



REPORT

Report Date: July 7, 2022
Contact: Mike Macdonell
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VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: July 15, 2022

TO: Auditor General Committee
FROM: Auditor General
SUBJECT: Amendments to City of Vancouver Policies

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Auditor General Committee endorse the Auditor General's recommendations contained in Appendix A of this report and recommend the policy changes to Council for approval.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Per the *Auditor General By-law*, s. 3.14, the Auditor General reports directly to Council.

Pursuant to the *Vancouver Charter*, s. 161, the Auditor General Committee was appointed to, among other things, provide oversight to the Auditor General on behalf of Council.

Per the *Auditor General By-law*, s. 5.7, "...where the Auditor General considers a particular section of a policy does or might interfere with the Auditor General's ability to perform, in an independent manner, the functions assigned to the Office of Auditor General by this By-law, a submission on same must be made to the Auditor General Committee which will in turn submit its recommendations on the issue to Council for decision."

REPORT

Following a review of the City's policies applicable to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG), and pursuant to s. 5.7 of the *Auditor General By-law*, the Auditor General proposes several changes to City policies which are described in Appendix A. The changes proposed in Items 1 through 4 in Appendix A are housekeeping in nature and are recommended as amendments to include the Auditor General in the appropriate policy sections. Items 5 and 6 of Appendix A relate to the City's Media Relations and Social Media Policies. It is recommended that the OAG be exempt from these media policies, and consequently any related obligation to be overseen

through City processes, due to the possibility of interference with the independence of the OAG. Since the OAG will release its own reports and deal directly with the media, replacement policies will be established for this purpose. These newly established media policies will be aligned with City Administration policies but will be independent and not hold the requirement of being overseen by city staff. Concurrence has been received by the City's administration for this recommended exemption and new media policies specific to the OAG.

CONCLUSION

This report recommends housekeeping revisions to existing City policies and exemptions from the Media Relations and Social Media policies for the Auditor General Committee's endorsement and furtherance to Council for approval. These changes will further secure the OAG's ability to perform and function independently.

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Appendix A. Recommended Changes to City of Vancouver Policies

Item #	Policy Number	Title	Sections At Issue	Notes
1	ADMIN-008	Procurement Policy	s7(b) Definitions	Pg. 5 - Auditor General to be added to definition of General Manager.
2	ADMIN-015	Financial Disclosure Act - Requirements	Appendix A	Add Auditor General and Deputy Auditor General to list of "municipal employees" under the <i>Financial Disclosure Act</i> R.S.B.C.
3	ADMIN-026	Travel	s1.2, 3.1	s1.2 - Add Auditor General & AG Staff to table. Traveller - Auditor General Within BC - Auditor General Within North America - Auditor General Outside North America - Auditor General Committee Traveller - Auditor General Staff Within BC - Auditor General Within North America - Auditor General; Outside North America - Auditor General Committee s3.1 - Add Auditor General - by Chair of Auditor General Committee
4	AF-010-01	Corporate Purchasing Cards	s2.1, 2.2	s2.1 - Add Auditor General to table. Cardholder - Auditor General Issuing Authority - Chair, Auditor General Committee s2.2 - Add Auditor General to table. Card Expenditures - Auditor General Approving Authority - Chair, Auditor General Committee
5	AG-009-01	Media Relations	Scope - Exemption	Add Auditor General to list to non-applicable list. "...It does not apply to members of City Council and Council appointed agencies, boards, commissions and the Auditor General. "
6	AG-009-02	Social Media	Scope - Exemption	Add Auditor General to exemption paragraph. "The Vancouver Public Library Board, Vancouver Police Board and Office of the Auditor General have implemented Social Media Policies specific to those agencies..."