

## MOTION

### 9. Free Parking and Other Measures to Address Public Safety and the Revitalization of Chinatown (Member's Motion B.6)

At the Council meeting on April 12, 2022, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on April 13, 2022, in order to hear from speakers, followed by debate and decision.

MOVED by Councillor De Genova

#### WHEREAS

1. In 2017, the City of Vancouver began formal work to pursue UNESCO World Heritage Site status for Chinatown;
2. In 2017, in the interest of revitalizing Chinatown, the City of Vancouver established a Chinatown Legacy Stewardship Group, comprised of community representatives and stakeholders;
3. In February 2021, the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) reported Anti-Asian hate crimes had increased 717%;
4. On May 7, 2021, Bloomberg Equality + Businessweek published an article titled "This is the Anti-Asian Hate Crime Capital of North America", citing the rise in Anti-Asian Racism and violence in Vancouver;
5. Business Owners, stakeholders and organizations have identified a lack of free parking in Vancouver's Chinatown as a barrier to economic prosperity and attracting customers;
6. The City of Richmond or private parking lots provide free vehicle parking for customers while shopping. This has created competition for merchants in Chinatown Vancouver;
7. Glass windows and doors on storefronts and buildings are broken regularly in Chinatown. Treasured historical sites, including Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden, have been defaced with graffiti; and
8. Murals, artwork and public art have been defaced with graffiti, including messages of hate and Anti-Asian slurs.

#### THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to prepare amendments to by-laws to update Parking Meter By-law No. 2952 by May 2022 to allow up to 3 hours of free parking at meters on Sundays in Chinatown;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to prepare amendments to necessary by-laws to allow 3 hours of free parking for vehicles at City of Vancouver-owned parking lots on Sundays in Chinatown;

FURTHER THAT Council affirms this to be a pilot program and directs staff to report back on this pilot with recommendations to Council in May 2023;

AND FURTHER THAT staff report back with a cost estimate based on current parking revenues and recommendations for funding this pilot.

- B. THAT Council direct staff to work together with stakeholders, community organizations, businesses and merchants in Chinatown and engage the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) in consideration for key areas in Chinatown where violent crime, vandalism, property theft and graffiti is most prevalent and implement measures such as additional lighting and CCTV cameras to deter further crime and violence before July 2022.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to explore and report back before Q4 2022 on the increase in anti-Asian hate crimes, violent crime and property crime, vandalism, and theft in Chinatown and specifically the impact this has on the City of Vancouver's efforts towards pursuing designation for Chinatown as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

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#### REFERENCES:

1. This is the Anti-Asian Hate Crime Capital of the World  
Bloomberg Equality + Businessweek  
<https://www.bloomberg.com/features/2021-vancouver-canada-asian-hate-crimes/>
2. Anti-Asian hate crime up 717% in Vancouver compared to last year  
Daily Hive  
<https://dailyhive.com/vancouver/anti-asian-hate-crime-up-717-vancouver>
3. Chinatown BIA spending 50% of its budget on security, president says in plea to the Vancouver Police.  
CTV News Vancouver  
<https://bc.ctvnews.ca/chinatown-bia-spending-50-of-budget-on-security-president-says-in-plea-to-vancouver-police-1.5801933>
4. Chinatown business owner launches petition to stop vandalism and "hell pattern" graffiti.  
Global News BC  
<https://globalnews.ca/news/8731992/chinatown-business-owner-launches-petition-to-stop-vandalism-and-hell-pattern-graffiti/>
5. Downzoned and out of luck in Chinatown  
Business in Vancouver  
<https://biv.com/article/2018/08/downzoned-and-out-luck-chinatown>