

## MOTION

### 14. Sustaining Public Safety as a Core Service in the City of Vancouver

At the Council meeting on October 6, 2020, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on October 7, 2020, to hear from speakers.

Submitted by: Councillor De Genova

#### WHEREAS

1. Public Safety is a core service and the *Vancouver Charter* states in Section 481. “*it is the duty of the city to bear the expense necessary to: (a) generally maintain law and order in the city*”;
2. The Four Pillars Drug Strategy policy was adopted in Vancouver in the 1990’s and supported by different governments, over several terms. The Four pillars include: Harm Reduction, Prevention, Treatment and Enforcement;
3. Recently the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) confirmed several serious violent crimes including serious assaults, home invasions, robberies and threatening behaviour. In some cases, victims include children and people experiencing homelessness;
4. September 17, 2020, VPD confirmed in a media release “The increase in overall violent crime (5.2 per cent) was driven by a 21.7 per cent increase in the most serious assaults.”; and
5. Neighborhoods including Strathcona, Yaletown and Chinatown have faced significantly higher rates of violent crime, reported by VPD. The police have also confirmed they are hearing public safety concerns from business owners and residents.

#### THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to organize a Special Meeting of Council, with a focus on hearing from residents and community delegations and understanding concerns related to public safety and violent crime citywide;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to:

- i. Invite executive staff from the following city departments, agencies, and levels of government, to participate with a presentation, including but not limited to:
  - The City of Vancouver:
    - Homeless Outreach Team and Social Policy;
    - Streets and Sanitation;
  - The Vancouver Police Department;
  - The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation;

- Vancouver Coastal Health;

- ii. Schedule this Special Council meeting on a weekday evening in October 2020, advertised to the public, including on social media.

B. THAT Council direct staff, including staff responsible for streets and sanitation, the Homeless Outreach Team and Social Policy, to work with the Vancouver Police Department and report back to Council with information and recommendations, no later than the end of November 2020, including:

- i. Neighbourhood specific action to improve public safety and deter violent crime and street disorder;
- ii. Specific consideration to improve public safety for vulnerable and marginalized people in Vancouver;
- iii. Consideration for the City of Vancouver's Four Pillars Drug Strategy.

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