



REPORT TO COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON POLICY AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

JANUARY 26 AND 27, 2022

A Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on Policy and Strategic Priorities was held on Wednesday, January 26, 2022, at 9:50 am, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall. Subsequently, the meeting reconvened on Thursday, January 27, 2022, at 6:05 pm. This Council meeting was convened by electronic means as authorized under the Part 14 of the *Procedure By-law*.

PRESENT:

- Councillor Adriane Carr, Chair
- Mayor Kennedy Stewart*
- Councillor Rebecca Bligh
- Councillor Christine Boyle* (Leave of Absence – Personal Reasons from 9:30 am to 11:30 am on January 26, 2022)
- Councillor Melissa De Genova*
- Councillor Lisa Dominato* (Leave of Absence – Personal Reasons on January 27, 2022)
- Councillor Pete Fry
- Councillor Colleen Hardwick*
- Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung*, Vice-Chair
- Councillor Jean Swanson
- Councillor Wiebe*

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Paul Mochrie, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Lesley Matthews, Chief, External Relations and Protocol
David Yim, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

WELCOME

The Chair acknowledged we are on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations and we thank them for having cared for this land and look forward to working with them in partnership as we continue to build this great city together.

The Chair also recognized the immense contributions of the City of Vancouver's staff who work hard every day to help make our city an incredible place to live, work, and play.

PROCLAMATION – LUNAR NEW YEAR

The Mayor read the proclamation and proclaimed the week of February 1 to 7, 2022, as Lunar New Year Celebration Week in the City of Vancouver.

1. 2022 Assessment Roll – Presentation by BC Assessment Authority

Preet Basra, Deputy Assessor and Joanna Dlin, Senior Appraiser from BC Assessment Authority, provided a presentation, and responded to questions.

* * * * *

During questions to presenters, it was

MOVED by Councillor Swanson

THAT the Committee ask a second round of questions to the presenters.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

* * * * *

**2. Electrification of Space Heating and Domestic Hot Water: Mechanical Permit, and Various Housekeeping and Miscellaneous Amendments
January 13, 2022**

The Chair called for registered speakers and none were present.

MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve, in principle, the amendments to the Building By-law generally in the form attached as Appendix A of the Report dated January 13, 2022, entitled “Electrification of Space Heating and Domestic Hot Water: Mechanical Permit, and Various Housekeeping and Miscellaneous Amendments”, implementing improvements and regulations to various building mechanical systems, including a mechanical permit.
- B. THAT Council approve, in principle, various housekeeping and miscellaneous amendments to the Building By-law as generally described in the Report dated January 13, 2022, entitled “Electrification of Space Heating and Domestic Hot Water: Mechanical Permit, and Various Housekeeping and Miscellaneous Amendments” and as set out in Appendix A of the above-noted Report.
- C. THAT Council instruct the Director of Legal Services to bring forward for enactment amendments to the Building By-law as set out in Appendix A of the Report dated January 13, 2022, entitled “Electrification of Space Heating and Domestic Hot Water: Mechanical Permit, and Various Housekeeping and Miscellaneous Amendments” to implement A and B above, with certain provisions to come into force and take effect on July 1, 2022.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 08005)

(Councillors Boyle, De Genova, Hardwick, Wiebe, and Mayor Stewart absent for the vote)

3. Streamlining Rental Around Local Shopping Areas

Paul Mochrie, City Manager, responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Dominato
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT the new documents entitled “C-2, C-2B, C-2C and C-2C1 Guidelines for Residential Rental Tenure Buildings” and “Residential Rental Districts Schedules Design Guidelines”, be adopted by Council for use by applicants and staff in the relevant districts;

FURTHER THAT the amended documents entitled “C-2 Guidelines”, “C-2B, C-2C and C-2C1 Guidelines”, and “Secured Rental Policy: Incentives for New Rental Housing”, previously approved by Council, be adopted by Council for use by applicants and staff in the relevant districts.

CARRIED (Vote No. 08006)
(Councillor Hardwick opposed)
(Councillors Boyle and De Genova absent for the vote)

4. Supporting Crisis Centres Supporting Community Needs (Member’s Motion B.4)

At the Council meeting on December 14, 2021 (reconvened from November 16, 2021), due to time constraints, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on January 26, 2022, in order to hear from speakers, followed by debate and decision.

The Committee heard from one speaker in support of the motion.

MOVED by Councillor Fry
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. BC’s Crisis Line Network, a group of community-based non-profit crisis centres from across our province, ¹ support lifesaving crisis de-escalation services, suicide risk assessment, and collaborative safety planning through specifically skilled and effective 24/7 crisis service responders: answering calls to 1-800-SUICIDE, 310-6789 Mental Health, and regional distress lines; providing employment opportunities and local crisis expertise in Vancouver, Surrey, Richmond, Nanaimo, Prince George, Kamloops, Kelowna, Trail, Cranbrook, and Williams Lake; and diverting calls from 911 and police-based mental health response;
2. To meet rising demand for crisis intervention, the Province announced a well-intentioned decision to increase funding and centralize call technology for BC’s Crisis Line Network. As the result of this investment and in accordance with trade law however, the Province will now be obliged to open all crisis line services to

- competitive bid through a Request for Proposals (RFP). In the case of crisis calls, this raises the possibility of bids going to large, multinational, for-profit corporations and privatizing crisis services across the province, adding: privacy concerns; service quality concerns; impacts on labour and education; and potentially downloading service to local governments as at-risk callers are referred to 911 in order to reduce costs and corporate liability;
3. For-profit telemedicine counselling services are a rapidly-growing industry sector.^{2,3} Notably, for-profit private corporations have professional teams to develop proposals to win contracts. Typically, non-profit crisis centres do not have access to the same resources to prepare competitive bids, and at a time when their core services are in greater demand than ever;
 4. Crisis Lines are highly integrated in regional health authority mental health services, providing jobs for over 110 staff members and opportunities for over 550 volunteers. Over 450 students are trained each year as volunteer Crisis Line Responders in BC, many of whom go on to become doctors, teachers, social workers, and emergency and mental health professionals in our communities;
 5. This year, across BC, Crisis Lines safely de-escalated 99.5% of their calls with over 2.5 million minutes of life-saving support, saving BC taxpayers approximately \$10.4 million and reducing stresses on police and hospital services by diverting 7,099 interventions from 911; 16,251 interventions by in-person Crisis Response Teams; and 50,901 emergency Mental Health Worker engagements;
 6. Vancouver City Council has consistently supported non-policing interventions for mental health issues where possible:
 - a. The Vancouver Crisis Centre de-escalated 19,129 mental health crisis and/or suicide-related calls (including VCH regional and 1800SUICIDE and 310 Mental Health calls) in 2019/20;
 - b. According to Vancouver Police Department's 2020 Our Community In Need⁴ report, 13,592 of 265,000 police calls for service were mental health related. The report continues: "2,259 [Calls for Service] may or may not have required police attendance, which is the equivalent of 6 CFS/ day (VPD officers attend, on average, 727 CFS a day). These 2,259 CFS resulted in officers dedicating approximately 11,800 hours, and this equates to 8 officer positions (the cost of which is, \$1,051,935). Of note, there is no current program/community resource in existence that could have attended in lieu of police";
 7. BC's Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act⁵ acknowledges "the role of police with respect to complex social issues including mental health and wellness, addictions, and harm reduction; and in consideration of any appropriate changes to relevant sections of the Mental Health Act." The August 2020 Statement from the Special Committee further commits to follow-up with other ministries and independent offices, and seek input from advocacy groups, subject matter experts, and individuals with frontline experience in several related

areas including mental health.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT The Mayor on behalf of Council write to Minister of Health, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, and the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training with a letter of support for funded local Crisis Centres supporting community needs that:
- a. Acknowledges role of crisis centres in health and well being of residents;
 - b. Describes the importance of community-based local services;
 - c. Highlights the role of crisis centres in diverting 911 calls and police intervention;
 - d. Communicates concerns that privatized centralized crisis centres may result in an increased burden on 911 calls and police, and should be considered under the scope of the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act;
 - e. Distinguishes that local crisis centres provide important jobs and volunteer opportunities in the community, including valuable training for students in the medical, mental health, social work and protective services fields; and
 - f. Encourages the province to pursue a funding and support model for BC crisis centre services that does not prejudice the process towards an open-bid RFP and recognizes the unique role and importance of BC's Crisis Line Network.
- B. THAT the following enactment along with preamble clauses 1 and 2 above is submitted to the LMLGA for endorsement and consideration at the 2022 UBCM Convention, and a copy of the entire resolution be submitted directly to the UBCM Health and Social Development Committee for immediate consideration.

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM urge the Province to pursue a funding and support model for crisis centre services that does not prejudice the process towards an open-bid RFP and recognizes the unique role and importance of BC's Crisis Line Network, providing local community-based services for vulnerable British Columbians, diverting 911 calls and police intervention, and encourages local employment, training, and volunteer opportunities in communities across BC.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry

THAT B be struck.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 08007)
(Councillor De Genova absent for the vote)

The amendment having carried, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 08008) with Councillor De Genova absent from the vote.

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

WHEREAS

1. BC's Crisis Line Network, a group of community-based non-profit crisis centres from across our province, ¹ support lifesaving crisis de-escalation services, suicide risk assessment, and collaborative safety planning through specifically skilled and effective 24/7 crisis service responders: answering calls to 1-800-SUICIDE, 310-6789 Mental Health, and regional distress lines; providing employment opportunities and local crisis expertise in Vancouver, Surrey, Richmond, Nanaimo, Prince George, Kamloops, Kelowna, Trail, Cranbrook, and Williams Lake; and diverting calls from 911 and police-based mental health response;
2. To meet rising demand for crisis intervention, the Province announced a well-intentioned decision to increase funding and centralize call technology for BC's Crisis Line Network. As the result of this investment and in accordance with trade law however, the Province will now be obliged to open all crisis line services to competitive bid through a Request for Proposals (RFP). In the case of crisis calls, this raises the possibility of bids going to large, multinational, for-profit corporations and privatizing crisis services across the province, adding: privacy concerns; service quality concerns; impacts on labour and education; and potentially downloading service to local governments as at-risk callers are referred to 911 in order to reduce costs and corporate liability;
3. For-profit telemedicine counselling services are a rapidly-growing industry sector. ^{2,3} Notably, for-profit private corporations have professional teams to develop proposals to win contracts. Typically, non-profit crisis centres do not have access to the same resources to prepare competitive bids, and at a time when their core services are in greater demand than ever;
4. Crisis Lines are highly integrated in regional health authority mental health services, providing jobs for over 110 staff members and opportunities for over 550 volunteers. Over 450 students are trained each year as volunteer Crisis Line Responders in BC, many of whom go on to become doctors, teachers, social workers, and emergency and mental health professionals in our communities;
5. This year, across BC, Crisis Lines safely de-escalated 99.5% of their calls with over 2.5 million minutes of life-saving support, saving BC taxpayers approximately \$10.4 million and reducing stresses on police and hospital services by diverting 7,099 interventions from 911; 16,251 interventions by in-person Crisis Response Teams; and 50,901 emergency Mental Health Worker engagements;

6. Vancouver City Council has consistently supported non-policing interventions for mental health issues where possible:
 - a. The Vancouver Crisis Centre de-escalated 19,129 mental health crisis and/or suicide-related calls (including VCH regional and 1800SUICIDE and 310 Mental Health calls) in 2019/20;
 - b. According to Vancouver Police Department's 2020 Our Community In Need ⁴ report, 13,592 of 265,000 police calls for service were mental health related. The report continues: "2,259 [Calls for Service] may or may not have required police attendance, which is the equivalent of 6 CFS/ day (VPD officers attend, on average, 727 CFS a day). These 2,259 CFS resulted in officers dedicating approximately 11,800 hours, and this equates to 8 officer positions (the cost of which is, \$1,051,935). Of note, there is no current program/community resource in existence that could have attended in lieu of police";
7. BC's Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act ⁵ acknowledges "the role of police with respect to complex social issues including mental health and wellness, addictions, and harm reduction; and in consideration of any appropriate changes to relevant sections of the Mental Health Act." The August 2020 Statement from the Special Committee further commits to follow-up with other ministries and independent offices, and seek input from advocacy groups, subject matter experts, and individuals with frontline experience in several related areas including mental health.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT The Mayor on behalf of Council write to Minister of Health, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, and the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training with a letter of support for funded local Crisis Centres supporting community needs that:

- a. Acknowledges role of crisis centres in health and well being of residents;
- b. Describes the importance of community-based local services;
- c. Highlights the role of crisis centres in diverting 911 calls and police intervention;
- d. Communicates concerns that privatized centralized crisis centres may result in an increased burden on 911 calls and police, and should be considered under the scope of the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act;
- e. Distinguishes that local crisis centres provide important jobs and volunteer opportunities in the community, including valuable training for students in the medical, mental health, social work and protective services fields; and

- f. Encourages the province to pursue a funding and support model for BC crisis centre services that does not prejudice the process towards an open-bid RFP and recognizes the unique role and importance of BC's Crisis Line Network.

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1. BC Crisis Line Network: Crisis Centre of BC (Vancouver), CHIMO Crisis Lines (Richmond), Fraser Health Crisis Line/Options (Surrey), CMHA for the Kootenays (Cranbrook), Kelowna Community Resources (Kelowna), Trail F.A.I.R. (Trail), CMHA Vernon (Vernon), CMHA Cariboo Chilcotin (Williams Lake), Vancouver Island Crisis Society (Nanaimo), Northern BC Crisis Line (Prince George).
 2. Telemedicine for treating mental health and substance use disorders: reflections since the pandemic <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41386-021-00960-4>
 3. Morneau Shepell reports 2021 first quarter financial results
"a strong quarter to start the year driven by accelerating growth of our technology-enabled product suite, increased uptake of Total Wellbeing, adoption of digital mental health solutions and additional services added to our platform such as telemedicine."
<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20210513005792/en/Morneau-Shepell-reports-2021-first-quarter-financial-results>
 4. VPD: Our Community in Need
<https://vpd.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/our-community-in-need.pdf>
 5. BC Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act
<https://www.leg.bc.ca/parliamentary-business/committees/41stParliament-5thSession-rpa>

5. Budget Transparency and Accountability in Municipal Election Years (Member's Motion B.6)

At the Council meeting on December 14, 2021 (reconvened from November 16, 2021), due to time constraints, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on January 26, 2022, in order to hear from speakers, followed by debate and decision.

The Chair called for registered speakers and none were present.

MOVED by Councillor Dominato
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver is required by the *Vancouver Charter*, *Library Act*, and *Police Act* to produce a consolidated operating budget incorporating the separate internal budgets of the Board of Parks and Recreation, the Vancouver Public Library Board, and the Vancouver Police Board, and is required by Public Sector Accounting Standards to include the Vancouver Downtown Parking Corporation (aka EasyPark) in its consolidated financial statements;
2. The City of Vancouver has a policy (*Policy Number ADMIN-004: "Budgets – Operating"*) which outlines the requirements for Operating Revenues and Expenditures, including authorization requirements. The policy applies to all Operating Revenues and Operating Expenditures undertaken by the City of Vancouver and is intended to supplement and provide operational clarity and promote best practices within the statutory requirements relating to budgeting as set out in the *Vancouver Charter*, *Police Act*, and *Library Act*;

3. Section 219 (1) of the *Vancouver Charter* (“*Director of Finance to report on revenue and expenditure*”) states: “*As soon as practicable in each year and in any event by April 30, the Director of Finance must prepare and submit to the Council a report setting out the Director of Finance’s estimates in detail of the anticipated revenues and expenditures of the city for that year.*”;
4. With respect to the requirement for the City to set an Operating Budget, *Policy Number ADMIN-004 (“Budgets – Operating”)* states, under section 2 (1.1), that “*The Director of Finance is to present an Annual Operating Budget for the upcoming year as a report to Council in December of each year.*” The policy further states that “***On an exception basis, as determined by the Director of Finance, such as may occur in the year of a municipal election, an internal working budget will be developed by December of that year***, and a budget will be adopted by Council no later than April 30th of the following year as required by section 219 of the *Vancouver Charter*.”;
5. Additionally, *Policy Number ADMIN-004 (“Budgets – Operating”)* states, under section 2 (1.2), that “In any year in which the budget is not approved by Council before December 31st, Council may authorize expenditures as are necessary to carry on the business of the City until the budget is adopted, if the following conditions are met:
 - (a) the amounts for that Budget Line Item does not exceed the amount for the Budget Line Item in the prior Annual Operating Budget, and
 - (b) the expenditure is approved by at least two-thirds of City Council.”;
6. There are clearly no statutory requirements relating to budgets, as set out in the *Vancouver Charter*, *Police Act*, or *Library Act*, that would necessitate the approval of a City of Vancouver Operating Budget in December of any year, including a municipal election year. An “internal working budget” can be developed by December of a municipal election year – or “In any year in which the budget is not approved by Council before December 31st” – and a final budget adopted by Council no later than April 30th of the following year, with Council empowered to authorize expenditures necessary to carry on the business of the City until the budget is adopted if the amounts for that Budget Line Item does not exceed the amount for the Budget Line Item in the prior year’s Operating Budget and the expenditure is approved by at least two-thirds of City Council;
7. As a point of relevant comparison to the City of Vancouver’s budget policy, the section of the *City of Toronto Act (CoTA) 2006* that pertains to Toronto’s “Yearly Budget” (i.e., section 228) includes an exception clause, namely subsection 228 (2), which states that “Despite subsection (1), a budget for a year immediately following a year in which a regular election is held may only be adopted in the year to which the budget applies.”¹
8. Anecdotally, in municipal election years, other Metro Vancouver municipalities approve their budgets in the year to which the budget applies, allowing the incoming Council adequate and reasonable time to review the draft budget.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT *Policy Number ADMIN-004 (“Budgets – Operating”) Section 2 (POLICY STATEMENTS)* be amended to empower Council in its governance and stewardship responsibilities, and to better reflect the budget circumstances of a municipal election year where there is a new incoming Council by striking subsection 1.1. under the heading “Requirement to set a budget” and replacing it with the following amended wording:

- Section 1.1. “The Director of Finance is to present an Annual Operating Budget for the upcoming year as a report to Council in December of each year. **In the year of a municipal election, an internal working budget will be developed by December of that year, and a budget will be adopted by Council in the year that it applies and no later than April 30th of that year as required by section 219 of the *Vancouver Charter*.**”

¹ Subsection 228 (1) of the City of Toronto Act (CoTA) 2006 states that “For each year, the City shall in the year or the immediately preceding year prepare and adopt a budget including estimates of all sums required during the year for the purposes of the City, including....”

CARRIED (Vote No. 08009) - *reconsidered*
(Councillors Carr, Fry, Swanson and Wiebe opposed)
(Councillor De Genova and Mayor Stewart absent for the vote)

Subsequent to the vote,

RECONSIDERATION MOVED by Councillor Boyle

THAT the Committee reconsider the vote on Item 5.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

Following the reconsideration, the vote on Item 5 was put and LOST (Vote No. 08010) with Councillors Boyle, Carr, Fry, Swanson and Wiebe opposed, and Councillor De Genova and Mayor Stewart absent for the vote.

6. Working Collaboratively to Become a Restorative City (Member’s Motion B.7)

At the Council meeting on December 14, 2021 (reconvened from November 16, 2021), due to time constraints, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on January 26, 2022, in order to hear from speakers, followed by debate and decision.

The Committee heard from eight speakers in support of the motion.

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On January 26, 2022, at 11:59 am, during hearing of speakers, it was

MOVED by Councillor Wiebe

THAT the meeting extend pass noon in order to complete asking questions of speaker 4.

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY*

The Committee recessed at 12:07 pm and reconvened at 2:39 pm.

* * * * *

MOVED by Councillor Wiebe
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. Vancouver is struggling to address the impacts of multiple crises. Many residents feel unsafe and isolated, and are experiencing harm. The current justice system alone is not able to deal with the complexities of the issues and meet people's needs. Systemic change is required, with calls for increased use of restorative approaches;
2. Restorative justice is a different way to understand and achieve justice. It focuses on addressing harm, healing and relationships. It's a relational, inclusive, flexible and participatory approach that can be complementary or an alternative to the legal system. It's guided by values, principles and Indigenous teachings. Affected parties – those who caused harm, those harmed, their families and community – are given an opportunity to participate in determining meaningful accountability, reparation, meeting needs and a path forward;
3. Restorative justice has been proven to be effective in addressing harm, reducing recidivism, and increasing public safety. For example, Restorative Justice Victoria is a city-wide program with data from over a decade and almost 1700 cases. They accept diverse and serious cases - robbery, assault, fatalities and much more. Of all cases accepted into their restorative justice program, 95% completed successfully. In all cases within the last 4 years, 96% of victims and 99% of offenders were satisfied. 100% of victims would recommend restorative justice to others;
4. There are about 80 restorative justice programs across BC. Surrounding municipalities support restorative justice programs, including North & West Vancouver, Richmond, Surrey, Tri-Cities, Langley and Abbotsford;
5. In Vancouver, there is a huge gap in community-based restorative justice programs and very limited justice options outside of criminal justice and courts. An Indigenous program, Vancouver Aboriginal Transformative Justice Services Society, offers services for Indigenous peoples. MCFD Youth Justice now has two probation officers who offer restorative justice post-sentencing for youth. Restorative approaches are available through fee-for-services offered independently. Criminal justice options expanded to include the Downtown

Community Court and Drug Treatment Court; they have also expressed interest in having more restorative justice;

6. A global restorative movement continues to grow. The United Nations endorses and promotes it. In recent years, leadership has emerged from cities like Hull (UK), Oakland (USA), and Whanganui (New Zealand) who have expanded the focus from restorative justice programs to committing to becoming Restorative Cities;
7. A Restorative City is a city that expands beyond criminal justice to implement restorative values, principles and practices across multiple sectors. The basic goals of a Restorative City include healthy people, safe streets, strong communities, and a connected city that is invested in the humanity of all its citizens. As Whanganui (NZ) said, it's creating an environment for all "to thrive and succeed together through respectful relationships";
8. The potential benefits and outcomes of a Restorative City are vast. It could change the trajectories away from ongoing impacts of colonization, polarization, fragmented services, addiction, poverty, violence, incarceration, death and environmental destruction; and result in a city deeply rooted in communities that care for one another;
9. The foundation of becoming a Restorative City has already started in Vancouver by a diverse collective. Peace of the Circle received initial funding through Civil Forfeiture Funds, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General BC to launch 'Building Partnerships for Restorative Justice in Vancouver'. At their latest stakeholders meeting in October 2021, they reached a consensus to work toward becoming a Restorative City. Through the coordination of Peace of the Circle, this collective is collaborating across sectors to create a relational, holistic, interdisciplinary, decolonizing approach to harm reduction, healing, safety, justice and peace (see background information for list of participants);
10. Becoming a Restorative City aligns with many current initiatives and strategies of the City, including: the Healthy City Strategy; the July 2020 motion council passed: "Decriminalizing Poverty and Supporting Community-led Safety Initiatives"; Safe Spaces for Women and Girls; Reconciliation and Equity; Anti-Racism; Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls; and
11. The Vancouver restorative collective is able to oversee the development and do the work necessary to move Vancouver towards becoming a Restorative City. This requires deepening partnerships, support and funding. Achieving justice and safety lies in the hands of communities, organizations, governments at all levels and ultimately, all of us.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council endorse the aspiration of Vancouver becoming a Restorative City.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to create training opportunities for staff to learn about restorative justice and that they include opportunities to incorporate restorative

justice values, principles, and programing in future reports back to Council when applicable.

- C. THAT Council commits to having a representative participate in meetings of the Vancouver restorative collective as a stakeholder;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to include an option for \$200,000 to support a restorative justice lens for consideration by Council for the 2022 Budget process, specific allocation to be for a \$150,000 one-time grant to the Restorative Collective to work on the development of a Restorative City Framework and \$50,000 to support development and delivery of restorative justice training for City staff and Council.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Wiebe

THAT in C, the FURTHER THAT be struck and replaced with the following:

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to allocate up to \$200,000 of one-time funding of the \$600,000 budgeted in 2022 for community safety initiatives emerging out of Council-directed priorities to support the creation of a community led restorative justice program in Vancouver and to deliver restorative justice training for City staff.

CARRIED (Vote No. 8012)
(Councillors De Genova, Dominato and Hardwick opposed)
(Councillor Kirby-Yung absent for the vote)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry

THAT in A, the words “rooted in community wellness, responsibility and safety.” be added after the words “Restorative City”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No.8013)
(Councillor Kirby-Yung absent for the vote)

Prior to the vote, the Committee agreed to separate the components of the amended motion with A. being put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 08014) with Councillor Kirby-Yung absent for the vote; B. being put and CARRIED (Vote No. 08015) with Councillors Bligh, De Genova and Hardwick opposed, and Councillor Kirby-Yung absent for the vote; C. being put and CARRIED (Vote No. 08016) with Councillor De Genova opposed, and Councillor Kirby-Yung absent for the vote; C. “FURTHER THAT” being put and CARRIED (Vote No. 08018) with Councillors Bligh, De Genova, Dominato and Hardwick opposed, and Councillor Kirby-Yung absent for the vote.

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

WHEREAS

1. Vancouver is struggling to address the impacts of multiple crises. Many residents feel unsafe and isolated, and are experiencing harm. The current justice system alone is not able to deal with the complexities of the issues and meet people's needs. Systemic change is required, with calls for increased use of restorative approaches;
2. Restorative justice is a different way to understand and achieve justice. It focuses on addressing harm, healing and relationships. It's a relational, inclusive, flexible and participatory approach that can be complementary or an alternative to the legal system. It's guided by values, principles and Indigenous teachings. Affected parties – those who caused harm, those harmed, their families and community – are given an opportunity to participate in determining meaningful accountability, reparation, meeting needs and a path forward;
3. Restorative justice has been proven to be effective in addressing harm, reducing recidivism, and increasing public safety. For example, Restorative Justice Victoria is a city-wide program with data from over a decade and almost 1700 cases. They accept diverse and serious cases - robbery, assault, fatalities and much more. Of all cases accepted into their restorative justice program, 95% completed successfully. In all cases within the last 4 years, 96% of victims and 99% of offenders were satisfied. 100% of victims would recommend restorative justice to others;
4. There are about 80 restorative justice programs across BC. Surrounding municipalities support restorative justice programs, including North & West Vancouver, Richmond, Surrey, Tri-Cities, Langley and Abbotsford;
5. In Vancouver, there is a huge gap in community-based restorative justice programs and very limited justice options outside of criminal justice and courts. An Indigenous program, Vancouver Aboriginal Transformative Justice Services Society, offers services for Indigenous peoples. MCFD Youth Justice now has two probation officers who offer restorative justice post-sentencing for youth. Restorative approaches are available through fee-for-services offered independently. Criminal justice options expanded to include the Downtown Community Court and Drug Treatment Court; they have also expressed interest in having more restorative justice;
6. A global restorative movement continues to grow. The United Nations endorses and promotes it. In recent years, leadership has emerged from cities like Hull (UK), Oakland (USA), and Whanganui (New Zealand) who have expanded the focus from restorative justice programs to committing to becoming Restorative Cities;
7. A Restorative City is a city that expands beyond criminal justice to implement restorative values, principles and practices across multiple sectors. The basic goals of a Restorative City include healthy people, safe streets, strong communities, and a connected city that is invested in the humanity of all its citizens. As Whanganui (NZ) said, it's creating an environment for all "to thrive and succeed together through respectful relationships";

8. The potential benefits and outcomes of a Restorative City are vast. It could change the trajectories away from ongoing impacts of colonization, polarization, fragmented services, addiction, poverty, violence, incarceration, death and environmental destruction; and result in a city deeply rooted in communities that care for one another;
9. The foundation of becoming a Restorative City has already started in Vancouver by a diverse collective. Peace of the Circle received initial funding through Civil Forfeiture Funds, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General BC to launch 'Building Partnerships for Restorative Justice in Vancouver'. At their latest stakeholders meeting in October 2021, they reached a consensus to work toward becoming a Restorative City. Through the coordination of Peace of the Circle, this collective is collaborating across sectors to create a relational, holistic, interdisciplinary, decolonizing approach to harm reduction, healing, safety, justice and peace (see background information for list of participants);
10. Becoming a Restorative City aligns with many current initiatives and strategies of the City, including: the Healthy City Strategy; the July 2020 motion council passed: "Decriminalizing Poverty and Supporting Community-led Safety Initiatives"; Safe Spaces for Women and Girls; Reconciliation and Equity; Anti-Racism; Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls; and
11. The Vancouver restorative collective is able to oversee the development and do the work necessary to move Vancouver towards becoming a Restorative City. This requires deepening partnerships, support and funding. Achieving justice and safety lies in the hands of communities, organizations, governments at all levels and ultimately, all of us.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council endorse the aspiration of Vancouver becoming a Restorative City, rooted in community wellness, responsibility and safety.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to create training opportunities for staff to learn about restorative justice and that they include opportunities to incorporate restorative justice values, principles, and programing in future reports back to Council when applicable.
- C. THAT Council commits to having a representative participate in meetings of the Vancouver restorative collective as a stakeholder;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to allocate up to \$200,000 of one-time funding of the \$600,000 budgeted in 2022 for community safety initiatives emerging out of Council-directed priorities to support the creation of a community led restorative justice program in Vancouver and to deliver restorative justice training for City staff.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Peace of the Circle received initial funding through Civil Forfeiture Funds, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General BC to launch 'Building Partnerships for Restorative Justice in Vancouver'. The first few months of 2021 focused on extensive outreach and strategic partnership development. We created a diverse coalition of agencies, groups and organizations with an overall goal to see restorative approaches flourish in the city of Vancouver, unceded traditional x̱w̱məθḵw̱əy̱əm (Musqueam), Sḵw̱x̱w̱ú7mesh (Squamish) and sə̱ilw̱ətaʔṯ (Tsleil-Waututh) territory.

With the coordination and facilitation of Dr. Evelyn Zellerer, Director Peace of the Circle, they have met five times thus far for relationship building, education, and visioning (April-October 2021). Representatives have participated from various organizations, including:

- Aboriginal Community Policing Centre
- Atira Women's Resource Society
- BC Community Response Networks
- BC Housing, Orange Hall
- Black Lives Matter Vancouver
- Downtown Community Court
- Elizabeth Fry Society
- Hastings Sunrise Community Policing Centre
- John Howard Society of the Pacific
- Living Interfaith Sanctuary
- Ministry of Children and Family Development, Youth Justice
- Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
- Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
- Planetary Resilience Council
- QMUNITY - BC's Queer, Trans & Two-Spirit Resource Centre
- Strathcona Community Policing Centre
- Urban Native Youth Association
- Vancouver Association for Restorative Justice
- Vancouver BIA Partnership Safety Committee
- Vancouver Board of Parks & Recreation
- Vancouver Police Department
- Victim Services Unit, Vancouver Police Department
- Yo Bro/Yo Girl
- Watari Counselling and Support Service
- WISH Vancouver
- WAVAW Rape Crisis Centre

<https://peaceofthecircle.com>

Restorative Justice Victoria: this city-wide program has data from over a decade and almost 1700 cases and has proven restorative justice is effective. For example, of all cases accepted into their restorative program, 95% completed successfully. They accept referrals from individuals/community, police, crown and court and diverse cases - from robbery, assault, assault with a weapon, intimate partner violence, fatalities and more. In all cases within the last 4 years, 96% of victims and 99% of offenders were satisfied. 100% of victims would recommend restorative justice to others.

<http://www.rjvictoria.com>

Restorative Justice Association of British Columbia: “envisions a province where restorative justice is known for quality, accessibility and innovation.” <https://rjabc.ca>

Indigenous Justice Association: “promoting the critical work of long-established, community based, indigenous justice programs throughout BC.” <https://indigenousjustice.ca>

Various **legislation, case law, government-commissioned reports and mandates recommend restorative justice.** For example:

- Minister Mike Farnworth mandate letter November 2020 includes the increased use of restorative justice: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/government/ministries-organizations/premier-cabinet-mlas/minister-letter/farnworth_mandate_2020_mar_pssq.pdf
- “Getting Serious About Crime Reduction: Report of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Crime Reduction”: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/police/publications/government/blue-ribbon-crime-reduction.pdf>
- BC Justice Reform Initiative, “A Criminal Justice System for the 21st Century: Final Report to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General”: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/about-bc-justice-system/justice-reform-initiatives/cowperfinalreport.pdf>
See also the 2016 update: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/about-bc-justice-system/justice-reform-initiatives/cowper-report-4-anniversary-update.pdf>

United Nations:

Has long endorsed restorative justice.

“Restorative justice is an inclusive, flexible and participatory approach to crime that can be complementary or an alternative to the conventional criminal justice process. It provides an opportunity to all affected parties – offenders, victims, their families and the community – to participate in addressing the crime and repairing the harm caused by it. It is also often the only, or one of very few, measures available for victims to participate in the resolution of a case and seek redress. Underpinning restorative justice is the understanding that criminal behaviour not only breaches the law, but also harms victims and the community.

In recent decades, the use of restorative justice in criminal matters has significantly increased around the world. As the custodian of the *Basic Principles on the Use of Restorative Justice Programmes in Criminal Matters*, UNODC assists Member States...”:

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/cpcj-restorative-justice.html>

The 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held March 7-12, 2021 in Kyoto, Japan. This largest international meeting in the fields of crime prevention and criminal justice is organised every five years. The Kyoto Declaration:

- Explicitly calls for the facilitation of “restorative justice processes at relevant stages in criminal proceedings in order to assist the recovery of victims and the reintegration of offenders” (article 42).
- Highlights the significance of victim-centred procedures and the key role of practitioners' professional training “to strengthen their capacity to provide victim-centred assistance and support that take into account the specific needs of victims” (article 34).

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/V21/006/54/PDF/V2100654.pdf>

European Forum for Restorative Justice: Restorative justice is practiced across the EU. Several cities in the EU have chosen to become Restorative Cities. EFRJ provides a description

and resources, including from their working group for restorative cities:
<https://www.euforumrj.org/en/restorative-cities>

Hull, UK:

First to proclaim becoming a restorative city.

Short Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Qc6zYvnavac>
and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4tpmantqel>

Whanganui, New Zealand:

First in New Zealand committed to becoming a restorative city:

<https://restorativepracticeswhanganui.co.nz>

Article: <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/whanganui-chronicle/news/restorative-city-whanganui-trust-leading-the-way-in-restorative-practices/XWJ7LXVWSDT4O4P6MZJHVCFTI/>

Oakland, USA:

Mapping exercise for becoming a Restorative City:

https://www.iff.org/fileadmin/user_upload/downloads/catalysts/IFTF_Fourm_TheRestorativeJusticeCityMap_rdr.pdf

Partnering justice with urban design: <https://designingjustice.org/restorative-justice-city/>

Article: https://medium.com/@Yo_Yo/re-imagining-oakland-building-the-first-restorative-city-in-the-country-6b6c022fdd3

* * * * *

7. Supporting Additional Transportation Options to Reduce Reliance on Vehicle Ownership (Member's Motion B.2)

At the Council meeting on January 25, 2022, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on January 26, 2022, in order to hear from speakers, followed by debate and decision.

The Committee heard from three speakers in support of the motion.

MOVED by Councillor Dominato
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. Whether it be land use, urban design, housing, or transportation, Vancouver City Council strives at all times to respond to the needs of the city's residents and foster positive change and innovation. Our primary mission is to create a great city that cares about its people, the environment, and opportunities to live, work, and prosper;
2. On November 14, 2018, Vancouver City Council initiated a City-Wide Plan process that will guide the city to 2050 and beyond. Core considerations propelling the plan include the city's housing affordability challenges and an accelerating global climate change crisis;

3. On November 17, 2020, Council approved a Climate Emergency Action Plan that builds upon previous climate plans. The focus of the plan is to cut carbon pollution from the city's biggest local sources (i.e., vehicles at 39% and buildings at 54%);
4. The Vancouver Plan process, *Planning Vancouver Together*, has developed 10 Provisional Goals for the city based upon "a year of listening to Vancouver's hopes, fears, joys and struggles", including a goal to create complete, connected, walkable, accessible, culturally vibrant neighbourhoods where every resident can meet their daily needs without relying on private transportation;
5. Notwithstanding the goal to meet the daily needs of residents without relying on private transportation, in practical terms, not every transportation need of residents can be met by walking, cycling, or making use of transit;
6. Car-sharing networks provide a cost-effective, transportation option for residents which spreads the use of a small number of vehicles between many drivers, thereby saving on the expense of maintaining a private vehicle, as well as contributing to a more sustainable and livable city by eliminating the need to own a private vehicle. The car-sharing model offers residents access to a wide array of vehicles they can rent including electric vehicles;
7. A number of car-sharing organizations operate in Vancouver. These organizations are encouraged and supported by the City of Vancouver. Examples include Evo and Modo;¹
8. In addition to car-sharing companies and organizations such as Evo and Modo, peer-to-peer car-sharing has emerged as an option for residents to consider when the need to access a vehicle arises. Unlike traditional car-sharing, peer-to-peer car-sharing – for example Turo which launched in Vancouver in June 2020 – connects private vehicle owners with those seeking to rent a specific vehicle via an online platform;
9. ICBC has embraced peer-to-peer car-sharing and offers basic blanket insurance products to companies such as Turo to cover drivers while a vehicle is being rented. The basic blanket insurance offered by ICBC provides coverage for accident benefits and \$200,000 third party liability;
10. The City's existing policy and regulatory frameworks may not fully account for rapidly emerging car-sharing innovations and trends such as peer-to-peer car-sharing. Policy and regulatory opportunities might include:
 - Listing city owned vehicles on peer-to-peer car sharing platforms and allowing City employees to use peer-to-peer cars for business related travel;
 - Updating the Street and Traffic By-law No. 2849 to enable peer-to-peer car-share parking in "resident only" and "no parking except with permit" areas (currently applies to car-share);
 - Creating opportunities for low-carbon vehicles to park in the city (T2040 M 5.2.3) – enable parking for peer-to-peer car-sharing EVs;

- Supporting access for peer-to-peer car-sharing at VYR, Pacific Central, and at mobility and transit centers;
- Adding Turo and other peer-to-peer car-sharing platforms to the City’s website; and
- Partnering on charging stations throughout the city for EVs (T2040M 5.1.3.) – affordable access to charging for peer-to-peer car-sharing EVs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to engage with peer-to-peer car-sharing companies and organizations, such as but not limited to Turo, and explore opportunities for encouraging peer-to-peer car-sharing through adaptation of the City’s regulatory framework;

FURTHER THAT staff report back with their findings and recommendations in Q2 2022.

amended

¹ As of September 12, 2019, Evo Car Share has an agreement in place with the City to allow its members to end their one-way car-sharing trips in metered parking spaces. As part of this agreement, Evo is covering the full cost of using the metered parking.
<https://vancouver.ca/streets-transportation/car-sharing-carpooling-and-ride-sharing.aspx>

AMENDMENT MOVED BY Councillor Dominato

THAT “Q2” be struck and replaced with “Q4”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 08019)

The amendment having carried, the motion as amended was put and LOST (Vote No. 08020), with Councillors Bligh, Boyle, Carr, Fry, Kirby-Yung, Swanson, and Wiebe opposed.

8. Making Home: Housing For All Of Us (Member’s Motion B.3)

At the Council meeting on January 25, 2022, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on January 26, 2022, in order to hear from speakers, followed by debate and decision.

The Committee heard from eight speakers in support of the motion and one speaker opposed.

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On January 26, 2022, during the hearing of speakers, the Committee recessed at 5 pm and reconvened at 6:05 pm.

* * * * *

MOVED by Mayor Stewart
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. Vancouver is one of the greatest cities in the world in which to live;
2. Vancouver is also one of the most unaffordable cities in the world in which to live with many residents struggling to rent or purchase homes and adequate accommodation being especially difficult for households with an annual income under \$80,000;
3. Vancouver suffers from a “missing middle” of housing choices with the Downtown core featuring a highly densified urban landscape but the vast majority of the remaining residential land reserved for legacy housing forms such as single detached homes or duplexes usually too expensive for all but the wealthiest to rent or buy;
4. Vancouver has declared a climate emergency, which requires constructing critical infrastructure and more walkable neighbourhoods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to develop appropriate policies and/or guidelines for Council’s consideration in 2022, targeting up to 2000 lots currently zoned for single-detached home or duplexes to be developed for up to six units, subject to appropriate rezonings, and that the new policy:

- i. Consider modest height increases to ensure compatibility with neighbouring buildings;
- ii. Consider lower floor units to be located appropriately below grade;
- iii. Consider development cost expectations where appropriate to limit potential speculative land purchases;
- iv. Consider development cost levies where appropriate to contribute to neighbourhood infrastructure such as water, sewers, active transportation, roads, sidewalks, parks, child care, and housing affordable for households with annual incomes less than \$80,000 either on location or elsewhere in the city;
- v. Consider development contributions where appropriate, including community amenity contributions, that can help advance the Climate Emergency Action Plan, community facilities, or other public benefits, payable as determined by Council in its unfettered discretion when considering any rezoning; and
- vi. Consider how the Tenant Relocation and Protection Policy can be applied to tenancies in properties considered for redevelopment under this policy;

FURTHER THAT Council also direct staff to develop appropriate policies and/or guidelines for Council’s later consideration to reduce floor space ratio for single-detached homes as a densification incentive;

FURTHER THAT the areas approved under the Secured Rental Policy are excluded from this program;

AND FURTHER THAT this work aligns with, and be incorporated into the Vancouver Plan.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Carr

THAT in ii:

- The words “at grade with” be added before the words “below grade”.
- The words “considered if sufficient natural light and air can be achieved to ensure livability and accessibility;” be added after the words “below grade”.

FURTHER THAT the following be added as number vii:

“Consider measures to incentivize retention and renovation of character homes.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 08021)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Swanson

THAT in iv, the words “for families and \$50,000 for singles” be added after “\$80,000”;

FURTHER THAT in vi, the words “so that all evicted tenants are given the right of first refusal at their same or lower rent in an appropriately- sized new unit and paid a rent top up if necessary in accommodation acquired while waiting for the unit to be built;” be added after “this policy”;

AND FURTHER THAT the following be added as viii to xi:

- viii. Consider the goal of making three units per site (on or off site) affordable for renters earning under \$80K per year for families or \$50K per year for singles;
- ix. Consider whether the 2000 target sites might be mostly on the cheaper East side and how to spread them throughout the city;
- x. Include an estimate of how much revenue, and/or how many units affordable to people earning \$80K for families and \$50K for singles could be raised with this proposal;
- xi. Include an estimate of the number of currently rented homes and basement suites, as well as their rents, that are in SF areas that might be demolished with this proposal;

Prior to the vote, the Committee agreed to separate the components of the amendment with viii being put and CARRIED (Vote No. 08022) with Councillors De Genova and Kirby-Yung opposed; and the remaining parts being put and CARRIED (Vote No. 08023) with Councillor De Genova opposed.

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the following words “up to 2000” be struck in the first clause after the word “targeting”.

LOST (Vote No. 08024)

(Councillors Bligh, Boyle, Carr, De Genova, Fry, Hardwick, Swanson, Wiebe and Mayor Stewart opposed)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the following be added as xii:

“Consider guidelines for family units to support well-sized larger spaces for families;”

FURTHER THAT the following be added as additional clauses:

“FURTHER THAT in the policy report back for Council’s consideration, staff provide analysis including perspective on what will compel current homeowners to undertake a densification project and the potential likelihood of doing so. AND that perspective be provided as to who are likely to purchase lots currently zoned for single-detached home or duplexes, and to undertake a multi-unit build be that individuals, small builders and/or developers;”

“AND FURTHER THAT if such policies and/or guidelines are adopted by Council in future, that staff report to Council annually on policy outcomes including but not limited to the number of lots building up to six units, number total units, type and size of units, geographic distribution, initial selling price if possible, as well as any identifiable trends or data as to how many units become secondary rental.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 08025)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the following be struck:

“FURTHER THAT Council also direct staff to develop appropriate policies and/or guidelines for Council’s later consideration to reduce floor space ratio for single-detached homes as a densification incentive;”

LOST (Vote No. 08026)

(Councillors Bligh, Boyle, Carr, Fry, Hardwick, Swanson, Wiebe and Mayor Stewart opposed)
(Councillor Dominato abstained from the vote)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Boyle

THAT the following be added as xiii:

“Consider strengthened accessibility requirements and incentives or additional flexibility in FSR for the creation of fully accessible ground oriented units.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 08027)

(Councillor De Genova absent for the vote)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Bligh

THAT the following be added as additional clause:

“AND FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to advise if a reduction in the floor space ratio for single-detached homes would constitute downzoning and advise of the implications of such downzoning.”

CARRIED (Vote No. 08028)
(Councillor Swanson and Mayor Stewart opposed)
(Councillor Wiebe abstained from the vote)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry

THAT in the second clause, the words “respecting multi-generational, communal, and collective living,” be added before the words “as a densification incentive”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 08029)
(Councillor Dominato absent for the vote)

* * * * *

The Committee recessed at 8:45 pm and reconvened at 9 pm.

* * * * *

Prior to the vote, the Committee agreed to separate the components of the motion as amended with first section and i. being put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 08030); ii. being put and CARRIED (Vote No. 08031) with Councillor De Genova opposed; iii. being put and CARRIED (Vote No. 08032) with Councillor De Genova opposed; iv. being put and CARRIED (Vote No. 08033) with Councillors De Genova and Hardwick opposed; v. being put and CARRIED (Vote No. 08034) with Councillors De Genova and Hardwick opposed; vi. being put and CARRIED (Vote No. 08035) with Councillor De Genova opposed; vii. being put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 08036); viii. being put and CARRIED (Vote No. 08037) with Councillors De Genova and Hardwick opposed; ix. being put and CARRIED (Vote No. 08038) with Councillors De Genova and Hardwick opposed; x. being put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 08039); xi. being put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 08040); xii. being put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 08041); xiii. being put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 08042); Section two being put and CARRIED (Vote No. 08043) with Councillors De Genova and Kirby-Yung opposed; Section three being put and CARRIED (Vote No. 08044) with Councillor De Genova opposed; Section four being put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 08045); Section five being put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 08046); Section six being put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 08047); and section seven being put and CARRIED (Vote No. 08048) with Councillors De Genova and Swanson opposed.

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

WHEREAS

1. Vancouver is one of the greatest cities in the world in which to live;

2. Vancouver is also one of the most unaffordable cities in the world in which to live with many residents struggling to rent or purchase homes and adequate accommodation being especially difficult for households with an annual income under \$80,000;
3. Vancouver suffers from a “missing middle” of housing choices with the Downtown core featuring a highly densified urban landscape but the vast majority of the remaining residential land reserved for legacy housing forms such as single detached homes or duplexes usually too expensive for all but the wealthiest to rent or buy;
4. Vancouver has declared a climate emergency, which requires constructing critical infrastructure and more walkable neighbourhoods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to develop appropriate policies and/or guidelines for Council’s consideration in 2022, targeting up to 2000 lots currently zoned for single-detached home or duplexes to be developed for up to six units, subject to appropriate rezonings, and that the new policy:

- i. Consider modest height increases to ensure compatibility with neighbouring buildings;
- ii. Consider lower floor units to be located at grade with below grade considered if sufficient natural light and air can be achieved to ensure livability and accessibility;
- iii. Consider development cost expectations where appropriate to limit potential speculative land purchases;
- iv. Consider development cost levies where appropriate to contribute to neighbourhood infrastructure such as water, sewers, active transportation, roads, sidewalks, parks, child care, and housing affordable for households with annual incomes less than \$80,000 for families and \$50,000 for singles either on location or elsewhere in the city;
- v. Consider development contributions where appropriate, including community amenity contributions, that can help advance the Climate Emergency Action Plan, community facilities, or other public benefits, payable as determined by Council in its unfettered discretion when considering any rezoning;
- vi. Consider how the Tenant Relocation and Protection Policy can be applied to tenancies in properties considered for redevelopment under this policy; so that all evicted tenants are given the right of first refusal at their same or lower rent in an appropriately- sized new unit and paid a rent top up if necessary in accommodation acquired while waiting for the unit to be built;

- vii. Consider measures to incentivize retention and renovation of character homes;
- viii. Consider the goal of making three units per site (on or off site) affordable for renters earning under \$80K per year for families or \$50K per year for singles;
- ix. Consider whether the 2000 target sites might be mostly on the cheaper East side and how to spread them throughout the city;
- x. Include an estimate of how much revenue, and/or how many units affordable to people earning \$80K for families and \$50K for singles could be raised with this proposal;
- xi. Include an estimate of the number of currently rented homes and basement suites, as well as their rents, that are in SF areas that might be demolished with this proposal;
- xii. Consider guidelines for family units to support well-sized larger spaces for families; and
- xiii. Consider strengthened accessibility requirements and incentives or additional flexibility in FSR for the creation of fully accessible ground oriented units.

FURTHER THAT Council also direct staff to develop appropriate policies and/or guidelines for Council's later consideration to reduce floor space ratio for single-detached homes, respecting multi-generational, communal, and collective living, as a densification incentive;

FURTHER THAT the areas approved under the Secured Rental Policy are excluded from this program;

FURTHER THAT this work aligns with, and be incorporated into the Vancouver Plan;

FURTHER THAT in the policy report back for Council's consideration, staff provide analysis including perspective on what will compel current homeowners to undertake a densification project and the potential likelihood of doing so. AND that perspective be provided as to who are likely to purchase lots currently zoned for single-detached home or duplexes, and to undertake a multi-unit build be that individuals, small builders and/or developers;

FURTHER THAT if such policies and/or guidelines are adopted by Council in future, that staff report to Council annually on policy outcomes including but not limited to the number of lots building up to six units, number total units, type and size of units, geographic distribution, initial selling price if possible, as well as any identifiable trends or data as to how many units become secondary rental;

AND FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to advise if a reduction in the floor space ratio for single-detached homes would constitute downzoning and advise of the implications of such downzoning.

9. Towards a Quieter and Emission-Free Landscape Maintenance Equipment Future in Vancouver (Member's Motion B.4)

At the Council meeting on January 25, 2022, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on January 26, 2022, in order to hear from speakers, followed by debate and decision.

The Committee heard from one speaker in support of the motion.

* * * * *

On January 26, 2021, at 9:28 pm, it was

MOVED by Councillor De Genova

THAT debate and decision of remaining items be postponed to the reserve on January 27, 2022.

LOST

*(Councillors Bligh, Boyle, Carr, Fry, Hardwick, Kirby-Yung, Swanson and Wiebe opposed)
(Councillor Dominato and Mayor Stewart absent for the vote)*

* * * * *

MOVED by Councillor Kirby Yung
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver is committed to helping citizens enjoy a good quality of life by regulating and enforcing property use, noise, and graffiti issues. The City works to manage noise through land-use planning, by-laws and traffic management;
2. Noise is part of urban life, but too much noise is disruptive and harmful to well-being. The City's Noise Control By-law defines how much noise is acceptable, based on:
 - Where you are
 - Where the noise is coming from
 - What is making the noise
 - What time and day the noise is occurring
3. The City's Noise Control By-law aims to balance noise from most activities in a way that respects everyone's right to relative comfort, within reason. The by-law specifically regulates noise from:

- Carpet-cleaning equipment with in vehicles
 - Lawn mowers and weed eaters
 - TVs, radios, stereos, amplifiers, and musical instruments
 - Parties and gatherings
 - People shouting
 - Pressure washers
4. Historically, in 1997, growing concerns about noise and its effects on everyday life in Vancouver led to the creation of the Urban Noise Task Force. This citizens group, with the assistance of City staff and Councillors, made a series of recommendations for improving Vancouver's "soundscape" many of which have been, or are being implemented;
 5. The Report of the Urban Noise Task Force from April 1997 noted that "Lawn mowers, leaf blowers, trimmers, edgers, mulchers, and other lawn and garden equipment are a significant source of noise for many people" and that "Twentyfive percent of the letters received by the Task Force commented about the noise produced by these machines." The report also noted that "Noise from motorized lawn/garden equipment was the most frequently mentioned noise problem" and thus the Task Force strongly suggested that the City move toward the use of non-motorized gardening services and methods in its own operations;
 6. Recommendation 40.1 from the 1997 Urban Noise Task Force report states that "The City should, based on technological advances within the industry, require that all leaf blowers maintain a maximum decibel level of 70 at 50 feet until January 1998, when 65 decibels will be the maximum allowable; that they be run at the lowest effective throttle setting and that between October 1 and April 30 of each year the City establish hours of use...";
 7. The City's website currently states that "Leaf blowers can be operated in Vancouver, but not in the West End" (i.e., an area bounded by Stanley Park, Burrard Street, West Georgia Street, and Beach Avenue. The City of Vancouver defines a leaf blower as a "backpack-mounted or handheld machine used for blowing or sucking up leaves, grass, or debris." Leaf blowers may have vacuum attachments. Vehicle-mounted leaf blowers are not included in the City's definition;
 8. The City's website states that "A manufacturer's decal must be attached to the leaf blower" to certify that it meets the "Category 1 – dB (A) ≤ 65" equipment standard set out in ANSI B175.2 – 200, published by the Portable Power Equipment Manufacturer's Association. The decal includes the following text: [*The manufacturer's model number*] and *Maximum sound level 65 dB(A) and Measured at 50 ft (15 m) Per ANSI B175.2 – 200;*
 9. Vancouver has declared a Climate Emergency and developed a plan that aims to reduce carbon pollution by 50% by 2030;
 10. In January 2019, the Vancouver Park Board unanimously carried a motion ("Renewal Strategy for Landscape Equipment – Towards an Emission-Free Reality") which directed Park Board staff to work with unions and WorkSafeBC

“to develop a transition plan to replace and retrofit gas-powered landscape maintenance equipment used for park maintenance with emission-free equivalents or quasi-equivalents where possible.” The motion also directed that “the transition plan include financial considerations, including purchase, usage, maintenance and end-of-life replacement costs, as well as ways to quantify/qualify non-financial benefits such as: carbon emission reduction; disposal of refuse oil and other parts;

11. A recent December 7, 2020, Memo from the Park Board General Manager served to report back on the work being undertaken by Park Board staff in response to motion approved by the Board in January 2019. It states that staff anticipate transitioning all small landscaping equipment to zero emission alternatives over the next four years. The Memo also notes several key findings from the 2019 pilot, as well as the fact the Park Board has been transitioning its gas-powered equipment to low or no-emission equipment for many years as equipment reaches end of life, and that electric options meeting performance and function specifications are preferred for all equipment procurement in accordance with Vancouver’s commitment to reducing its environmental emissions and fossil fuel consumption;
12. Feedback received from the public by members of Council frequently cites the issue of noise and emissions from gasoline-powered landscape maintenance equipment, such as lawn mowers, trimmers, chain saws, and especially leaf blowers. Members of the public often suggest that the use of gasoline-powered equipment be prohibited in favour of non-emitting electric alternatives which are also considered to be far quieter;
13. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the negative noise impacts from gasoline-powered landscape maintenance equipment have been significantly heightened for residents with so many people working from home and spending considerably more time at home. Increasingly, Council and the City are receiving noise complaints that point to the need to revisit noise reduction strategies with respect to gas-powered landscape maintenance equipment and transition towards replacement and/or retrofitting gas-powered landscape maintenance equipment with quieter, emission-free equivalents or quasi-equivalents.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Vancouver City Council direct staff to report back with recommendations to meet the goal to phase out and transition personal and commercial use of gasoline-powered landscape maintenance equipment in the City of Vancouver by 2024, giving consideration to a timeframe that is workable for residents and landscape maintenance service providers alike.
- B. THAT recommendations are informed by consultation with relevant stakeholders such as but not limited to representative strata councils and the BC Landscape and Nursery Association.
- C. THAT phase out recommendations be sensitive to any increased costs that transitioning would create for residents and the landscape maintenance industry,

and that a reasonable transition timeframe be considered before any potential by-law changes would be implemented.

- D. THAT the report back identify (but not be limited to):
- any issues with respect to implementing a ban on gasoline-powered landscape maintenance equipment;
 - all relevant City by-laws and policies that currently impact upon noise and emissions from gasoline-powered landscape maintenance equipment that would require amendment;
 - information related to the impact that gasoline-powered landscape maintenance equipment can have on noise and local/regional air pollution as well as implications for mental well-being, quality of life and human health;
 - information regarding harmful environmental effects of gasoline-powered landscape maintenance equipment;
 - information on availability and trends that would allow non-emitting electric landscaping equipment to equal and/or exceed the performance of gasoline-powered equipment.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 08049)
(Councillors De Genova, Dominato and Mayor Stewart absent for the vote)

10. Supporting Local Journalism and Its Impact on Civic Democracy (Member's Motion B.5)

At the Council meeting on January 25, 2022, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on January 26, 2022, in order to hear from speakers, followed by debate and decision.

The Committee heard from one speaker in support of the motion.

MOVED by Councillor Kirby Yung
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. A healthy, professional news media is essential for the proper functioning of civil society and democracy at the local, regional, federal and international levels;
2. The Public Policy Forum declares — on its website for the 2017 report *The Shattered Mirror: News, Democracy and Trust in the Digital Age* (commissioned by the federal government) — that “real news is in crisis” in this country;

3. The U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) cited eight “critical information needs” the media help to provide including emergencies; other public risks to health; education; the environment; economic opportunities; civic and political knowledge of policy initiatives; and the conduct of public officials, and candidates for office (The Shattered Mirror p.4);
4. Canadians have lost the essential services provided by roughly 3,000 media workers across Canada due to temporary and permanent layoffs from the time the COVID-19 pandemic began — a time it became clearer to the public how important it is for Canadians to receive accurate information — and advertising revenues have plunged;
5. Residents of 190 Canadian communities lost 250 established news outlets due to closings or mergers between 2008 and 2018;
6. Two thirds of Canadians agree or somewhat agree that because of the Coronavirus/COVID-19 outbreak the federal government should treat widespread media bankruptcies and layoffs as an emergency, according to a Nanos Research poll of April 2020;
7. The federal government allocated nearly \$600 million in aid for Canadian media over five years in its 2019 budget;
8. Canada’s federal government acknowledged in its 2019 budget (p. 173) that “A strong and independent news media is crucial to a well-functioning democracy.”;
9. At least 26 municipal councils in eight provinces — home to more than 11 million residents — have already passed journalism-support resolutions proposed or shaped by ink-stainedwretches.org;
10. The news media in the Vancouver area have been instrumental during the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring local citizens have accurate local information.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Vancouver City Council affirms that a healthy, professional news media is essential to the proper functioning of democracy in our city and in municipalities across the country, and request the Mayor write on behalf of Council to the Federal Minister of Canadian Heritage and the Federal Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure & Communities conveying Council’s support for legislation that would aid in ensuring an ecosystem for a healthy news media that serves all Canadians.
- B. THAT a copy of this motion be shared with the UBCM Board, and the following enactment be submitted for endorsement and consideration at the 2022 UBCM Convention:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM affirms that a healthy, professional news media is essential to the proper functioning of democracy in municipalities across BC; and urges the Federal

Government to enact legislation that would aid in ensuring an ecosystem for a healthy news media that serves all Canadians.

- C. THAT Council request the Mayor write to the FCM Board to share this motion and resolution for their information.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT B be struck and replaced with the following:

“THAT the following enactment be submitted for endorsement and consideration at the 2022 UBCM Convention:

WHEREAS a healthy, professional news media is essential to local government and assists in raising awareness of and participation in municipal affairs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM affirms that a healthy, professional news media is essential to the proper functioning of democracy in municipalities across BC; and urges the Federal Government to enact legislation that would aid in ensuring an ecosystem for a healthy news media that serves all Canadians.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 08050)
(Councillors De Genova, Dominato and Mayor Stewart absent for the vote)

The amendment having carried, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 08051), with Councillors De Genova, Dominato and Mayor Stewart absent for the vote.

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

WHEREAS

1. A healthy, professional news media is essential for the proper functioning of civil society and democracy at the local, regional, federal and international levels;
2. The Public Policy Forum declares — on its website for the 2017 report *The Shattered Mirror: News, Democracy and Trust in the Digital Age* (commissioned by the federal government) — that “real news is in crisis” in this country;
3. The U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) cited eight “critical information needs” the media help to provide including emergencies; other public risks to health; education; the environment; economic opportunities; civic and political knowledge of policy initiatives; and the conduct of public officials, and candidates for office (*The Shattered Mirror* p.4);

4. Canadians have lost the essential services provided by roughly 3,000 media workers across Canada due to temporary and permanent layoffs from the time the COVID-19 pandemic began — a time it became clearer to the public how important it is for Canadians to receive accurate information — and advertising revenues have plunged;
5. Residents of 190 Canadian communities lost 250 established news outlets due to closings or mergers between 2008 and 2018;
6. Two thirds of Canadians agree or somewhat agree that because of the Coronavirus/COVID-19 outbreak the federal government should treat widespread media bankruptcies and layoffs as an emergency, according to a Nanos Research poll of April 2020;
7. The federal government allocated nearly \$600 million in aid for Canadian media over five years in its 2019 budget;
8. Canada's federal government acknowledged in its 2019 budget (p. 173) that "A strong and independent news media is crucial to a well-functioning democracy.";
9. At least 26 municipal councils in eight provinces — home to more than 11 million residents — have already passed journalism-support resolutions proposed or shaped by ink-stainedwretches.org;
10. The news media in the Vancouver area have been instrumental during the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring local citizens have accurate local information.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Vancouver City Council affirms that a healthy, professional news media is essential to the proper functioning of democracy in our city and in municipalities across the country, and request the Mayor write on behalf of Council to the Federal Minister of Canadian Heritage and the Federal Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure & Communities conveying Council's support for legislation that would aid in ensuring an ecosystem for a healthy news media that serves all Canadians.
- B. THAT the following enactment be submitted for endorsement and consideration at the 2022 UBCM Convention:

WHEREAS a healthy, professional news media is essential to local government and assists in raising awareness of and participation in municipal affairs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM affirms that a healthy, professional news media is essential to the proper functioning of democracy in municipalities across BC; and urges the Federal Government to enact legislation that would aid in ensuring an ecosystem for a healthy news media that serves all Canadians.

- C. THAT Council request the Mayor write to the FCM Board to share this motion and resolution for their information.

11. Ensuring the Health of E-Comm and the Stable Delivery of Emergency Services for the Public and Residents (Member's Motion B.6)

At the Council meeting on January 25, 2022, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on January 26, 2022, in order to hear from speakers, followed by debate and decision.

The Committee heard from one speaker in support of the motion.

* * * * *

On January 26, 2022, at 9:52 pm, it was

MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

That the Committee extend pass 10 pm in order to hear the in-person speaker for Item 12.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY**

* * * * *

MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. E-Comm (Emergency Communications for British Columbia Incorporated) is a non-profit corporation governed under the *Emergency Communications Corporations Act*. It was established in 1999 and is owned and governed by various municipal, regional, and provincial emergency services including the City of Vancouver;
2. The City of Vancouver is currently represented on the E-Comm Board of Directors by City Manager Paul Mochrie. The Vancouver Police Board is represented on the E-Comm Board of Directors by former Vancouver Police Department Deputy Chief Warren Lemcke;
3. E-Comm owns and maintains the emergency radio system used by police, fire, and ambulance services within Metro Vancouver and parts of the Fraser Valley;
4. E-Comm is the first point of contact for 99 percent of callers who dial 9-1-1 in B.C. and it provides call-taking and dispatch services for 33 police agencies and 40 fire departments across the province. E-Comm has approximately 422

- full-time and 94 part-time employees (based on a 12-month average), many of whom are represented by CUPE Local 8911;
5. E-Comm provides an essential public service to millions of British Columbians, but ongoing challenges have reportedly put this vital service at risk of catastrophic failure for the public who rely upon it. CUPE 8911 cites various challenges to the system, including understaffing in a high-stress environment that has led to severe burnout, poor working conditions, high staff turnover, and ongoing challenges with recruitment and the training of new staff;
 6. CUPE 8911 points to “a reactive funding formula, based on cost recovery” in an issue backgrounder as the main impediment to meaningfully improving the services it provides and “getting ahead of existing problems” (see: *E-COMM 9-1-1: Fixing A Broken Service – A Guide For B.C. Municipalities – by The Emergency Communications Professionals of BC (CUPE LOCAL 8911)* https://www.ecpbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/CUPE8911_Backgrounder_FNL.pdf);
 7. The CRTC has mandated modernization to move from 9-1-1 voice calls to digital or IP-based infrastructure, which is to be completed by March 1, 2022;
 8. E-Comm is preparing for the transition from 9-1-1 voice calls to digital or IP-based infrastructure in accordance with direction from the CRTC and has communicated the need for a significant additional funding commitment from each 9-1-1 service partner in 2022 and beyond. Digital or IP-based 9-1-1 services will reportedly revolutionize the 9-1-1 service and will ultimately enable 9-1-1 operators to respond to video, photo, and text calls for service through 9-1-1;
 9. As the media have widely reported, during a crisis such as extreme weather events seen during this past summer’s heatwave, E-Comm is simply unable to handle call volumes. A recent report from Price Waterhouse Cooper – commissioned by E-Comm – concluded that the company cannot be successful with an understaffed system that relies so heavily “on overtime and staff missing breaks” or that simply abandons efforts to meet its service levels;¹
 10. Reports of inadequate staffing levels amid the high-stress working environment at E-Comm which have reportedly led to severe burnout, poor working conditions, high staff turnover, and ongoing challenges with recruitment and training of new staff, point to the need for better health and mental health supports for E-Comm staff and a commensurate level of funding, to ensure the stability and effectiveness of our emergency response systems and the vitally important role of E-Comm staff in our emergency response system;
 11. In 2021, the President and CEO of E-Comm, Oliver Grüter-Andrew, made two presentations to the provincial legislature’s Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act (October 15, 2021 and February 26, 2021) in which the CEHO

¹ See: *E-COMM 9-1-1: Fixing A Broken Service – A Guide For B.C. Municipalities – by The Emergency Communications Professionals of BC (CUPE LOCAL 8911)* https://www.ecpbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/CUPE8911_Backgrounder_FNL.pdf;

elaborated on many of the challenges faced by E-Comm and its staff – these were generally consistent with the challenges cited by CUPE 8911;

12. The need for operational change and infrastructure investment in E-Comm to ensure the stable delivery of appropriate levels of day-to-day and emergency level services expected by the public and Vancouver residents, is readily apparent and inherently in the public interest and the interest of public safety.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to report back with an assessment and report by the end of April, 2022 on the E-Comm situation (as outlined and identified by CUPE Local 8911 and other stakeholders), with information and options the City of Vancouver could support, advocate for and/or endorse, in order to enable the stable delivery of Emergency Services for the public and to address the range of identified issues faced by E-Comm such as but not limited to an equitable and evolved E-Comm funding model, the mandated CRTC modernization requirements, E-Comm governance and operational models, and various E-Comm capital investment needs.
- B. FURTHER THAT Council request the Mayor on behalf of Council to write to the relevant Federal and Provincial Ministers (such as BC's Ministers of Health and Public Safety and the Federal Ministers responsible for the CRTC and Public Safety) to advocate for capital funding to support and assist with the technology modernization and transformation mandated by the CRTC, to move away from 9-1-1 voice calls in favour of digital or IP-based infrastructure, in order to help close an identified E-Comm capital funding gap and to ensure the improvement of crucial emergency services for the public.
- C. THAT copies of this motion, together with the letters requested in resolution B above, be sent to the Union of BC Municipalities and the Lower Mainland Local Government Association for their information and consideration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 08052)
(Councillors De Genova, Dominato and Mayor Stewart absent for the vote)

12. Advancing Efforts for an Age-Friendly City of Vancouver (Member's Motion B.7)

At the Council meeting on January 25, 2022, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on January 26, 2022, in order to hear from speakers, followed by debate and decision.

The Committee heard from two speaker in support and one speaker in opposition of the motion.

* * * * *

*On January 26, 2022, the Committee recessed at 10 pm,
and reconvened on January 27, 2022 at 6:05 pm.*

* * * * *

MOVED by Councillor Boyle
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. According to the 2016 Canadian census, there are more than 95,570 persons aged 65 and older living in Vancouver, accounting for approximately 15.1% of the city's total population. Moreover, the population of adults over the age of 65 in the province of British Columbia is expected to rise approximately 63% by the year 2041;
2. Older persons living on their own are at increased risk of experiencing homelessness. A large proportion of older persons in Vancouver are living on their own. Currently, 21% of all households in Vancouver are senior-led and it is estimated that over the course of the next decade, 23-25% of households in the city will be led by persons over the age of 65. According to data from the 2016 census, approximately 16.6% of all senior-led renter households were spending 50% or more of their income on their housing costs, making them housing insecure and placing them at increased risk of eviction. The majority of these individuals are single women. Moreover, the social housing waitlist for older adults has increased by 54% between 2014 to 2019 and individuals over the age of 65 represent 37% of the region's waitlist;
3. Older persons can face unique barriers to civic participation such as health limitations, mobility challenges, and cognitive decline. In fact, 52,700 individuals 65 and older (55%) in Vancouver reported that they have specific health and activity limitations, including 20,660 older persons who reported permanent challenges and 24,045 older adults who sometimes experience challenges. These barriers put older persons at increased risk of experiencing social isolation, loneliness, and economic vulnerability;
4. Recent health and climate emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the heat dome, have disproportionately impacted older persons. The BC Seniors Advocate indicated that residents of long-term care and assisted living homes were 33 times more likely to die from COVID. 99 people in Vancouver died during the heat dome, many of them older adults. Vancouver Fire Fighters reported waiting 11 hours for a BC Ambulance for an elderly person. These crises have highlighted the seriousness and urgency of addressing existing gaps in policies, systems, housing, community services and programs to prevent further devastating impacts on many people living in the city, including on older persons;
5. The World Health Organization has declared 2021-2030 as the Decade of Healthy Ageing and has incorporated additional metrics under the Healthy Cities strategy toward improving quality of life specifically for older persons (mitigation of poverty, food security, expand opportunities for civic engagement, opportunities for lifelong learning, age and gender equality, job opportunities, internet access and digital support, housing, etc.);

6. The City of Vancouver has a long history of working toward age-friendly improvements in municipal planning. In 2013, the City of Vancouver initiated the Age-friendly Action Plan (2013-2015) and identified a series of over 60 actions that the City can take to help make Vancouver a more safe, inclusive, and engaging city for seniors. In the following year, Vancouver joined the World Health Organization (WHO) Healthy Cities initiative 2014 to 2025. Under this initiative, the City of Vancouver completed two reports: Phase 1 A Healthy City for All: Vancouver's Healthy City Strategy (2014) and Phase 2 Healthy City Strategy – Four Year Action Plan (2015-2018);
7. To extend work on the Age Friendly Action Plan, the City of Vancouver Planning department held a workshop entitled: Age-Friendly Action Research Lab Co-initiating Workshop at Creekside Community Centre on September 24, 2018 engaging members of the Older Persons and Elders community. This work then led to the two additional workshops on March 8 and April 15, 2019 engaging more members of the Seniors' community;
8. The Older Persons and Elders community was very excited by their engagement in 2018 and 2019 workshops which was to lead to the creation of Strategy for Older Persons and Elders. This work was interrupted during COVID-19;
9. Municipalities such as Richmond, Surrey, Calgary, Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal have adopted dedicated planning capacity within municipal resources to support the needs of older persons. Their efforts have resulted in comprehensive planning and formal partnerships and MOUs across different levels of government, multi-agencies, and community organizations specifically focused on supporting Healthy Ageing;
10. Gaps and challenges remain in municipal planning for older persons and elders in the City of Vancouver. On September 28, 2021, City Council convened *2050: An Expert Discussion on Planning and Growth* where each consultant noted that the Vancouver Plan was devoid of any strategies to address the impacts of the demographic shift in population. Particular emphasis was placed on the need to expand housing options in all neighbourhoods and community programs and services to best meet the evolving needs of our aging population;
11. The City of Vancouver's social policy team is working hard on a number of important Council directed initiatives, including [Poverty Reduction](#), [Access Without Fear](#) for residents with precarious immigration status, Sex Worker Safety initiatives, social policy grants, and more. This team is spread thin. Without a dedicated planner for Older Persons and Elders, the City of Vancouver's has struggled to keep up with best practices in social policy development to address the needs of seniors, and to ensure that our growing population of older persons and Elders can engage and participate fully in civic and community life; and
12. The Seniors Advisory Committee has asked its two Councillor Liaisons to put forward this motion to City Council.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to explore and report back as soon as possible, without detracting from work on other equity items currently being undertaken (some of which may also benefit older persons and elders), on a plan to advance efforts to make Vancouver an age-friendly city, with an ongoing intersectional approach, including consideration of:
- i. Redirecting selected staff to complete the creation of Phase 3 – Age-Friendly City in consultation with the Seniors’ Advisory Committee and community partners as the next step toward the development of a Strategy for Older Persons and Elders.
 - ii. Reviewing the recent Reports by the World Health Organization and the United Nations to embrace the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030) inform and refresh the City of Vancouver’s Healthy Cities strategy.
 - iii. Updating the Equity Framework and the Vancouver Plan to better address the lack of adequate planning for Older Persons and Elders.
 - iv. Working to develop a Memorandum of Understanding and Planning Committee with the Provincial Health Services Authority, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, BC Ministry of Housing and Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation to participate in a planning process with community partners to better address the needs and interests of older persons and elders.
 - v. Ensuring that the needs of racialized, gender diverse, and low income Older Persons, and older people with disabilities, are prioritized.
- B. THAT this report back include consideration of the Seniors Advisory Committee’s request that the City of Vancouver reassign resources, without detracting from work on other equity items currently being undertaken, to provide a dedicated full-time planning position to focus on older persons and elders with an intersectional lens across city departments and liaise with external agencies, a position which could include the following:
- i. Provide expertise to City Council on issues related to population aging.
 - ii. Complete the co-development and implementation of the City of Vancouver’s strategic plans, policies, and protocols to better reflect the needs and interests of older persons and elders in collaboration and coordination of partners.
 - iii. Identify, collect data, and analyze challenges experienced by the City of Vancouver’s aging population to provide evidence-informed recommendations for improvements to City Council.
 - iv. Develop reports and deliver presentations on aging issues for older persons in Vancouver.
 - v. Represent the City of Vancouver at community tables, partner meetings, and stakeholder events related to healthy aging, equity, emergency preparedness, climate change, transportation, food security, housing, homelessness and other city-related programs and services that impact older persons and elders.
 - vi. Act as a resource and staff liaison to guide the work of the City of Vancouver’s Seniors’ Advisory Committee.

- vii. Provide training and education on issues related to aging to all municipal employees and elected representatives.
- viii. Consult and work with community partners in the design and delivery of senior services to benefit from the experience, skills, knowledge, and resources our growing community of older persons and elders have to offer and would be delighted to contribute.
- ix. Strengthen relationships with provincial governments and agencies, federal government (CMHC, New Horizons, Employment and Social Development Canada) and other Seniors' Planners in Metro Vancouver (currently Richmond and Surrey) in collaboration with the non-profit sector to secure municipal investment in housing for older persons and elders, infrastructure, programs and services.
- x. Collaborate with community partners to keep abreast of national and international initiatives that have expanded housing options for seniors (e.g. Co-housing, Lifetime Neighbourhoods, Resident-driven senior homes, Apartments for Life, Homeshare, Dementia Villages, Compassionate Communities, Home Modification) including housing for older persons who are homeless and low income renters.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Bligh

THAT the following be added as C:

“THAT staff consider the recommendations from the 2SLGBTQ+ Committee to implement existing recommendations related to seniors; include 2SLGBTQ Committee in its consultations and updates; review the 2018 report on seniors isolation.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 08054)
(Councillors De Genova, Dominato and Hardwick absent for the vote)

The amendment having carried, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 08055), with Councillors De Genova, Dominato and Hardwick absent for the vote.

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

WHEREAS

1. According to the 2016 Canadian census, there are more than 95,570 persons aged 65 and older living in Vancouver, accounting for approximately 15.1% of the city's total population. Moreover, the population of adults over the age of 65 in the province of British Columbia is expected to rise approximately 63% by the year 2041;
2. Older persons living on their own are at increased risk of experiencing homelessness. A large proportion of older persons in Vancouver are living on their own. Currently, 21% of all households in Vancouver are senior-led and it is

estimated that over the course of the next decade, 23-25% of households in the city will be led by persons over the age of 65. According to data from the 2016 census, approximately 16.6% of all senior-led renter households were spending 50% or more of their income on their housing costs, making them housing insecure and placing them at increased risk of eviction. The majority of these individuals are single women. Moreover, the social housing waitlist for older adults has increased by 54% between 2014 to 2019 and individuals over the age of 65 represent 37% of the region's waitlist;

3. Older persons can face unique barriers to civic participation such as health limitations, mobility challenges, and cognitive decline. In fact, 52,700 individuals 65 and older (55%) in Vancouver reported that they have specific health and activity limitations, including 20,660 older persons who reported permanent challenges and 24,045 older adults who sometimes experience challenges. These barriers put older persons at increased risk of experiencing social isolation, loneliness, and economic vulnerability;
4. Recent health and climate emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the heat dome, have disproportionately impacted older persons. The BC Seniors Advocate indicated that residents of long-term care and assisted living homes were 33 times more likely to die from COVID. 99 people in Vancouver died during the heat dome, many of them older adults. Vancouver Fire Fighters reported waiting 11 hours for a BC Ambulance for an elderly person. These crises have highlighted the seriousness and urgency of addressing existing gaps in policies, systems, housing, community services and programs to prevent further devastating impacts on many people living in the city, including on older persons;
5. The World Health Organization has declared 2021-2030 as the Decade of Healthy Ageing and has incorporated additional metrics under the Healthy Cities strategy toward improving quality of life specifically for older persons (mitigation of poverty, food security, expand opportunities for civic engagement, opportunities for lifelong learning, age and gender equality, job opportunities, internet access and digital support, housing, etc.);
6. The City of Vancouver has a long history of working toward age-friendly improvements in municipal planning. In 2013, the City of Vancouver initiated the Age-friendly Action Plan (2013-2015) and identified a series of over 60 actions that the City can take to help make Vancouver a more safe, inclusive, and engaging city for seniors. In the following year, Vancouver joined the World Health Organization (WHO) Healthy Cities initiative 2014 to 2025. Under this initiative, the City of Vancouver completed two reports: Phase 1 A Healthy City for All: Vancouver's Healthy City Strategy (2014) and Phase 2 Healthy City Strategy – Four Year Action Plan (2015-2018);
7. To extend work on the Age Friendly Action Plan, the City of Vancouver Planning department held a workshop entitled: Age-Friendly Action Research Lab Co-initiating Workshop at Creekside Community Centre on September 24, 2018 engaging members of the Older Persons and Elders community. This work then

led to the two additional workshops on March 8 and April 15, 2019 engaging more members of the Seniors' community;

8. The Older Persons and Elders community was very excited by their engagement in 2018 and 2019 workshops which was to lead to the creation of Strategy for Older Persons and Elders. This work was interrupted during COVID-19;
9. Municipalities such as Richmond, Surrey, Calgary, Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal have adopted dedicated planning capacity within municipal resources to support the needs of older persons. Their efforts have resulted in comprehensive planning and formal partnerships and MOUs across different levels of government, multi-agencies, and community organizations specifically focused on supporting Healthy Ageing;
10. Gaps and challenges remain in municipal planning for older persons and elders in the City of Vancouver. On September 28, 2021, City Council convened *2050: An Expert Discussion on Planning and Growth* where each consultant noted that the Vancouver Plan was devoid of any strategies to address the impacts of the demographic shift in population. Particular emphasis was placed on the need to expand housing options in all neighbourhoods and community programs and services to best meet the evolving needs of our aging population;
11. The City of Vancouver's social policy team is working hard on a number of important Council directed initiatives, including [Poverty Reduction](#), [Access Without Fear](#) for residents with precarious immigration status, Sex Worker Safety initiatives, social policy grants, and more. This team is spread thin. Without a dedicated planner for Older Persons and Elders, the City of Vancouver's has struggled to keep up with best practices in social policy development to address the needs of seniors, and to ensure that our growing population of older persons and Elders can engage and participate fully in civic and community life; and
12. The Seniors Advisory Committee has asked its two Councillor Liaisons to put forward this motion to City Council.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to explore and report back as soon as possible, without detracting from work on other equity items currently being undertaken (some of which may also benefit older persons and elders), on a plan to advance efforts to make Vancouver an age-friendly city, with an ongoing intersectional approach, including consideration of:
 - i. Redirecting selected staff to complete the creation of Phase 3 – Age-Friendly City in consultation with the Seniors' Advisory Committee and community partners as the next step toward the development of a Strategy for Older Persons and Elders.
 - ii. Reviewing the recent Reports by the World Health Organization and the United Nations to embrace the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030) inform and refresh the City of Vancouver's Healthy Cities strategy.

- iii. Updating the Equity Framework and the Vancouver Plan to better address the lack of adequate planning for Older Persons and Elders.
 - iv. Working to develop a Memorandum of Understanding and Planning Committee with the Provincial Health Services Authority, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, BC Ministry of Housing and Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation to participate in a planning process with community partners to better address the needs and interests of older persons and elders.
 - v. Ensuring that the needs of racialized, gender diverse, and low income Older Persons, and older people with disabilities, are prioritized.
- B. THAT this report back include consideration of the Seniors Advisory Committee's request that the City of Vancouver reassign resources, without detracting from work on other equity items currently being undertaken, to provide a dedicated full-time planning position to focus on older persons and elders with an intersectional lens across city departments and liaise with external agencies, a position which could include the following:
- i. Provide expertise to City Council on issues related to population aging.
 - ii. Complete the co-development and implementation of the City of Vancouver's strategic plans, policies, and protocols to better reflect the needs and interests of older persons and elders in collaboration and coordination of partners.
 - iii. Identify, collect data, and analyze challenges experienced by the City of Vancouver's aging population to provide evidence-informed recommendations for improvements to City Council.
 - iv. Develop reports and deliver presentations on aging issues for older persons in Vancouver.
 - v. Represent the City of Vancouver at community tables, partner meetings, and stakeholder events related to healthy aging, equity, emergency preparedness, climate change, transportation, food security, housing, homelessness and other city-related programs and services that impact older persons and elders.
 - vi. Act as a resource and staff liaison to guide the work of the City of Vancouver's Seniors' Advisory Committee.
 - vii. Provide training and education on issues related to aging to all municipal employees and elected representatives.
 - viii. Consult and work with community partners in the design and delivery of senior services to benefit from the experience, skills, knowledge, and resources our growing community of older persons and elders have to offer and would be delighted to contribute.
 - ix. Strengthen relationships with provincial governments and agencies, federal government (CMHC, New Horizons, Employment and Social Development Canada) and other Seniors' Planners in Metro Vancouver (currently Richmond and Surrey) in collaboration with the non-profit sector to secure municipal investment in housing for older persons and elders, infrastructure, programs and services.
 - x. Collaborate with community partners to keep abreast of national and international initiatives that have expanded housing options for seniors

(e.g. Co-housing, Lifetime Neighbourhoods, Resident-driven senior homes, Apartments for Life, Homeshare, Dementia Villages, Compassionate Communities, Home Modification) including housing for older persons who are homeless and low income renters.

- C. THAT Staff consider the recommendations from the 2SLGBTQ+ Committee to implement existing recommendations related to seniors; include 2SLGBTQ+ Committee in its consultations and updates; review the 2018 report on seniors isolation.”

13. The Year of the Salish Sea (Member’s Motion B.8)

At the Council meeting on January 25, 2022, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on January 26, 2022, in order to hear from speakers, followed by debate and decision.

The Committee heard from seven speakers in support of the motion.

MOVED by Councillor Wiebe
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. “Vancouver” exists on the unceded homelands and waters of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səliłwətał Peoples;
2. The Strait of Georgia, Strait of Juan de Fuca, and Puget Sound are collectively known as the Salish Sea; however, as of 2019, only 15%¹ of British Columbians could identify the waters of the Salish Sea;
3. The Salish Sea is witnessing devastating biodiversity loss², namely the risk of extinction of over 100 species of birds, fish, invertebrates, mammals, and key species including Salmon and the Southern Resident Killer Whales;
4. The Salish Sea and its human and nonhuman inhabitants are experiencing unprecedented effects of climate change, felt during the 2021 heat dome, flooding from atmospheric rivers, intensified king tides, prolonged forest fires, ocean acidification, and sea-level rise;



¹Where On Earth Is the Salish Sea? — SeaDoc Society
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b071ddea2772cebc1662831/t/5ce6d13c15fcc0884920909e/1558630744171/Salish+Sea+Survey+Final.pdf>

²<https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/csp.2.310>

5. In Canada, the Salish Sea and its watersheds are managed under multiple jurisdictions of government, including the Indigenous, federal, provincial, regional, and municipal with limited coordination;
6. There is incredible work currently underway to support ocean conservation and ocean-related climate adaptation in the region, including Tsleil-Waututh Nation's Burrard Inlet Action Plan, the 5th International Marine Protected Areas Congress, the Sea2City Design Challenge, and the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference, among other initiatives;
7. On November 27, 2020, Metro Vancouver approved the establishment of a task force to consider the feasibility of reinstating the Burrard Inlet Environmental Action Program – Fraser River Estuary Management Program Partnership, or establishment of an equivalent multi-stakeholder partnership for coordinated environmental management in the region; and
8. The Year of the Salish Sea would support collaborative local action between Salish Sea stakeholders, strengthen organizational programming for impact and awareness, educate the public, amplify existing work, and inspire action from individuals, organizations, and governments on the Salish Sea.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Vancouver City Council support the SFU Fall 2021 Semester in Dialogue cohort recommendation to proclaim June 8, 2022 to June 7, 2023 as the "Year of the Salish Sea" in Vancouver, thereby acting as a catalyst for other governing bodies, organizations, and community groups to join a collective effort to improve the health and management of the Salish Sea.
- B. THAT Vancouver City Council direct staff to educate the public on how ongoing City of Vancouver projects (such as sewer separation, climate adaptation, and other Green Rainwater Infrastructure projects) benefit the Salish Sea and its surrounding ecosystems.
- C. THAT Vancouver City Council direct staff to explore opportunities to collaborate with local organizations, networks, and individuals taking part in the Year of the Salish Sea to raise public awareness about the importance of a revitalized and healthy Salish Sea.
- D. THAT Vancouver City Council direct staff to learn from the lived experiences and knowledge of the Indigenous Nations of the Salish Sea on how to improve the health and management of the Salish Sea for the benefit of future generations.

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- <https://www.seadocsociety.org/blog/where-earth-salish-sea>
- https://cedar.wvu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1000&context=salish_pubs
- <https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/csp2.310>

- <https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2020/11/26/102-fraser-river-estuary-species-at-risk-of-extinction-researchers-warn.html>
- <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b071ddea2772cebc1662831/t/5b29e45af950b7e84b8df046/1529472091504/Salish-Sea-Species-of-Concern-2013-Dec-4-2013.pdf>
- <https://www.seadocsociety.org/blog/transboundary-trouble/>
- <https://twnsacredtrust.ca/burrard-inlet-action-plan/>

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 08056)
(Councillors De Genova, Dominato, Hardwick and Mayor Stewart absent for the vote)

On January 27, 2022, the Committee adjourned at 7:16 pm.

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**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON
POLICY AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

JANUARY 27, 2022

A meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Thursday, January 27, 2022, at 7:17 pm, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, following the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting, to consider the recommendations and actions of the Committee.

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Pete Fry
Councillor Rebecca Bligh
Councillor Christine Boyle
Councillor Adriane Carr
Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung
Councillor Jean Swanson
Councillor Michael Wiebe

ABSENT: Mayor Kennedy Stewart
Councillor Melissa De Genova
Councillor Colleen Hardwick
Councillor Lisa Dominato (Leave of Absence – Personal Reasons on January 27, 2022)

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Paul Mochrie, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Lesley Matthews, Chief, External Relations and Protocol
David Yim, Meeting Coordinator

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities
January 26 and 27, 2022

Council considered the report containing the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities. Its items of business included:

2. Electrification of Space Heating and Domestic Hot Water: Mechanical Permit, and Various Housekeeping and Miscellaneous Amendments
3. Administrative Motion: Streamlining Rental Around Local Shopping Areas
4. Supporting Crisis Centres Supporting Community Needs (Member's Motion B.2)
5. Budget Transparency and Accountability in Municipal Election Years (Member's Motion B.3)

6. Working Collaboratively to Become a Restorative City (Member's Motion B.4)
7. Supporting Additional Transportation Options to Reduce Reliance on Vehicle Ownership (Member's Motion B.2)
8. Making Home: Housing For All Of Us (Member's Motion B.3)
9. Towards a Quieter and Emission-Free Landscape Maintenance Equipment Future in Vancouver (Member's Motion B.4)
10. Supporting Local Journalism and Its Impact on Civic Democracy (Member's Motion B.5)
11. Ensuring the Health of E-Comm and the Stable Delivery of Emergency Services for the Public and Residents (Member's Motion B.6)
12. Advancing Efforts for an Age-Friendly City of Vancouver (Member's Motion B.7)
13. The Year of the Salish Sea (Member's Motion B.8)

Items 2 to 13

MOVED by Councillor Carr
SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities at its meeting of January 26 and 27, 2022, as contained in items 2 to 13, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

URGENT BUSINESS

MOVED by Councillor Bligh
SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT Councillor Dominato be granted a Leave of Absence for personal reasons from meetings today, January 27, 2022, from 6 pm to 10 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Bligh
SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council adjourned at 7:18 pm.

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