

MOTION

6. Supporting Community-Led Public Safety in Mount Pleasant (Member's Motion B.2)

At the Council meeting on July 20, 2021, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on July 21, 2021, in order to hear from speakers.

MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver has been committed to supporting Community Policing Centres in neighbourhoods across Vancouver. The ideals of community policing hold that communities are best served through place-based approaches tailored to the unique needs of a neighbourhood;
2. Currently there are 11 Community Policing Centres (CPC's) in the city. They hold a unique position among crime prevention initiatives in North America, through partnership between the community and its police force. Unlike their counterparts in other cities, these centres are not satellite police stations -- they are independent not-for-profit societies that are actually operated, staffed, and governed by volunteer members of the community;
3. Community policing leverages the local knowledge and engagement of the people who live, work and play there. Local residents work together to create crime prevention programs and overall community engagement initiatives to address health and safety concerns in their own neighbourhoods. These offices have a unique position in aiding members of the community seeking help, or connecting them with the various service providers in the area. These services might be food, shelter, medical or mental health assistance as well as other services;
4. CPC's are located in Chinatown, Collingwood, Grandview-Woodland, Granville Downtown South, Hastings-Sunrise, Kerrisdale, Oakridge & Marpole, Kitsilano-Fairview, South Vancouver, Strathcona and West End-Coal Harbour. There is also a dedicated Aboriginal CPC on Franklin Street;
5. The Mount Pleasant BIA (MPBIA) has identified that the Mount Pleasant neighbourhood intersects with three separate CPCs, and feels it cannot be appropriately serviced by these CPCs due to the rapid and ongoing growth of Mount Pleasant, and the expansive area the existing CPCs currently have to cover;
6. The area's population increased by a significant 25% between 2011- 2016 according to the 2016 Census; substantially faster than all other neighbourhoods in the city, with no signs of slowing down. Mount Pleasant is already under pressure from development and with the upcoming Broadway Line expansion, densification will only increase;

7. The MPBIA has identified the opportunity to establish a new Community Policing Centre to serve the community, and is working with support of other local stakeholders like the Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Centre of BC, Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House and Coast Mental Health to bring the initiative to fruition. Other groups who have expressed support for a dedicated CPC include: the Mount Pleasant Community Centre Association, Mount Pleasant Family Centre Society, local residents, local businesses from restaurants to services, churches and arts groups. This network is working toward establishing a not-for-profit governing society and forming an independent Board of Directors. It is the intent that the Board represent the diversity of people who call Mount Pleasant home, as well as the area's diverse stakeholders. Once the Board is established, staff will be hired and a location that is central to the service area will be secured;
8. The MPBIA conducted a community safety survey about the proposed CPC initiative, providing information on it to its members and residents, that indicated strong support for the establishment of an area specific CPC, depicted growing concerns about safety, and affirmed the desire for a service that encourages community engagement and support, and will aid in connecting people to health, community and social services;
9. The proposed contemplated service area for the new Mount Pleasant CPC would center at the Main and Broadway corridor, extending from Cambie Street to Clark Drive, 16th to Great Northern Way, and would encompass Olympic Village to the waterfront. The area supported would be what the City of Vancouver deems the Mount Pleasant neighbourhood.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Vancouver City Council supports the creation of a new Community Policing Centre for the Mount Pleasant neighbourhood.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to include consideration for funding support for a new Mount Pleasant Community Policing Centre in the 2022 draft operating budget and bring that forth as part of the 2022 budget presentation.

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