

COUNCIL MEMBER'S MOTION

5. Effective and Equitable Staffing for Council

Submitted by: Councillor De Genova

WHEREAS

1. Current City of Vancouver policies permit the Mayor's staff to attend briefings with or in place of the Mayor. The Mayor's staff also have the privilege of communicating with city staff on behalf of the Mayor;
2. Staff contracted by Councillors who have signed a City of Vancouver Services Agreement are not permitted to attend briefings or meetings with or on behalf of Councillors;
3. Council supported a motion submitted by the Mayor in January 2019 titled "Increasing Support for Councillors for Constituency Work". As a result of the resolution, Councillors received an increase in their discretionary budget, allocating a total of \$30,000 per Councillor. Although this is significantly less than the Mayor's discretionary budget, each Councillor can choose to spend this budget to contract staff;
4. Legal agreements, including non-disclosure agreements, can be helpful tools to protect information and uphold the requirements of confidentiality and the *Vancouver Charter*;
5. Granting similar or equal access to the Mayor's Chiefs of Staff and staff contracted to work for individual Councillors helps create a more equitable workplace. Ultimately, this could help each Councillor better serve their constituents.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to create or update City of Vancouver policies to allow staff contracted by all council members, who have signed a City of Vancouver services agreement, to have the same level of access, responsibilities and privileges as the Mayor's Chiefs of Staff including but not limited to attending briefings, meetings with staff and access to Council members offices.
- B. THAT staff consider and execute any addendums and amendments to current and future City of Vancouver service contracts to ensure compliance to the *Vancouver Charter* and protect the integrity of information within the *Vancouver Charter*.
- C. THAT to provide fair and equal opportunities for all Council members, Council direct staff to bring any necessary decisions of Council forward, in time to implement these changes before November 2021.

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REFERENCES:

Motion- Increasing Support for Councillors for Constituency Work
January 29, 2019

<https://council.vancouver.ca/20190129/documents/motionb5.pdf>