

## COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

### 2. Increasing Public Participation at City Council by Providing Earlier Access to Agendas and Reports

Submitted by: Councillor Swanson

#### WHEREAS

1. Council members often wish they had more time to study, evaluate and research responses to staff reports that require Council decisions;
2. Members of the public frequently complain that they lack sufficient time to read staff reports, consult with others in the community to develop a response and notify other interested parties who might want to address council on the issue;
3. Most members of the public are alerted that Council is to consider an item of interest to them by media reports in newspapers, radio and TV which are not published until Thursday or Friday, and social media posts or emails from knowledgeable sources are often not circulated until the weekend;
4. Tight timelines create an advantage for organizations with paid staff, who are then disproportionately represented in public responses to Council items; and
5. Management is responsible for organizing and allocating the workload for City employees that respects labour laws and contract requirements.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct the City of Vancouver management to organize staff and City resources to ensure that Council members and the public have access to staff reports at least one week before Council meets to make decisions about them.

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