

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

1. Replacing Gendered and Patriarchal Language in the Vancouver Charter

Submitted by: Councillor Fry

WHEREAS

1. The *Vancouver Charter* (“Charter”) is the provincial statute that incorporates and empowers the City of Vancouver and its governance;
2. The Charter was first passed in 1953 and has been amended and updated since that time by acts of the Provincial Legislature;
3. The Charter variously references gendered language that embeds a historical patriarchal hierarchy, in particular in *Part IV — Duties of Mayor, Director of Finance, City Clerk, City Treasurer, and Auditors*. For example:
 - a. Section 209. (Mayor)
If at any time the Mayor is absent, or signifies **his** intention of being absent, from **his** duties through illness, departure from the city, or other cause, or **his** seat is vacated, the Council may appoint a councillor to be Acting-Mayor. In the absence of the Mayor, the Acting-Mayor shall, during the period for which **he** is appointed, have all the powers and duties of the Mayor; provided, however, that the Acting-Mayor shall not take the place of the Mayor as Chair**man** of the Board of Administration unless the councillor member of the Board is absent from the city or otherwise unable to act as Chair**man** of the Board;
 - b. Section 211. (Director of Finance)
The Director of Finance may, whenever **he** thinks fit, and shall, whenever required by the Council so to do, advise the Council on the financial position of the city or any phase thereof and make recommendations with respect to the administration, co-ordination, and efficiency of the city's affairs and the systems under which they are carried on;
 - c. Section 222 (City Clerk)
He shall have the custody of all by-laws from the time they are introduced, and, having seen to their proper completion, **he** shall preserve and keep the originals thereof; and
4. Further examples of gendered, patriarchal language can be found in Sections 208, 209, 211, 213, 214, 215, 222, 223, 224, 225, 227, 228, 229, 270, 271, 313, and 560.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to review the *Vancouver Charter* and recommend amendments in order to replace gendered and patriarchal language with gender neutral and egalitarian language.
- B. THAT The Mayor on behalf of Council write to the Provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs (following the 42nd British Columbia general election, and after such time as a Minister has been appointed) formally requesting gender neutral and egalitarian language amendments to the *Vancouver Charter* as recommended in A.

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