

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

4. Reviewing Vancouver's Age-Friendly Action Plan and Aligning with WHO's Age-Friendly Cities Framework

Submitted by: Councillor Klassen

WHEREAS

1. The World Health Organization (WHO) Age-friendly Cities framework is a policy tool that helps to identify and address barriers to the well-being and participation of older adults in cities. The Age-friendly Cities framework is divided into eight interconnected domains of urban life that overlap and interact with each other in terms of the accessibility of public buildings and spaces and the range of opportunities that a city offers to older adults for social participation, entertainment, volunteering, and/or employment; ⁱ
2. An age-friendly city encourages active ageing by optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age. In practical terms, an age-friendly city adapts its structures and services to be accessible to and inclusive of older adults with varying needs and capacities;
3. "Population ageing and urbanization are two global trends that together comprise major forces shaping the 21st century. At the same time as cities are growing, their share of residents aged 60 years and more is increasing. Older adults are a resource for their families, communities and economies in supportive and enabling living environments." (*Global Age-friendly Cities: A Guide – © World Health Organization 2007*);
4. The City of Vancouver has an Age-friendly Action Plan, the goal of which is to make Vancouver a safe, inclusive, and engaging city for seniors; ⁱⁱ
5. The City of Vancouver's Age-friendly Action Plan has a series of 60-plus actions the City designed to help make Vancouver a more safe, inclusive, and engaging city for seniors, namely by seeking to improve facilities and services for seniors across the full spectrum – from fully independent older adults and seniors, to those who are more vulnerable and need additional support;
6. The City of Vancouver has a Seniors' Advisory Committee which was established by a Council resolution under the authority of the *Vancouver Charter* section 159;
7. The mandate of the Seniors' Advisory Committee is to advise Council and staff on enhancing access and inclusion for seniors, the elderly, and their families to fully participate in City services and civic life. The Seniors' Advisory Committee identifies and suggests solutions to gaps and barriers that impede the full participation of seniors and the elderly in all aspects of city life;
8. The Seniors' Advisory Committee produces an annual work plan with specific objectives by April of each year, in consultation with Council and staff liaisons, for

distribution to Council and civic departments for information. The Committee submits an annual report to Council describing its accomplishments for the year, including reference to each objective set out in the work plan and any arising issues to which the committee has responded;

9. The Seniors' Advisory Committee (SAC) Report of Activities, 2021–2022, for the period of May 18, 2021, to November 6, 2022, includes sixteen high priority recommendations for the Incoming SAC and Council and also makes note of the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030), “a global collaboration, aligned with the last ten years of the Sustainable Development Goals, that brings together governments, civil society, international agencies, professionals, academia, the media, and the private sector to improve the lives of older adults, their families, and the communities in which they live.”;
10. Embedded within the sixteen high priority recommendations from Seniors' Advisory Committee, in context with a notation re: the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030), is an observation that the City of Vancouver currently “lacks strategic comprehensive planning for Ageing in Community and the Continuum of Care with government and community partners.” The Committee recommends that “As planning and implementation of an age-friendly city matures further work should be advanced in supporting dementia care and participating in the compassionate city charter.”
11. Societies benefit greatly from the significant contributions seniors make to our cities and communities and every effort should be made to ensure cities have safe streets and sidewalks and more inclusive and accessible facilities and services;
12. It is incumbent upon the incoming Mayor and Council to reflect upon and review the City's Age-friendly Action Plan, in concert with the advent of United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030) and other age-friendly initiatives and trends, to refresh and reinvigorate the scope and objectives of the City's Age-friendly Action Plan and ensure alignment with current best practices and emerging global standards such as the World Health Organization (WHO) Age-friendly Cities framework.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to prepare a report and presentation on the City's Age-friendly Action Plan on or before the end of Q1 of 2023, including information on its current status, accomplishments to date, current challenges, and emerging issues, in consultation with the City's Seniors' Advisory Committee and other relevant stakeholders;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to include specific information in the report relating to the potential to align with and/or adopt the World Health Organization (WHO) Age-friendly Cities framework and any other relevant and/or emerging global standards and best practices.

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ⁱ The 8 interconnected domains of urban life: Community and health care, Transportation, Housing, Social Participation, Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Participation and Employment, and Communication and Information.

ⁱⁱ *The Age-Friendly -- Action Plan 2013 – 2015 --- A Safe, Inclusive and Engaging City for Seniors*
<https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/age-friendly-action-plan.pdf> The Age-Friendly Action Plan is a series of more than 60 actions that the City will take to help make Vancouver a safer, more inclusive and engaging place for seniors. More than half of these actions are already underway.