, it was*

*MOVED by Councillor Hardwick*

*THAT the meeting recess and reconvene at 1 pm.*

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

*(Councillors De Genova and Kirby-Yung absent for the vote due to conflict of interest)  
(Mayor Stewart absent for the vote due to civic business)*

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*The Committee recessed on Monday, July 27, 2020, at 11:31 am and reconvened at 1:06 pm.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*During the hearing of speakers on July 27, 2020, it was*

*MOVED by Councillor Hardwick*

*THAT the Committee extend the speaker time limit for Speaker 2 on the Public Body Representative list, in order to watch the speaker's video.*

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

*(Councillors De Genova and Kirby-Yung absent for the vote due to conflict of interest)*

\* \* \* \* \*

*At 3:57 pm, on July 27, 2020, it was*

*MOVED by Councillor Hardwick*

*THAT the Committee enter into a second round of questions of Speaker 2 on the Public Body Representative list.*

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

*(Councillors De Genova and Kirby-Yung absent for the vote due to conflict of interest)*

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*At 4:52 pm, during the hearing of speakers, it was*

*MOVED by Councillor Hardwick*

*THAT the Committee extend past 5 pm to hear the remaining speakers;*

*FURTHER THAT the Chair not be required to call out the individual names of speakers who have not spoken, as all speakers have been contacted and asked to get on the speakers queue to speak if they have missed their turn;*

*AND FURTHER THAT, after hearing the remaining speakers, the Committee take a dinner break returning in an hour for debate and decision.*

*amended*

*AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Bligh*

*THAT the AND FURTHER THAT be amended by striking the words “the Committee take a dinner break returning in an hour for” and insert the word “follow”, after the word “decision”, to read as follows:*

*“AND FURTHER THAT, after hearing the remaining speakers, debate and decision follow.”*

*CARRIED*

*(Councillors Hardwick, Swanson and Wiebe opposed)*

*(Councillors De Genova and Kirby-Yung absent for the vote due to conflict of interest)*

*The amendment having carried, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED, with Councillors Hardwick, Swanson and Wiebe opposed, and Councillors De Genova and Kirby-Yung absent for the vote due to conflict of interest.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*MOVED by Councillor Swanson*

*THAT the Committee recommend to Council*

*WHEREAS*

- 1. Officers in the Vancouver Police Department routinely respond to calls that are related to social issues, including addiction, substance use, homelessness, mental health issues, and poverty;*
- 2. Officers in the Vancouver Police Department continue to respond to mental health calls, reporting that they responded to more than 5,000 calls related to mental health in 2019 alone;*

3. The police budget for the Vancouver Police Department has grown more than \$100 million over the last 10 years;
4. There is widespread recognition that police officers are routinely attending to calls that would be better dealt with by peer-, health-, social- and community-based programming. Evidence suggests that criminalization and policing are not effective solutions or harm reduction strategies for these concerns. This evidence includes local communities, organizations, and residents who have called and are calling for support for existing and future alternative approaches;
5. A number of reports have made recommendations regarding the criminalization of Indigenous people, people who rely on public space, and people who use illicit substances, including Red Women Rising (Martin & Walia, 2019) and Project Inclusion: Confronting Anti-Homeless and Anti-Substance User Stigma in British Columbia (Bennett & Larkin, 2018);
6. Recommendations from Red Women Rising include:
  - a. Redirect growing municipal, provincial, and federal police and prison budgets towards solutions that increase safety for Indigenous women such as more housing, child care, income, healthcare, mental health and addictions services, and healing supports;
  - b. Repeal laws that criminalize or increase harm for women in the sex trade;
  - c. All levels of government must commit to using non-incarceration measures especially for poverty-related minor offenses. Governments must also provide sufficient and stable funding to Indigenous communities and organizations to provide alternatives to incarceration including community-based rehabilitation, diversion, community courts, and restorative justice methods geared towards Indigenous women; and
  - d. Fund a Bear Clan Patrol in the DTES that is led by Indigenous residents and based on Indigenous reciprocal responsibilities of safety, security, and kinship.
7. Current policing practices disproportionately criminalize Black and Indigenous communities, as reflected in street check data, as well as rates of incarceration in provincial and federal prisons;
8. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action (2015) calls upon federal, provincial, and territorial governments to commit to the recognition and implementation of Aboriginal justice systems in a manner consistent with the Treaty and Aboriginal rights of Aboriginal peoples, the Constitution Act, 1982, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, endorsed by Canada (November 2012); and Calls for Justice (2019) resulting from the final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls call for decolonizing approach to justice, including 11 recommendations specific to policing services; and
9. The City of Vancouver is committed to using an equity lens on social issues which include issues relating to police services.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council ask the police board to itemize the work they do that is related to mental health, homelessness, drug use, sex work, and the amount of money spent on it, including the number of tickets issued from enforcing related by-laws as well as the cost of this enforcement
- B. THAT Council ask staff to seek input from BLM, WISH, CCAP, BCCLA, Hogan's Alley Society, Vancouver Aboriginal Transformative Justice Services Society, VANDU, PACE, DTES Women's Centre, Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society, Battered Women's Support Services, PIVOT and the John Howard Society, and other community groups about how the City could support existing and future community-based harm reduction and safety services.
- C. THAT Council ask staff to report back as soon as possible with a plan, timeline and budget to de-prioritize policing as a response to mental health, sex work, homelessness, and substance use and to prioritize funding community-led harm reduction and safety initiatives in these areas.
- D. THAT Council directs the Mayor to inform the Vancouver Police Board that it is this Council's priority to respond to mental health, sex work, homelessness, and substance use with community-led initiatives rather than policing.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry

THAT B be amended by striking the words "BLM, WISH, CCAP, BCCLA, Hogan's Alley Society, Vancouver Aboriginal Transformative Justice Services Society, VANDU, PACE, DTES Women's Centre, Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society, Battered Women's Support Services, PIVOT and the John Howard Society", and inserting the words "people with lived experience, equity-seeking," between the words "from" and "and", and inserting the words "as well as housing and health providers, social service providers and non-profit societies specializing in human rights, mental health and addictions," between the words "groups" and "about", to read as follows:

- B. THAT Council ask staff to seek input from people with lived experience, equity-seeking, and other community groups as well as housing and health providers, social service providers and non-profit societies specializing in human rights, mental health and addictions, about how the City could support existing and future community-based harm reduction and safety services.

FURTHER THAT C be amended by inserting the words "non-profit societies and others with the experience and training to" between the words "groups" and "deliver", to read as follows:

- C. THAT Council ask staff to report back as soon as possible with a plan, timeline and budget to de-prioritize policing as a response to mental health, sex work, homelessness, and substance use and to prioritize

funding community-led groups, non-profit societies and others with the experience and training to deliver harm reduction and safety initiatives in these areas.

AND FURTHER THAT D be amended by striking the words “community-led” and inserting the words “led by community, health agencies, social service providers and non-profit societies” between the words “initiatives” and “rather”, to read as follows:

- D. THAT Council directs the Mayor to inform the Vancouver Police Board that it is this Council’s priority to respond to mental health, sex work, homelessness, and substance use with initiatives led by community, health agencies, social service providers and non-profit societies rather than policing.

amended

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Swanson

THAT B be amended by inserting the words “BLM, WISH, CCAP, BCCLA, Hogan’s Alley Society, Vancouver Aboriginal Transformative Justice Services Society, VANDU, PACE, DTES Women’s Centre, Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society, Battered Women’s Support Services, PIVOT and the John Howard Society,” between the words “from” and “people”, to read as follows:

- B. THAT Council ask staff to seek input from BLM, WISH, CCAP, BCCLA, Hogan’s Alley Society, Vancouver Aboriginal Transformative Justice Services Society, VANDU, PACE, DTES Women’s Centre, Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society, Battered Women’s Support Services, PIVOT and the John Howard Society, people with lived experience, equity-seeking, and other community groups as well as housing and health providers, social service providers and non-profit societies specializing in human rights, mental health and addictions, about how the City could support existing and future community-based harm reduction and safety services.

carried unanimously

At 5:29 pm, on July 27, 2020, Councillor Wiebe declared a conflict of interest on the amendment to the amendment as his mother is on the board of one of the listed organizations. He did not participate in debate or decision on the amendment to the amendment.

The amendment to the amendment was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 06261), with Councillors Dominato, Fry and Hardwick abstaining from the vote, Councillor Wiebe declaring a conflict of interest, and Councillors De Genova and Kirby-Yung absent for the vote due to a conflict of interest.

The amendment to the amendment having carried unanimously, Councillor Wiebe then declared conflict of interest on B of the motion, and requested the components of the amendment be severed for the vote.

Council agreed to sever the amendment as amended with B having CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 06262), with Councillor Hardwick abstaining from the vote, Councillor Wiebe declaring a conflict of interest, and Councillors De Genova and Kirby-Yung absent for the vote due to conflict of interest, and C and D having CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 06263), with Councillors De Genova and Kirby-Yung absent for the vote due to conflict of interest.

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Dominato

THAT E be added as follows:

- E. THAT Council direct staff to prepare a written submission with Council's input to the *Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act*, with a special focus on how provincially funded and delivered services must be transformed in order to successfully refocus resources at the municipal level;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to report back with proposed recommendations for the aforementioned written submission in Q4 2020 or at a time determined after consulting the Parliamentary Committee Office regarding deadlines for written submissions.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 06264)  
(Councillors De Genova and Kirby-Yung absent for the vote due to conflict of interest)

Council agreed to sever the components of motion as amended with B having CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 06265), with Councillor Wiebe declaring a conflict of interest, and Councillors De Genova and Kirby-Yung absent for the vote due to conflict of interest, and A, C, D and E having CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No 06266), with Councillors De Genova and Kirby-Yung absent for the vote due to conflict of interest.

## FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

WHEREAS

1. Officers in the Vancouver Police Department routinely respond to calls that are related to social issues, including addiction, substance use, homelessness, mental health issues, and poverty;
2. Officers in the Vancouver Police Department continue to respond to mental health calls, reporting that they responded to more than 5,000 calls related to mental health in 2019 alone;
3. The police budget for the Vancouver Police Department has grown more than \$100 million over the last 10 years;
4. There is widespread recognition that police officers are routinely attending to calls that would be better dealt with by peer-, health-, social- and community-based programming. Evidence suggests that criminalization and policing are not effective solutions or harm reduction strategies for these concerns. This evidence

- includes local communities, organizations, and residents who have called and are calling for support for existing and future alternative approaches;
5. A number of reports have made recommendations regarding the criminalization of Indigenous people, people who rely on public space, and people who use illicit substances, including Red Women Rising (Martin & Walia, 2019) and Project Inclusion: Confronting Anti-Homeless and Anti-Substance User Stigma in British Columbia (Bennett & Larkin, 2018);
  6. Recommendations from Red Women Rising include:
    - a. Redirect growing municipal, provincial, and federal police and prison budgets towards solutions that increase safety for Indigenous women such as more housing, child care, income, healthcare, mental health and addictions services, and healing supports;
    - b. Repeal laws that criminalize or increase harm for women in the sex trade;
    - c. All levels of government must commit to using non-incarceration measures especially for poverty-related minor offenses. Governments must also provide sufficient and stable funding to Indigenous communities and organizations to provide alternatives to incarceration including community-based rehabilitation, diversion, community courts, and restorative justice methods geared towards Indigenous women; and
    - d. Fund a Bear Clan Patrol in the DTES that is led by Indigenous residents and based on Indigenous reciprocal responsibilities of safety, security, and kinship.
  7. Current policing practices disproportionately criminalize Black and Indigenous communities, as reflected in street check data, as well as rates of incarceration in provincial and federal prisons;
  8. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action (2015) calls upon federal, provincial, and territorial governments to commit to the recognition and implementation of Aboriginal justice systems in a manner consistent with the Treaty and Aboriginal rights of Aboriginal peoples, the Constitution Act, 1982, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, endorsed by Canada (November 2012); and Calls for Justice (2019) resulting from the final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls call for decolonizing approach to justice, including 11 recommendations specific to policing services; and
  9. The City of Vancouver is committed to using an equity lens on social issues which include issues relating to police services.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

- A. THAT Council ask the police board to itemize the work they do that is related to mental health, homelessness, drug use, sex work, and the amount of money spent on it, including the number of tickets issued from enforcing related by-laws as well as the cost of this enforcement.



- B. THAT Council ask staff to seek input from BLM, WISH, CCAP, BCCLA, Hogan's Alley Society, Vancouver Aboriginal Transformative Justice Services Society, VANDU, PACE, DTES Women's Centre, Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society, Battered Women's Support Services, PIVOT and the John Howard Society, people with lived experience, equity-seeking, and other community groups as well as housing and health providers, social service providers and non-profit societies specializing in human rights, mental health and addictions, about how the City could support existing and future community-based harm reduction and safety services.
- C. THAT Council ask staff to report back as soon as possible with a plan, timeline and budget to de-prioritize policing as a response to mental health, sex work, homelessness, and substance use and to prioritize funding community-led groups, non-profit societies and others with the experience and training to deliver harm reduction and safety initiatives in these areas.
- D. THAT Council directs the Mayor to inform the Vancouver Police Board that it is this Council's priority to respond to mental health, sex work, homelessness, and substance use with initiatives led by community, health agencies, social service providers and non-profit societies rather than policing.
- E. THAT Council direct staff to prepare a written submission with Council's input to the *Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act*, with a special focus on how provincially funded and delivered services must be transformed in order to successfully refocus resources at the municipal level;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to report back with proposed recommendations for the aforementioned written submission in Q4 2020 or at a time determined after consulting the Parliamentary Committee Office regarding deadlines for written submissions.

## **8. Enabling Creative and Easily Replicated "Missing Middle" Housing Pilots**

This item was postponed, due to time constraints, to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on Wednesday, September 16, 2020, to hear from speakers, debate and decision.

On July 27, 2020, the Committee adjourned at 6:07 pm.

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

**JULY 22, 23 AND 27, 2020**

A meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Wednesday, July 22, 2020, at 9:40 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. Subsequently, the meeting recessed and reconvened at 4:54 pm on July 23, 2020, and at 6:08 pm on July 27, 2020. 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\* (Absent – July 23 and 27, 2020, due to conflict of interest)
- Councillor Lisa Dominato
- Councillor Pete Fry
- Councillor Colleen Hardwick
- Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung\* (Absent – July 23 and 27, 2020, due to conflict of interest)
- 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, Deputy City Clerk  
Terri Burke, Meeting Coordinator  
Irina Dragnea, Meeting Coordinator  
Tamarra Wong, Meeting Coordinator

\* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Report of Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities  
Wednesday, July 22, 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: 2019-2022 Capital Plan Recalibration

2. Capital Budget Adjustments for Heritage Hall Capital Maintenance Work and Three Childcare Projects
3. Report Back on Establishing the Office of the Auditor General for the City of Vancouver
4. Ending Street Checks in Vancouver
5. Amendment to the City's Audit Committee
8. Enabling Creative and Easily Replicated "Missing Middle" Housing Pilots

Items 1 to 5, and 8

MOVED by Councillor Bligh  
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities at its meeting of July 22, 2020, as contained in items 1 to 5 and 8, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **URGENT BUSINESS**

MOVED by Councillor Hardwick  
SECONDED by Councillor Wiebe

THAT Councillor Dominato be granted leave of absence for personal reasons from meetings held on July 30, 2020, and August 4-7, 2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

\* \* \* \* \*

*Council recessed at 9:43 on July 22, 2020, and reconvened at 4:53 pm on July 23, 2020.*

\* \* \* \* \*

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Report of reconvened Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities  
Thursday, July 23, 2020

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

6. Retail Revolution: Bringing Digital Main Street to Vancouver to Support Brick and Mortar Neighbourhood Small Business

Item 6

MOVED by Councillor Hardwick  
SECONDED by Councillor Wiebe

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities at its reconvened meeting of July 23, 2020, as contained in item 6, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Councillors De Genova and Kirby-Yung absent for the vote)

### **URGENT BUSINESS**

MOVED by Councillor Wiebe  
SECONDED by Councillor Boyle

THAT Councillor Bligh be granted a leave of absence for personal reasons from meetings held between the hours of 1 to 2 pm on July 23, 2020;

FURTHER THAT Councillor Hardwick be granted a leave of absence for personal reasons from meetings held after 5 pm on July 24, 2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Councillors De Genova and Kirby-Yung absent for the vote)

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Council recessed at 4:55 pm on July 23, 2020 and reconvened at 6:09 pm on July 27, 2020.

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### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Report of reconvened Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities  
Monday, July 27, 2020

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

7. Decriminalizing Poverty and Supporting Community-led Safety Initiatives

Item 7

MOVED by Councillor Carr  
SECONDED by Councillor Bligh

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the reconvened Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities at its meeting of July 27, 2020, as contained in item 7, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Councillors De Genova and Kirby-Yung absent for the vote due to conflict of interest)

### **URGENT BUSINESS**

MOVED by Councillor Dominato  
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT Councillor Boyle be granted a Leave of Absence for personal reasons from all meetings held between August 4 to 7, 2020;

FURTHER THAT Mayor Stewart be granted a Leave of Absence for Civic Business from the meeting on Monday, July 27, 2020, from 9:30 am to 1 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Councillors De Genova and Kirby-Yung absent for the vote)

### **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Councillor Hardwick  
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Councillors De Genova and Kirby-Yung absent for the vote)

On July 27, 2020, Council adjourned at 6:10 pm.

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