



IN CAMERA

REPORT

Report Date: August 18, 2020
Contact: Kevin Lau, P. Eng.
Contact No.: 604.871.6085
RTS No.: 14022
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-25
Meeting Date: September 15, 2020

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Chief Building Official
SUBJECT: Appointment of Deputy Chief Building Official and Deputy City Electrician

IN CAMERA RATIONALE

This report is recommended for consideration by Council on the In Camera agenda as it relates to Section 165.2(1) of the *Vancouver Charter*. (a) personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the city or another position appointed by the city.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council appoint Saul Schwebs, Architect AIBC as Deputy Chief Building Official, effective immediately.

REPORT SUMMARY

This report is requesting Council approval to appoint Mr. Saul Schwebs as Deputy Chief Building Official.

Mr. Schwebs is currently the Assistant Director of Inspections Services. Mr. Schwebs is an experienced architect who has extensive experience in the private sector spanning the breadth of the construction industry prior to joining the City. He also has previous experience within DBL's Building Group as a building inspector, and subsequently has provided a supervisory and leadership role in the Housing Review branch. Providing Mr. Schwebs with the Deputy Chief Building Official and Deputy City Electrician designations will provide greater flexibility and consistency between the two Assistant Director Positions and ensure there is always sufficient coverage at the City to respond to the legal requirements and decision making of the Chief Building Official and City Electrician positions.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

The *Vancouver Charter* requires that Council appoint a Chief Building Official and City Electrician. Consistent with other jurisdictions, both the Building and Electrical By-laws designate the Chief Building Official and City Electrician as the authority having jurisdiction and references the Charter designations of City Building Inspector and City Electrician.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager recommends approval of the above noted recommendation.

REPORT

Background/Context

In order to ensure effective Building and Electrical By-law decision making authority within the operational work units, the people in the following positions have been assigned statutory authority:

- Director of Building; (assigned Chief Building Official and City Electrician)
- Assistant Director, Inspection Services, Building; (assigned Deputy Chief Building Official and Deputy City Electrician authority),
- Assistant Director, Building Review Group (assigned Deputy Chief Building Official and Deputy City Electrician authority),
- Manager of Building Review (assigned Deputy Chief Building Official authority in the absence of the Assistant Director or Director)
- Policy Engineer, Building (assigned Deputy Chief Building Official authority in the absence of the Assistant Director or Director)
- Program Manager, Electrical Inspections Branch; Licences & Inspections Department (assigned Deputy City Electrician authority).
- Supervisor, Electrical Inspections Branch (assigned Deputy City Electrician authority)

These positions are responsible for providing leadership and direction within their respective areas, and for making final decisions about by-law matters on behalf of the Chief Building Official and City Electrician.

Strategic Analysis

The additional position being assigned City Building Official and City Electrical authority will provide a greater degree of flexibility and coverage for the legal authority and decision making ability of the city. In addition the two Assistant Director positions will be interchangeable in the case of vacancy or absence.

Mr. Schwebs will be an incredible asset to the City in the capacity of Deputy Chief Building Official and Deputy City Electrician as he brings to the Building Group the aggregate experience of a career spanning the entire breadth of the construction industry; from construction labour, to home renovation and design, to the construction administration of complex residential and commercial projects in Chicago and abroad. Mr. Schwebs has also been a sustainable building

design consultant, teaching courses on sustainable design and construction, and as Assistant Director of Inspection Services has been a key contributor to the City's Resilience strategy; through the development of City's Post Disaster Building Damage Assessment Plan and the recent VanSlam earthquake exercise.

Implications/Related Issues/Risk

Financial

There are no financial implications.

CONCLUSION

The Chief Building Official, Deputy Chief Building Official, City Electrician and Deputy City Electrician are key roles for public safety as well as the delivery of efficient permitting and inspection services. This appointment will help facilitate these City objectives.

* * * * *