



REPORT TO COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON POLICY AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

NOVEMBER 29, 2023

A meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on Policy and Strategic Priorities was held on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, at 9:33 am, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall. This Council meeting was convened by electronic means as authorized under the Part 14 of the *Procedure By-law*.

PRESENT: Councillor Mike Klassen, Chair
Mayor Ken Sim*
Councillor Rebecca Bligh
Councillor Christine Boyle
Councillor Adriane Carr
Councillor Lisa Dominato*
Councillor Pete Fry*
Councillor Peter Meiszner, Vice Chair
Councillor Brian Montague
Councillor Lenny Zhou

ABSENT: Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Tina Penney, Deputy City Clerk
Cassia Nasralla, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

WELCOME

The Chair acknowledged we are on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh People. 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 team members who work hard every day to help make our city an incredible place to live, work, and play.

MATTERS ADOPTED ON CONSENT

MOVED by Councillor Carr
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT Council adopt reports 2, 4 and 5, on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

1. **Childcare Strategy Implementation Phase 1 Update and Next Steps November 20, 2023**

Staff from Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability provided a presentation and responded to questions.

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During questions to staff, it was

*MOVED by Councillor Dominato
SECONDED by Councillor Zhou*

THAT under section 5.4(d) of the Procedure By-law, Council ask a second round of questions to staff.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Subsequently, at 10:28 am, Chair Klassen relinquished the Chair to Vice Chair Meiszner in order to make comments on the item and resumed the Chair at 10:30 am.

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MOVED by Councillor Dominato
SECONDED by Councillor Boyle

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council direct staff to explore options to enable greater flexibility for the delivery of childcare spaces in residential areas, including but not limited to:
- simpler application processes and lower upfront fees,
 - increases to the number of allowable childcare spaces,
 - prioritizing applications for neighbourhoods with the most acute childcare shortages,
 - removal of on-site parking requirements,
 - relaxations when building upgrades are triggered by change of use, provided all life and safety requirements are met or exceeded,

- zoning allowances, e.g., where a main residence is used for childcare, and the associated laneway home serves as the occupied residence;

FURTHER THAT staff be directed to bring forward recommendations as per the above for the consideration of Council before the end of Q2 2024.

- B. THAT Council direct staff to explore specific options for greater flexibility to deliver new childcare spaces in the Downtown commercial core and along the Broadway corridor;

FURTHER THAT staff be directed to bring forward recommendations as per the above for the consideration of Council before the end of Q3 2024.

- C. THAT, pending any approval of the above by Council, staff be directed to include in their work plan, mechanisms to monitor and assess the effect of any related policy changes on the availability and quality of childcare services in the city and plan to report back by the end of Q1 2025.

- D. THAT Council direct staff to explore potential options to access federal lands and/or properties with relevant ministries and local Indigenous communities to support the delivery of urgently needed childcare spaces, including the potential to accommodate related workforce housing.

- E. THAT should any new regulations or changes to by-laws result from any of the above, that staff be directed to notify previously unsuccessful applicants of the opportunity to re-apply under revised by-laws and/or regulations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 09670)
(Councillor Fry absent for the vote)

2. Joining UN-Habitat's Quality of Life Initiative as a Pilot City November 14, 2023

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve the City's expression of interest in UN-Habitat's Quality of Life Initiative - Pilot City Program, to improve and measure the quality of life in our communities by helping develop a global quality of life standard and performance-monitoring tool.
- B. THAT Council authorize Staff to engage in the Quality of Life Initiative, and the General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services to execute and deliver on behalf of the City all legal and other agreements required to implement A.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT (Vote No. 09676)

**3. Changes to the Procurement Policy and Delegated Authority
October 16, 2023**

Staff from Finance, Risk, and Supply Chain Management responded to questions.

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During questions to staff, it was

*MOVED by Councillor Carr
SECONDED by Councillor Zhou*

THAT under section 5.4(d) of the Procedure By-law, Council ask a second round of questions to staff.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

* * * * *

MOVED by Councillor Zhou
SECONDED by Councillor Bligh

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT, effective January 1, 2024, Council approve the amendments to the Procurement Policy described in the Report dated October 16, 2023, entitled “Changes to the Procurement Policy and Delegated Authority”, which include changes to delegated authorities (also referred to as a “Standing Authorities”) for procurement and supersede and replace the existing version of the Procurement Policy.
- B. THAT the City’s Director of Finance provide a copy of the City’s Procurement Policy to the Park Board, the Police Board, and the Library Board and request that they work with the City’s Director of Finance to have their board or affiliate adopt a procurement policy similar to the Procurement Policy.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Zhou
SECONDED by Councillor Bligh

THAT the following be added to the end of A after the word “Policy”:

with the exception of the proposed Commitment Authority Limit;

FURTHER THAT Council direct that the Commitment Authority Limit for Council be amended to read ‘Greater than \$3,000,000’ in the Procurement Policy;

AND FURTHER THAT City staff report back in Q4 2024 on the impacts of the new Procurement Policy.

The amendment having CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 09671) with Councillor Dominato absent for the vote, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 09672) with Councillor Dominato absent for the vote.

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT, effective January 1, 2024, Council approve the amendments to the Procurement Policy described in the Report dated October 16, 2023, entitled “Changes to the Procurement Policy and Delegated Authority”, which include changes to delegated authorities (also referred to as a “Standing Authorities”) for procurement and supersede and replace the existing version of the Procurement Policy, with the exception of the proposed Commitment Authority Limit;

FURTHER THAT Council direct that the Commitment Authority Limit for Council be amended to read ‘Greater than \$3,000,000’ in the Procurement Policy;

AND FURTHER THAT City staff report back in Q4 2024 on the impacts of the new Procurement Policy.

- B. THAT the City’s Director of Finance provide a copy of the City’s Procurement Policy to the Park Board, the Police Board, and the Library Board and request that they work with the City’s Director of Finance to have their board or affiliate adopt a procurement policy similar to the Procurement Policy.

**4. 111 West Hastings Street Unit 10 (Basement Level)
351 Abbott Street Unit 110 (Main Floor)
Kokoro Dance Theatre Society
Liquor Primary Liquor Licence Application
Liquor Establishment – Venue
November 10, 2023**

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council, having considered the opinion of area residents and business operators as determined by neighbourhood notification, site sign, noise impacts and relevant Council policy as outlined in the Report dated November 10, 2023, entitled “111 West Hastings Street Unit 10 (Basement Level) 351 Abbott Street Unit 110 (Main Floor) Kokoro Dance Theatre Society Liquor Primary Liquor Licence Application Liquor Establishment – Venue”, endorse the application submitted by Kokoro Dance Theatre Society (KW Studios), for a new event-driven Liquor Primary liquor licence (Liquor Establishment – Venue), located at 111 West Hastings Street Unit 10 (Basement Level) and at 351 Abbott Street Unit 110 (Main Floor), subject to:
 - i. A maximum interior capacity of 225 persons: 175 persons in the Basement Level and 50 persons on the Main Floor.

- ii. Hours of operation limited to 11 am to 1 am, Sunday to Thursday, and 11 am to 2 am, Friday and Saturday;
- iii. Liquor service is event-driven and only permitted in conjunction with prebooked events;
- iv. A Time-Limited Development Permit;
- v. An acoustic report to be submitted certifying that the establishment meets Noise Control By-law requirements; and
- vi. Signing a Good Neighbour Agreement with the City prior to business licence issuance.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT (Vote No. 09677)

**5. Mountain View Cemetery - 2024 Fee Increases and Adjustments
November 15, 2023**

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve, in principle, the amendments to the Mountain View Cemetery By-law to increase fees by an average of 5% as set out in Appendix A of the Report dated November 15, 2023, entitled "Mountain View Cemetery - 2024 Fee Increases and Adjustments".
- B. THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment the necessary amendments to the Mountain View Cemetery By-law to be effective January 1, 2024.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT (Vote No. 09678)

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTIONS

1. Requests for Leaves of Absence

MOVED by Councillor Bligh

SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Councillor Kirby-Yung be granted a Leave of Absence for civic business from meetings on December 13, 2023, from 11 am to 3:30 pm;

FURTHER THAT Councillor Carr be granted a Leave of Absence for civic business from meetings on December 14, 2023, from 3 pm to 4:45 pm, and December 5, 2023, from 6 pm to 10 pm;

FURTHER THAT Councillor Zhou be granted a Leave of Absence for civic business from meetings on November 29, 2023, from 6 pm to 10:00 pm, and December 5, 2023, from 6 pm to 10 pm;

FURTHER THAT Councillor Boyle be granted a Leave of Absence for civic business from meetings on December 5, 2023, from 4 pm to 10 pm;

AND FURTHER THAT Councillor Klassen be granted a Leave of Absence for civic business from meetings on December 5, 2023, from 5 pm to 10 pm;

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Trans, Gender Diverse and Two-Spirit (TGD2S) Inclusion and Safety Action Plan

The Committee heard from 8 speakers in support of the motion.

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At this point in the meeting it was

MOVED by Councillor Fry

SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the meeting extend past noon in order to complete motion 2.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY**

Subsequently, at 11:51 am, Chair Klassen relinquished the Chair to Vice Chair Meiszner in order to make comments on the motion and resumed the Chair at 11:53 am.

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MOVED by Councillor Boyle

SECONDED by Councillor Bligh

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. Trans, Gender Diverse and Two-Spirit (TGD2S) individuals are important members of our community who deserve to be safe and deserve equitable opportunities to belong and thrive in Vancouver. However, TGD2S communities are facing increased levels of hatred and harassment that is putting their safety and wellbeing at risk;
2. In 2016, following extensive community consultation, Vancouver City Council adopted a Trans, Gender-Diverse and Two-Spirit Inclusion Strategy. A key theme of the 2016 strategy was that “Changes Require Long-term Commitment”

emphasizing that change includes integrating TGD2S recommendations into current equity and inclusion strategies, and pursuing intentional measures specific to the TGD2S community;

3. A 2020 memo updating City Council on implementation of the TDG2S Inclusion Strategy and Women's Equity Strategy highlighted the completion of Phase One of the strategy and stated that Phase Two intended to look specifically at systemic barriers to apply an intersectional approach to gender equity, with ongoing "vigilance, learning, growth, and action.";
4. Since the adoption and implementation of the 2016 TGD2S Inclusion Strategy, the social and cultural context for the TGD2S community has shifted significantly. There has been increased visibility, public awareness and understanding of the diversity of gender expressions, thanks to courageous leadership from trans and queer communities. There has also been significant backlash;
5. Hostility toward TGD2S people has been on the rise in Canada and BC, fueled by a widespread and organized campaign of misinformation and fearmongering. This rise in hostility is happening despite gender identity, expression and sexual orientation being protected personal characteristics under the BC Human Rights Code;
6. In September 2023, harmful and at times violent rallies were held around Greater Vancouver and across the country against SOGI (sexual orientation and gender identity) inclusive education. These rallies were met with significant counter protests from trans and queer communities and their allies;
7. Educational policies and procedures that reference SOGI seek to address bullying, and foster inclusion and acceptance for all youth. SOGI initiatives are proven to reduce discrimination, suicidal ideation and suicide attempts for students who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+ and research shows that these positive outcomes also extend to cisgender and heterosexual youth, too;
8. 60% of sexual minorities in Canada have experienced physical or sexual assault in their life times. In 2020 alone, 259 people in Canada from 2SLGBTQIA+ communities reported targeted hate crimes based on their sexual orientation – the highest rate since 2009. Hate crimes against minority communities are often under-reported;
9. In BC, 1 in 4 queer and trans youth are forced out of their homes due to severe family conflict. 29% of trans people often report being turned away when trying to access shelters with nearly a quarter of those reporting being assaulted by shelter residents and staff. Within this group, people of colour and Indigenous peoples often fare worse;
10. Newcomer and migrant 2SLGBTQIA+ communities face additional barriers to inclusion and safety upon their arrival and integration into life in Vancouver. Accessible resources on SOGI and TGD2S rights are often only offered in a limited range of languages making cross cultural conversations more difficult;

11. November 20th is Transgender Day of Remembrance, an initiative started by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honour the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998. Communities around the world now host vigils on November 20 to honour all those trans, gender diverse and two-spirit people whose lives were lost to anti-trans violence that year;
12. In June 2023 Council received an Equity Framework Implementation Update. The report stated that most of the actions from Vancouver's 2016 TGD2S Inclusion policy have been implemented or are underway, and that "there has not been much progress to report on since the March 2020 update to Council". The report also recognized that "the context of the TGD2S community has evolved over the past seven years since the initial work was done"; and
13. The above mentioned 2023 report outlined that while many other elements of the equity framework implementation were going well or exceeding expectations, "work on women, trans and gender-diverse communities is being flagged as being in need of renewal."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council commit to the creation and implementation of a renewed Trans, Gender Diverse and Two-Spirit (TGD2S) Action Plan with a focus on inclusion and safety;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to engage with community leaders and organisations to inform next steps, and report back with a draft work plan and goals by July 2024.

- B. THAT Council direct staff to ensure that any action plans, resources, and community engagement activities are available in multiple languages to encourage engagement from diverse language communities.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to include suggested funding for this work as an amendment to the 2024 budget.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry
SECONDED by Councillor Bligh

THAT the following be added to A:

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to engage with Vancouver School Board, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, and advisory committees, including but not limited to SOGI Committee at Vancouver Police Department, 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee, Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee, Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee, Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee, Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee and others to inform and engage on report back with a draft work plan and goals.

The amendment having CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 09673), the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 09674).

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. Trans, Gender Diverse and Two-Spirit (TGD2S) individuals are important members of our community who deserve to be safe and deserve equitable opportunities to belong and thrive in Vancouver. However, TGD2S communities are facing increased levels of hatred and harassment that is putting their safety and wellbeing at risk;
2. In 2016, following extensive community consultation, Vancouver City Council adopted a Trans, Gender-Diverse and Two-Spirit Inclusion Strategy.¹ A key theme of the 2016 strategy was that “Changes Require Long-term Commitment” emphasizing that change includes integrating TGD2S recommendations into current equity and inclusion strategies, and pursuing intentional measures specific to the TGD2S community;
3. A 2020 memo updating City Council on implementation of the TGD2S Inclusion Strategy and Women’s Equity Strategy² highlighted the completion of Phase One of the strategy and stated that Phase Two intended to look specifically at systemic barriers to apply an intersectional approach to gender equity, with ongoing “vigilance, learning, growth, and action.”;
4. Since the adoption and implementation of the 2016 TGD2S Inclusion Strategy, the social and cultural context for the TGD2S community has shifted significantly. There has been increased visibility, public awareness and understanding of the diversity of gender expressions, thanks to courageous leadership from trans and queer communities. There has also been significant backlash;
5. Hostility toward TGD2S people has been on the rise in Canada and BC, fueled by a widespread and organized campaign of misinformation and fearmongering. This rise in hostility is happening despite gender identity, expression and sexual orientation being protected personal characteristics under the BC Human Rights Code³;
6. In September 2023, harmful and at times violent rallies were held around Greater Vancouver and across the country against SOGI (sexual orientation and gender

¹ 2016 City of Vancouver Report, “Supporting Trans* Equality and an Inclusive Vancouver”. Available at: <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/trans-gender-variant-and-two-spirit-inclusion-at-the-city-ofvancouver.pdf>

² 2020 Memo to City Council, “Updates on Women’s Equity Strategy and Trans Gender Diverse and Two Spirit Inclusion Strategy”. Available at: <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/11-12-2020-womens-equitytrans-gender-diverse-two-spirit-inclusion-strategy.pdf>

³ BC Human Rights Tribunal, Personal Characteristics Protected in the BC Human Rights Code. Available at: <https://www.bchrt.bc.ca/human-rights-duties/personal-characteristics/>

- identity) inclusive education. These rallies were met with significant counter protests from trans and queer communities and their allies;
7. Educational policies and procedures that reference SOGI seek to address bullying, and foster inclusion and acceptance for all youth. SOGI initiatives are proven to reduce discrimination, suicidal ideation and suicide attempts for students who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+ and research shows that these positive outcomes also extend to cisgender and heterosexual youth, too;
 8. 60% of sexual minorities in Canada have experienced physical or sexual assault in their life times. In 2020 alone, 259 people in Canada from 2SLGBTQIA+ communities reported targeted hate crimes based on their sexual orientation – the highest rate since 2009⁴. Hate crimes against minority communities are often under-reported;
 9. In BC, 1 in 4 queer and trans youth are forced out of their homes due to severe family conflict. 29% of trans people often report being turned away when trying to access shelters with nearly a quarter of those reporting being assaulted by shelter residents and staff. Within this group, people of colour and Indigenous peoples often fare worse⁵;
 10. Newcomer and migrant 2SLGBTQIA+ communities face additional barriers to inclusion and safety upon their arrival and integration into life in Vancouver. Accessible resources on SOGI and TGD2S rights are often only offered in a limited range of languages making cross cultural conversations more difficult;
 11. November 20th is Transgender Day of Remembrance, an initiative started by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honour the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998. Communities around the world now host vigils on November 20 to honour all those trans, gender diverse and two-spirit people whose lives were lost to anti-trans violence that year;
 12. In June 2023 Council received an Equity Framework Implementation Update. The report stated that most of the actions from Vancouver's 2016 TGD2S Inclusion policy have been implemented or are underway, and that "there has not been much progress to report on since the March 2020 update to Council". The report also recognized that "the context of the TGD2S community has evolved over the past seven years since the initial work was done"⁶; and
 13. The above mentioned 2023 report outlined that while many other elements of the equity framework implementation were going well or exceeding expectations,

⁴ November 20th, 2022 Statement by Minister Marci Ien on Transgender Day of Remembrance 2022. Available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2022/11/statement-byministermarci-ienon-transgender-day-of-remembrance-2022.html>

⁵ https://bchumanrights.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2013_prc-lgbtq-poverty-factsheet.pdf

⁶ 2023 Equity Framework Implementation Update to Council. Available at: <https://council.vancouver.ca/20230628/documents/pspc1.pdf>

“work on women, trans and gender-diverse communities is being flagged as being in need of renewal.”⁷

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council commit to the creation and implementation of a renewed Trans, Gender Diverse and Two-Spirit (TGD2S) Action Plan with a focus on inclusion and safety;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to engage with community leaders and organisations to inform next steps, and report back with a draft work plan and goals by July 2024;

AND FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to engage with Vancouver School Board, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, and advisory committees, including but not limited to SOGI Committee at Vancouver Police Department, 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee, Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee, Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee, Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee, Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee and others to inform and engage on report back with a draft work plan and goals.

- B. THAT Council direct staff to ensure that any action plans, resources, and community engagement activities are available in multiple languages to encourage engagement from diverse language communities.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to include suggested funding for this work as an amendment to the 2024 budget.

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The Committee recessed at 12:11 pm and reconvened at 1:15 pm.

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3. Regularizing Road Paint Maintenance for Safety

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

MOVED by Councillor Fry
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

⁷ 2023 Equity Framework Implementation Update to Council. Available at: <https://council.vancouver.ca/20230628/documents/pspc1.pdf>

1. The City of Vancouver is responsible for building and maintaining roads and public right of ways through the provision of surfacing, ice and hazard clearance, and road markings;
2. Road marking paints play a crucial role in maintaining safety and order on our roadways. Drivers, active transportation users and pedestrians alike, all rely on these markings for guidance, to inform of potential hazards, and regulate traffic flow. The presence and visibility of pavement marking paints help reduce collisions, confusion, and congestion;
3. Vision Zero, the international strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, through systemic road (re)design and addressing issues proactively before collisions, considers improved pavement markings as one important tool in the toolbox, a “quick build” solution to enhance road safety at (relatively) low cost. According to the 2022 cost references compiled by Vision Zero Network and 3M, the average cost of a new “continental crosswalk” (aka zebra) is \$7.50 USD / sq ft.;
4. Road marking paints are durable, highly reflective raised markers that are impact resistant and suitable for all weather conditions and road surfaces. Since the federal ban on oil-based paints in 2010, paints today are typically comprised of thermoplastic compounds, synthetic resin, glass beads, pigments, and fillers like limestone and sand for anti-skid properties. Paints are applied hot with specialized equipment to promote fast drying and strong adhesion to the road surface;
5. Road marking paints are critical for defining and delineating:
 - a. Hazards, stop lines, yields, medians, slow streets, speed limits, and wayfinding,
 - b. Traffic lines, turning lanes, direction of flow, merging, and lane changing,
 - c. Pedestrian walkways, crossings, elephant’s feet, and zebra crosswalks,
 - d. Bike routes, unprotected bike lanes and boxes,
 - e. Bus zones and HOV lanes, and
 - f. Parking zones and restrictions;
6. Road marking paints are susceptible to more rapid wear due to high traffic volumes, heavier vehicles, and increasing impacts of climate change including damage caused variously by extreme heats, heavier rainfalls, and snow/ice removal that require abrasive and corrosive application of ploughs, sand and salt. Once the surface is damaged, water egress can further damage the substrate, especially during freezing and thawing;
7. Damaged paint resulting in incomplete or degraded road markings can create compromised visibility for all road users, especially in rainy or dark conditions, and for active transportation users can further result in uneven surfaces that create potential surface hazards in particular for cyclists and micromobility road users;

8. Various reports, social media posts and anecdotes suggest road and crosswalk visibility remain a hazard that is top of mind for many Vancouverites;
9. Many Canadian cities and provinces have regular scheduled full or (more typically) partial rotating road marking re-painting programs to proactively address wear and tear on surfacing, prevent substrate damage, and promote greater visibility and safety; and
10. The City of Vancouver does not have a dedicated regularized program for road marking paint maintenance and instead resurfaces road markings on an as need ad hoc basis.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to report back with a regularized road marking maintenance plan, considering wear-and-tear, distribution of need, cost efficiencies, renewal cycle, and safety hierarchy in order to proactively address damaged road paint surfacing and improve safety for all road users;

FURTHER THAT Council request staff include a line item for consideration in the 2024 Budget and ongoing, dedicated to regular road marking paint maintenance.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry
SECONDED by Councillor Boyle

THAT in the FURTHER THAT clause, the words “staff provide additional information to inform a potential amendment for” be inserted between “request” and “consideration”.

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At 1:28 pm, Chair Klassen relinquished the Chair to Vice Chair Meiszner in order to make comments on the amendment and resumed the Chair at 1:29 pm.

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The amendment having CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 09679) with Mayor Sim absent for the vote, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 09680) with Mayor Sim absent for the vote.

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver is responsible for building and maintaining roads and public right of ways through the provision of surfacing, ice and hazard clearance, and road markings;

2. Road marking paints play a crucial role in maintaining safety and order on our roadways. Drivers, active transportation users and pedestrians alike, all rely on these markings for guidance, to inform of potential hazards, and regulate traffic flow. The presence and visibility of pavement marking paints help reduce collisions, confusion, and congestion;
3. Vision Zero, the international strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, through systemic road (re)design and addressing issues proactively before collisions, considers improved pavement markings as one important tool in the toolbox, a “quick build” solution to enhance road safety at (relatively) low cost.⁸ According to the 2022 cost references compiled by Vision Zero Network and 3M, the average cost of a new “continental crosswalk” (aka zebra) is \$7.50 USD / sq ft.⁹;
4. Road marking paints are durable, highly reflective raised markers that are impact resistant and suitable for all weather conditions and road surfaces. Since the federal ban on oil-based paints¹⁰ in 2010, paints today are typically comprised of thermoplastic compounds, synthetic resin, glass beads, pigments, and fillers like limestone and sand for anti-skid properties. Paints are applied hot with specialized equipment to promote fast drying and strong adhesion to the road surface;
5. Road marking paints are critical for defining and delineating:
 - a. Hazards, stop lines, yields, medians, slow streets, speed limits, and wayfinding,
 - b. Traffic lines, turning lanes, direction of flow, merging, and lane changing,
 - c. Pedestrian walkways, crossings, elephant’s feet, and zebra crosswalks,
 - d. Bike routes, unprotected bike lanes and boxes,
 - e. Bus zones and HOV lanes, and
 - f. Parking zones and restrictions;
6. Road marking paints are susceptible to more rapid wear due to high traffic volumes, heavier vehicles, and increasing impacts of climate change including damage caused variously by extreme heats, heavier rainfalls, and snow/ice removal that require abrasive and corrosive application of ploughs, sand and salt. Once the surface is damaged, water egress can further damage the substrate, especially during freezing and thawing;
7. Damaged paint resulting in incomplete or degraded road markings can create compromised visibility for all road users, especially in rainy or dark conditions, and for active transportation users can further result in uneven surfaces that create potential surface hazards in particular for cyclists and micromobility road users;

⁸ Springer Nature | The Vision Zero Handbook <https://parachute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/The-Vision-Zero-Handbook.pdf>

⁹ Vision Zero Network | Cost references for sample quick build traffic-calming treatments and road-safety countermeasures (retrieved from <https://visionzeronetwork.org/>) <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1saKQBszXz8pSqMwx74XmKudjKlhT26->

¹⁰ BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure | The Evolving Story of Brighter, More Durable Line Painting <https://www.tranbc.ca/2020/07/23/the-evolving-story-of-brighter-more-durable-line-painting/>

8. Various reports, social media posts and anecdotes suggest road and crosswalk visibility remain a hazard¹¹ that is top of mind for many Vancouverites;
9. Many Canadian cities and provinces have regular scheduled full or (more typically) partial rotating road marking re-painting programs to proactively address wear and tear on surfacing, prevent substrate damage, and promote greater visibility and safety; and
10. The City of Vancouver does not have a dedicated regularized program for road marking paint maintenance and instead resurfaces road markings on an as need ad hoc basis.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT Council direct staff to report back with a regularized road marking maintenance plan, considering wear-and-tear, distribution of need, cost efficiencies, renewal cycle, and safety hierarchy in order to proactively address damaged road paint surfacing and improve safety for all road users;

FURTHER THAT Council request staff provide additional information to inform a potential amendment for consideration in the 2024 Budget and ongoing, dedicated to regular road marking paint maintenance.

4. Uplifting the Downtown Eastside and Building Inclusive Communities that Work for All Residents

The Committee heard from three speakers in support, one speaker in opposition, and seven speakers who made general comments on the motion.

MOVED by Councillor Bligh
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. The Housing Vancouver Strategy was adopted by Council in 2017 to address the city's housing crisis by targeting 72,000 new homes over 10 years (2018-2027), including policies to enable a shift to a greater supply of social, supportive, and rental housing;
2. Despite many efforts to date, we continue to have people living on the margins of life and death in our city – people who are in desperate need of better support, those who are homeless or precariously housed, some struggling with personal trauma, untreated mental illness, addiction, and chronic health issues. Health experts and police alike continue to advocate that addiction issues are best handled through the healthcare system, not the criminal justice system;

¹¹ CTV News Vancouver | Vancouverites want to see brighter, more visible roads <https://bc.ctvnews.ca/vancouverites-want-to-see-brighter-more-visible-roads-1.6131119>

3. Many observers have cited the need for governments at all levels to rethink how we deliver social services across the spectrum. Many see the current approaches as fragmentary and incomplete and are calling for significant change, particularly with respect to our city's – and our country's – persistent and increasingly complex struggle with mental health and addiction issues, including the related struggle to provide affordable, safe housing across the housing spectrum in our city;
4. Supportive housing – particularly in the context of complex care and for those struggling with mental health, addictions, and homelessness – is commonly differentiated from social housing. In addition to providing shelter, supportive housing provides a range of on-site supports to residents, such as life-skills training and connections to off-site services such as primary health care, mental health, or substance use services that help individuals maintain housing stability. These supports help tenants stabilize their lives, enhance their independent living skills, and reconnect with their communities;
5. Vancouver has over 75 per cent of the Metro Vancouver region's operating shelter spaces, over 77 per cent of the region's supportive housing units, and 50 per cent of the region's social housing, while making up 25 per cent of the region's overall population;
6. Connecting people to the care they need is often the crucial first step on the long road to greater mental and physical health and well-being, and housing is at the core of any successful social and supportive housing plan. Vancouver's Healthy City Strategy promotes an integrated approach to human services to ensure that all Vancouverites can have access to the services they need to thrive;
7. The Vancouver Plan is the City's long-range land use plan. It builds on the Housing Vancouver Strategy and is intended to guide growth and change in the city over the next 30 years. Its purpose is to establish a unified vision for future land use, with policies to help Vancouver become a more liveable, affordable, sustainable city with a strong economy – “A city that is inclusive, diverse, and works for everyone.”;
8. As the Vancouver Plan states:

“Adequate housing is a fundamental human right. Everyone from low-income residents and newcomers, to seniors, young people, and growing families, should have access to housing that is adequate, secure, and affordable. The existing housing system is not meeting the needs of Vancouver's current or growing population.... To address this disparity, new rental and social housing will be enabled in all neighbourhoods. Policies contained in the section also address preserving affordability in areas with existing rental and social housing... Collectively these policies will result in more inclusive and affordable neighbourhoods across the city.”;
9. Direction 1.4 of the Vancouver Plan (i.e., Community Housing – Part 5 section 1) speaks directly to the question of social and supportive housing and seeks to

- “Significantly increase the supply of social and supportive housing” and support the growth of the community housing sector through land use policy and zoning approaches (including pre-zoning), financial incentives, streamlined approval processes, and by creating stronger partnerships between the City and the community housing sector to support the sector in capacity building;
10. The community housing sector is made up of non-profit housing providers that own, develop, or manage social, co-op, or supportive housing. Many community housing non-profits provide affordable, stable homes for households earning low to moderate-incomes, and are able to serve specific, and oftentimes highly specific, needs;
 11. Social housing has become increasingly important in the city due to rising rental prices, yet it makes up less than 10 per cent of Vancouver’s overall housing stock. As noted in the Vancouver Plan, “The existing housing system is not meeting the needs of Vancouver’s current or growing population,” and “housing opportunities are not evenly distributed across the city.”;
 12. As of January 2023, there are 146 open Single Room Occupancy (SRO) buildings in the City of Vancouver containing 6,500 units. Assuming that a conservative target is to see the replacement of one SRO building per year, it will take almost 150 years to transition the City’s SRO stock to a renewed supply of self-contained, dignified units that achieve the minimum standards of liveability;
 13. Only two projects, 288 East Hastings Street and Olivia Skye at 41 E Hastings, have been built in the Downtown Eastside Oppenheimer District (DEOD) since the Downtown Eastside Plan was approved by Council in 2014, which requires a 60/40 housing mix;
 14. Homelessness is a regional issue, as are the issues of mental health and addiction and the need for supportive housing. In order to successfully address homelessness and precarious housing, these issues must be addressed more broadly across the region and the province and with more partners at the table;
 15. Championing the role of non-profits in the delivery of housing and strengthening protections and supports for existing market and non-market housing rental stock are essential policy levers and tools available to the City and the region. This will require the protection and renewal of existing affordable housing stock in some neighbourhoods of the City while providing new rental options, social housing opportunities, and Missing Middle housing in others;
 16. A healthy city and region require diverse social infrastructure and spaces that work together to create a social infrastructure ecosystem that meets diverse community needs. It requires a range of publicly and privately owned and operated spaces, programs, and services that (directly or indirectly) support relationships and interactions between community members and community connectedness and belonging (Spaces to Thrive: Vancouver Social Infrastructure Strategy – RTS 14727);

17. A world class city begins with its neighbourhoods, which must be designed with intention in order to be inclusive, diverse places where all people can live, shop, and work, for a city that thrives and serves as a beacon to others;
18. Social procurement is a tool that leverages purchasing power. It creates and supports a range of positive social, economic, cultural, and environmental impacts, including low-barrier economic opportunities that directly and/or indirectly contribute to a person's material security, such as money for basic needs, food, access to housing, and to pay bills;
19. Homes with supports help to create safe, inclusive communities for everyone. Bringing people inside means there are fewer people outside struggling to survive. Supportive housing that is comprehensive offers:
 - a warm, safe place to call home
 - access the necessities of life such as food, washrooms, and laundry
 - begins the process to heal from the damage caused by living outside
 - Strengthened community connections
 - fundamental supports that are accessible and inclusive
 - culturally appropriate services
 - unique supports for seniors that cater to their needs
 - Indigenous wellness and healing services
 - health supports for those living with substance use disorder
 - access to mental wellness

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council affirm its support for the City's social and supportive housing strategies, which aim to deliver an increased supply of affordable social housing units, as well as a greater supply of quality, liveable supportive housing units with a robust continuum of care resources; and

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to report back on opportunities and recommendations to enact the following policy directions, in pursuit of a greater supply of high quality social and supportive housing across the City of Vancouver:

- A. Explore mechanisms and strategies to accelerate the full replacement of existing SROs in the City of Vancouver, including exploration of a pilot funding program to support the interim repair and renovation of the existing publicly and privately owned SROs on an urgent basis, in partnership with BC Housing and CMHC;

FURTHER THAT Council request that the Mayor write a letter to BC Housing and CMHC and the Provincial and Federal Ministers responsible for Housing requesting a partnership to enact this pilot program; and

FURTHER THAT Council request that the Mayor write a letter to FCM asking for their assistance in advocating to the federal government to reinstate an SRO specific funding stream as a part of the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP).

- B. Review the City's and Province's SRO strategies to determine whether culturally appropriate health services provided via pop-up on-site clinics, such as the Vancouver Urban Health Centre model, enhances housing outcomes, with consideration to endorse, advocate for, and/or pilot such health services.
- C. Report back on the impacts of aligning the City's definition of social housing and supportive housing with Provincial definitions and funding program requirements to establish clear definitions for all housing providers and operators to utilize.
- D. Explore opportunities for an improved regional approach to address the Metro Vancouver region's homelessness and housing issues.
- E. Explore options to update the DTES Area Plan, with the goal to deliver a greater number of social and supportive housing units in the DEOD to meet the needs of residents, including updated economic testing in consultation with a range of non-profit organizations, including the Province, area residents, and community-led and Indigenous-led stakeholder groups.
- F. Accelerate Council's previous direction to explore a Pre-emptive Right by-law (aka Right of First Refusal By-law), which would give the City the priority to purchase buildings or lands for sale to provide housing choices that are equitably distributed throughout the city, and report back to Council with recommendations by Q2 2024;

FURTHER THAT this shall also include recommendations on how the City can leverage a Pre-emptive Right by-law to the benefit of the VAHEF and PEF in accordance with the mandate of the City's new Housing Development Office.

- G. Explore opportunities for the City of Vancouver to partner with non-profit organizations to support low-income economic development within jurisdictional powers, such as jobs, employment, and life skills development as an intersectional approach to social policy, including advocating for a review of the "income continuum" to better stabilize people's lives and enable employment while embedding social procurement as a core consideration to enabling low-threshold economic engagement opportunities, job training, and skills development into the design of local initiatives that include, but are not limited to, renovations of SRO stock, affordable housing stock, and the like;

FURTHER THAT Council recognize and acknowledge the important role senior government plays in the wider social infrastructure ecosystem, while also recognizing the specific and unique roles the City can play on the local level where the City is best positioned to provide those initiatives.

- H. Direct staff to work with non-profit organizations to explore potential policy options and social benefit strategies that enable below-market commercial spaces (in the DTES and elsewhere in the city) to help create a diversity of spaces, programs, and services that meet community needs and enable a thriving social infrastructure ecosystem and a healthy city.

- I. Council request that the Mayor write an advocacy letter to the Province of British Columbia, on behalf of Council, seeking a greater supply of shelter spaces and supportive housing units across the Metro Vancouver region to stabilize and better support people in their home communities, including an increase in complex care housing and harm reduction and mental health services to support individuals with severe mental illness and addiction issues;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to report back before the end of Q3 2024, with a 20-year needs assessment for social housing and supportive housing in the City of Vancouver, and opportunities to incorporate this assessment into updated long-term targets for the *Housing Vancouver Strategy*.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Bligh
SECONDED by Councillor Zhou

THAT in E, the phrase “and prioritizing any opportunities for private investment in housing on rental tenure in order to limit land value increases and speculative investment in the area” be added after the word “groups”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 09681)
(Mayor Sim absent for the vote)

* * * * *

At 2:40 pm, Chair Klassen relinquished the Chair to Vice Chair Meiszner in order to make comments on the amendment and resumed the Chair at 2:45 pm.

* * * * *

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT the following be added to E:

FURTHER THAT In exploring options to update the DTES Local Area Plan, report back with consideration for resourcing a new Social Impact Assessment (SIA) specifically addressing (but not limited to) new indicators since the ratification of the DTES LAP and last partial SIA in 2019, such as construction of the new St Paul’s Hospital campus, overdose crisis, increased homelessness, global economic fluctuations, and pandemic related impacts including rise in anti-Asian hate and retail vacancies.

CARRIED (Vote No. 09682)
(Councillor Montague opposed)

The amendments having carried, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 09683).

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. The Housing Vancouver Strategy was adopted by Council in 2017 to address the city's housing crisis by targeting 72,000 new homes over 10 years (2018-2027), including policies to enable a shift to a greater supply of social, supportive, and rental housing;
2. Despite many efforts to date, we continue to have people living on the margins of life and death in our city – people who are in desperate need of better support, those who are homeless or precariously housed, some struggling with personal trauma, untreated mental illness, addiction, and chronic health issues. Health experts and police alike continue to advocate that addiction issues are best handled through the healthcare system, not the criminal justice system;
3. Many observers have cited the need for governments at all levels to rethink how we deliver social services across the spectrum. Many see the current approaches as fragmentary and incomplete and are calling for significant change, particularly with respect to our city's – and our country's – persistent and increasingly complex struggle with mental health and addiction issues, including the related struggle to provide affordable, safe housing across the housing spectrum in our city;
4. Supportive housing – particularly in the context of complex care and for those struggling with mental health, addictions, and homelessness – is commonly differentiated from social housing. In addition to providing shelter, supportive housing provides a range of on-site supports to residents, such as life-skills training and connections to off-site services such as primary health care, mental health, or substance use services that help individuals maintain housing stability. These supports help tenants stabilize their lives, enhance their independent living skills, and reconnect with their communities;¹²
5. Vancouver has over 75 per cent of the Metro Vancouver region's operating shelter spaces, over 77 per cent of the region's supportive housing units, and 50 per cent of the region's social housing, while making up 25 per cent of the region's overall population;

¹² Within the Vancouver Plan, social housing is used as a general term that also includes supportive housing and non-profit co-op housing. Social housing is rental housing where at least 30% of the dwelling units are occupied by households with incomes below housing income limits, as set out in the "Housing Income Limits" table published by BC Housing, is owned by a non-profit corporation, a non-profit co-operative association, or by or on behalf of the City, the Province of British Columbia, or Canada, and secured by a housing agreement or other legal commitment (as defined in City of Vancouver Zoning & Development Bylaw). These types of housing also meet the definition of social housing within the City's Zoning & Development Bylaw.
<https://vancouverplan.ca/wp-content/uploads/Vancouver-Plan-2022-09-23-1.pdf>

6. Connecting people to the care they need is often the crucial first step on the long road to greater mental and physical health and well-being, and housing is at the core of any successful social and supportive housing plan. Vancouver's Healthy City Strategy promotes an integrated approach to human services to ensure that all Vancouverites can have access to the services they need to thrive;
7. The Vancouver Plan is the City's long-range land use plan. It builds on the Housing Vancouver Strategy and is intended to guide growth and change in the city over the next 30 years. Its purpose is to establish a unified vision for future land use, with policies to help Vancouver become a more liveable, affordable, sustainable city with a strong economy – "A city that is inclusive, diverse, and works for everyone.";
8. As the Vancouver Plan states:

"Adequate housing is a fundamental human right. Everyone from low-income residents and newcomers, to seniors, young people, and growing families, should have access to housing that is adequate, secure, and affordable. The existing housing system is not meeting the needs of Vancouver's current or growing population.... To address this disparity, new rental and social housing will be enabled in all neighbourhoods. Policies contained in the section also address preserving affordability in areas with existing rental and social housing... Collectively these policies will result in more inclusive and affordable neighbourhoods across the city.";
9. Direction 1.4 of the Vancouver Plan (i.e., Community Housing – Part 5 section 1) speaks directly to the question of social and supportive housing and seeks to "Significantly increase the supply of social and supportive housing" and support the growth of the community housing sector through land use policy and zoning approaches (including pre-zoning), financial incentives, streamlined approval processes, and by creating stronger partnerships between the City and the community housing sector to support the sector in capacity building;¹³
10. The community housing sector is made up of non-profit housing providers that own, develop, or manage social, co-op, or supportive housing. Many community housing non-profits provide affordable, stable homes for households earning low to moderate-incomes, and are able to serve specific, and oftentimes highly specific, needs;¹⁴
11. Social housing has become increasingly important in the city due to rising rental prices, yet it makes up less than 10 per cent of Vancouver's overall housing stock. As noted in the Vancouver Plan, "The existing housing system is not meeting the needs of Vancouver's current or growing population," and "housing opportunities are not evenly distributed across the city.";

¹³ Direction 1.3: (Homelessness) seeks to "Address homelessness by ensuring every person has access to permanent secure housing with a range of diverse supports."

¹⁴ i Since 2019, approximately 1,500 social and supportive homes have opened in Vancouver. There are approximately 1,700 units currently under construction. <https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/supportivehousing.aspx>

12. As of January 2023, there are 146 open Single Room Occupancy (SRO) buildings in the City of Vancouver containing 6,500 units. Assuming that a conservative target is to see the replacement of one SRO building per year, it will take almost 150 years to transition the City's SRO stock to a renewed supply of self-contained, dignified units that achieve the minimum standards of liveability;
13. Only two projects, 288 East Hastings Street and Olivia Skye at 41 E Hastings, have been built in the Downtown Eastside Oppenheimer District (DEOD) since the Downtown Eastside Plan was approved by Council in 2014, which requires a 60/40 housing mix;
14. Homelessness is a regional issue, as are the issues of mental health and addiction and the need for supportive housing. In order to successfully address homelessness and precarious housing, these issues must be addressed more broadly across the region and the province and with more partners at the table;
15. Championing the role of non-profits in the delivery of housing and strengthening protections and supports for existing market and non-market housing rental stock are essential policy levers and tools available to the City and the region. This will require the protection and renewal of existing affordable housing stock in some neighbourhoods of the City while providing new rental options, social housing opportunities, and Missing Middle housing in others;¹⁵
16. A healthy city and region require diverse social infrastructure and spaces that work together to create a social infrastructure ecosystem that meets diverse community needs. It requires a range of publicly and privately owned and operated spaces, programs, and services that (directly or indirectly) support relationships and interactions between community members and community connectedness and belonging (Spaces to Thrive: Vancouver Social Infrastructure Strategy – RTS 14727);
17. A world class city begins with its neighbourhoods, which must be designed with intention in order to be inclusive, diverse places where all people can live, shop, and work, for a city that thrives and serves as a beacon to others;
18. Social procurement is a tool that leverages purchasing power. It creates and supports a range of positive social, economic, cultural, and environmental impacts, including low-barrier economic opportunities that directly and/or indirectly contribute to a person's material security, such as money for basic needs, food, access to housing, and to pay bills;
19. Homes with supports help to create safe, inclusive communities for everyone. Bringing people inside means there are fewer people outside struggling to survive. Supportive housing that is comprehensive offers:
 - a warm, safe place to call home

¹⁵ Section 1 of Part 5 of the Vancouver Plan outlines eleven policy areas that underpin the overall Land Use Strategy. Each of these eleven policy sections includes a Vision Statement that reflects the optimal desired state to be achieved <https://vancouverplan.ca/wp-content/uploads/Vancouver-Plan-2022-09-23-1.pdf>. In order to achieve the "optimal desired state" it will require partnerships from all levels of government, community, and the private sector to address needs and improve our housing system.

- access the necessities of life such as food, washrooms, and laundry
- begins the process to heal from the damage caused by living outside
- Strengthened community connections
- fundamental supports that are accessible and inclusive
- culturally appropriate services
- unique supports for seniors that cater to their needs
- Indigenous wellness and healing services
- health supports for those living with substance use disorder
- access to mental wellness

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council affirm its support for the City's social and supportive housing strategies, which aim to deliver an increased supply of affordable social housing units, as well as a greater supply of quality, liveable supportive housing units with a robust continuum of care resources; and

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to report back on opportunities and recommendations to enact the following policy directions, in pursuit of a greater supply of high quality social and supportive housing across the City of Vancouver:

- A. Explore mechanisms and strategies to accelerate the full replacement of existing SROs in the City of Vancouver, including exploration of a pilot funding program to support the interim repair and renovation of the existing publicly and privately owned SROs on an urgent basis, in partnership with BC Housing and CMHC;

FURTHER THAT Council request that the Mayor write a letter to BC Housing and CMHC and the Provincial and Federal Ministers responsible for Housing requesting a partnership to enact this pilot program;

AND FURTHER THAT Council request that the Mayor write a letter to FCM asking for their assistance in advocating to the federal government to reinstate an SRO specific funding stream as a part of the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP).

- B. Review the City's and Province's SRO strategies to determine whether culturally appropriate health services provided via pop-up on-site clinics, such as the Vancouver Urban Health Centre model, enhances housing outcomes, with consideration to endorse, advocate for, and/or pilot such health services.
- C. Report back on the impacts of aligning the City's definition of social housing and supportive housing with Provincial definitions and funding program requirements to establish clear definitions for all housing providers and operators to utilize.
- D. Explore opportunities for an improved regional approach to address the Metro Vancouver region's homelessness and housing issues.
- E. Explore options to update the DTES Area Plan, with the goal to deliver a greater number of social and supportive housing units in the DEOD to meet the needs of residents, including updated economic testing in consultation

with a range of non-profit organizations, including the Province, area residents, and community-led and Indigenous-led stakeholder groups, and prioritizing any opportunities for private investment in housing on rental tenure in order to limit land value increases and speculative investment in the area;

FURTHER THAT In exploring options to update the DTES Local Area Plan, report back with consideration for resourcing a new Social Impact Assessment (SIA) specifically addressing (but not limited to) new indicators since the ratification of the DTES LAP and last partial SIA in 2019, such as construction of the new St Paul's Hospital campus, overdose crisis, increased homelessness, global economic fluctuations, and pandemic related impacts including rise in anti-Asian hate and retail vacancies.

- F. Accelerate Council's previous direction to explore a Pre-emptive Right by-law (aka Right of First Refusal By-law), which would give the City the priority to purchase buildings or lands for sale to provide housing choices that are equitably distributed throughout the city, and report back to Council with recommendations by Q2 2024;

FURTHER THAT this shall also include recommendations on how the City can leverage a Pre-emptive Right by-law to the benefit of the VAHEF and PEF in accordance with the mandate of the City's new Housing Development Office.

- G. Explore opportunities for the City of Vancouver to partner with non-profit organizations to support low-income economic development within jurisdictional powers, such as jobs, employment, and life skills development as an intersectional approach to social policy, including advocating for a review of the "income continuum" to better stabilize people's lives and enable employment while embedding social procurement as a core consideration to enabling low-threshold economic engagement opportunities, job training, and skills development into the design of local initiatives that include, but are not limited to, renovations of SRO stock, affordable housing stock, and the like;

FURTHER THAT Council recognize and acknowledge the important role senior government plays in the wider social infrastructure ecosystem, while also recognizing the specific and unique roles the City can play on the local level where the City is best positioned to provide those initiatives.

- H. Direct staff to work with non-profit organizations to explore potential policy options and social benefit strategies that enable below-market commercial spaces (in the DTES and elsewhere in the city) to help create a diversity of spaces, programs, and services that meet community needs and enable a thriving social infrastructure ecosystem and a healthy city.

- I. Council request that the Mayor write an advocacy letter to the Province of British Columbia, on behalf of Council, seeking a greater supply of shelter spaces and supportive housing units across the Metro Vancouver region to stabilize and better support people in their home communities, including an increase in complex care housing and harm reduction and mental health

services to support individuals with severe mental illness and addiction issues;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to report back before the end of Q3 2024, with a 20-year needs assessment for social housing and supportive housing in the City of Vancouver, and opportunities to incorporate this assessment into updated long-term targets for the *Housing Vancouver Strategy*.

5. Transparency and Accountability in Conducting Council Business

The Committee heard from two speakers in support, and one speaker who made general comments on the motion.

MOVED by Councillor Fry
SECONDED by Councillor Boyle

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. In taking the Oath of Office, members of Vancouver City Council solemnly affirm to be accountable for decisions they make and actions they take in the course of their duties;
2. The business of Council takes place in either open or closed (in camera) meetings, and generally, the rules and functions of those meetings are set out in the provincially legislated Vancouver Charter and the City's Procedure By-law;
3. The Procedure By-law regulates the procedures of Council, its committees and other bodies, including general meeting procedures, conduct of Council members and speakers, agendas, keeping of minutes, role of the Chair, and rules of order;
4. Members of the public and representative bodies can speak to reports at open meetings that contain recommendations as provided in Part 7 of the Procedure By-law;
5. Where public testimonials may be incomplete or prompt a need for more information, Section 7.7(a) allowed Council to ask clarifying questions of speakers. In the May 2023 report, "Amendments to the Procedure By-law No. 12577", staff recommended reducing the time for questions from three minutes to one minute. The report was subsequently amended to eliminate questions altogether. Without the option to ask clarifying questions, it is difficult for Councillors to demonstrate accountability to the community;
6. Meeting sessions held in camera are the portions of meetings that are not open to the public due to the sensitive nature of the information shared. The Procedure By-law does not explicitly provide guidance on in camera meetings;

7. In Vancouver, the criteria for holding meetings in camera are set out in section 165.2 of the Vancouver Charter iii and broadly includes HR and personal issues, labour relations, land deals, litigation, and information (often timely) that may harm the interests of the City. The Vancouver Charter does not expressly provide that the subject matter, disclosure, discussion, decision, or votes cast must be treated as confidential;
8. While the Vancouver Charter is not explicit on the extent of confidentiality, the analogous Community Charter iv does identify that under section 117(1): “A council member or former council member must... keep in confidence information considered in any part of a council meeting or council committee meeting that was lawfully closed to the public, until the council or committee discusses the information at a meeting that is open to the public or releases the information to the public”;
9. While the rules around in camera differ between local governments, in many provinces, best practices suggest that although in camera discussions are held in private, as much as possible:
 - a. decisions or motions should be made publicly in open meeting,
 - b. justifications for going in-camera should be as explicit as possible, and
 - c. there should be options to release or withhold in-camera material following the closed meeting at a subsequent open meeting;

For example, the Province of Alberta advises “[participants] included in the closed session are required to keep in confidence what was discussed until the item is discussed at a meeting held in public”;

In its 2012 report, the BC Ombudsperson suggests a determination of how much to disclose should be made on a case-by-case basis keeping in mind the importance of transparency;

“Sometimes the level of confidentiality afforded by closed meetings is necessary to pass resolutions that ensure the orderly functioning of the local government. Some matters must be discussed entirely in confidence. Passing resolutions in closed meetings however, can never be used to conceal the decision-making process from the legitimate gaze of the public. Indeed, local governments should always try to provide as much information as possible about any resolutions passed during closed meetings, including when possible, the considerations on which they were based.” ;

10. Meetings held in camera can and should be a “safe space” for discussion. To facilitate that, best practices suggest discussions should not be captured in notes or minutes. The Province of Alberta strongly recommends that, “a closed session discussion not be recorded as any notes or minutes taken during the discussion may become part of a FOIP request.” However, while respecting safe space for

discussion, accountability for the outcomes of those discussions should provide a counter balance;

11. As a matter of practice, the City of Vancouver releases in camera decisions and reports specifically and only “because they are no longer considered sensitive”. These releases do not include the voting records of decisions made or minutes of discussion;
12. Following the release of an in camera decision on the Living Wage Program by the City of Vancouver in March 2023, one Councillor indicated how they voted while two Councillors indicated their position on the issue but not explicit vote. The former Councillor was subsequently subject of a code of conduct complaint for disclosing their vote, costing good will and taxpayer funds to resolve, and illustrating the lack of clarity around in camera procedure. A subsequent investigation by the Integrity Commissioner for the City of Vancouver showed that the City has been unclear and inconsistent with regard to disclosure of in camera votes and recommended the City adopt a clear policy that clarifies expectations for Council about how, if ever, a Councillor can say how they voted in an in camera meeting; and
13. A further bulletin by the Integrity Commissioner for the City of Vancouver highlighted the Open Meeting Principle, and its importance to municipal democratic process; specifically highlighting the requirement to allow for public discussion and consideration of the matter before any vote is made by Councillors. With affirmation that if a majority or caucus of Councillors are informally gathering to discuss a matter it must be transparent and accessible to the public.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council affirms the principles of accountability for decisions and actions taken during the course of their duties should apply as rigorously as possible.
- B. THAT Council request staff to report back with a proposed amendment to Part 7 of the *Procedure By-law* that includes a provision for a member of Council to request, at the discretion of the chair, to ask clarifying questions of speakers for 1 minute.
- C. THAT Council request staff to report back with proposed amendments to the *Procedure By-law* to regulate the procedures of Council within and with regard to closed in camera meetings, which require:
 - i. Open meeting justifications for going in camera that are as explicit as possible;
 - ii. Wherever advisable, decisions to take place in open meetings; and
 - iii. Where decisions take place in a closed session, provision for a specific decision to withhold voting results if necessary, and rationale for why.

- D. THAT pending amendments to the Procedure By-law with regard to in camera meetings, staff are directed to include votes or rationale for withholding votes when future in camera decisions and reports are deemed no longer sensitive and published on the City website.
- E. THAT Staff are directed to summarize as explicitly as possible what in camera meetings were held at the next available open meeting, and to advise Council of the publication of any in camera items deemed no longer sensitive as part of regular Council reporting agenda.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Montague
SECONDED by Councillor Meiszner

THAT B, C (iii), and D be struck;

FURTHER THAT in C the phrase “regulate the procedures of Council within and with regard to closed in camera meetings, which require” be struck and replaced with “provide additional guidance on in-camera meeting procedures not otherwise explicitly provided for in the By-law, toward a clear policy that clarifies the expectations for Council to abide by, with consideration of but not limited to”;

The amendment having CARRIED (Vote No. 09684) with Councillors Boyle, Carr, and Fry opposed, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED (Vote No. 09685) with Councillors Carr and Fry opposed.

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. In taking the Oath of Office, members of Vancouver City Council solemnly affirm to be accountable for decisions they make and actions they take in the course of their duties;
2. The business of Council takes place in either open or closed (in camera) meetings, and generally, the rules and functions of those meetings are set out in the provincially legislated Vancouver Charter and the City’s Procedure By-law¹⁶;
3. The Procedure By-law regulates the procedures of Council, its committees and other bodies, including general meeting procedures, conduct of Council members and speakers, agendas, keeping of minutes, role of the Chair, and rules of order;
4. Members of the public and representative bodies can speak to reports at open meetings that contain recommendations as provided in Part 7 of the Procedure By-law;

¹⁶ Vancouver | Procedure By-law No 12577 <https://bylaws.vancouver.ca/12577c.PDF>

5. Where public testimonials may be incomplete or prompt a need for more information, Section 7.7(a) allowed Council to ask clarifying questions of speakers. In the May 2023 report, “Amendments to the Procedure By-law No. 12577”¹⁷, staff recommended reducing the time for questions from three minutes to one minute. The report was subsequently amended to eliminate questions altogether. Without the option to ask clarifying questions, it is difficult for Councillors to demonstrate accountability to the community;
6. Meeting sessions held in camera are the portions of meetings that are not open to the public due to the sensitive nature of the information shared. The Procedure By-law does not explicitly provide guidance on in camera meetings;
7. In Vancouver, the criteria for holding meetings in camera are set out in section 165.2 of the Vancouver Charter¹⁸ and broadly includes HR and personal issues, labour relations, land deals, litigation, and information (often timely) that may harm the interests of the City. The Vancouver Charter does not expressly provide that the subject matter, disclosure, discussion, decision, or votes cast must be treated as confidential;
8. While the Vancouver Charter is not explicit on the extent of confidentiality, the analogous Community Charter¹⁹ does identify that under section 117(1): “A council member or former council member must... keep in confidence information considered in any part of a council meeting or council committee meeting that was lawfully closed to the public, until the council or committee discusses the information at a meeting that is open to the public or releases the information to the public”;
9. While the rules around in camera differ between local governments, in many provinces, best practices suggest that although in camera discussions are held in private, as much as possible:
 - a. decisions or motions should be made publicly in open meeting,
 - b. justifications for going in-camera should be as explicit as possible, and
 - c. there should be options to release or withhold in-camera material following the closed meeting at a subsequent open meeting;

For example, the Province of Alberta advises “[participants] included in the closed session are required to keep in confidence what was discussed until the item is discussed at a meeting held in public”,^{20 21 22}

¹⁷ Vancouver | Amendments to the Procedure By-law No. 12577 <https://council.vancouver.ca/20230509/documents/r4.pdf>

¹⁸ BC Laws | Vancouver Charter s.165.2, Meetings that may or must be closed to the public https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/vanch_04#section165.2

¹⁹ BC Laws | Community Charter section 117, Confidentiality https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/03026_05#section117

²⁰ Province of Ontario | Running Effective Meetings Guidebook <https://www.ontario.ca/page/running-effective-meetings-guidebook>

²¹ Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities | Best Practices for In-Camera Sessions <https://www.nsfm.ca/2019-nsfm-spring-conference-presentations/1302-best-practices-for-incamera-sessions/file.html>

²² Alberta Municipal Affairs and Legislative Division | Closed Meetings of Council <http://municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/documents/Closed%20Meetings%20of%20Council.pdf>

In its 2012 report, the BC Ombudsperson suggests a determination of how much to disclose should be made on a case-by-case basis keeping in mind the importance of transparency;²³

“Sometimes the level of confidentiality afforded by closed meetings is necessary to pass resolutions that ensure the orderly functioning of the local government. Some matters must be discussed entirely in confidence. Passing resolutions in closed meetings however, can never be used to conceal the decision-making process from the legitimate gaze of the public. Indeed, local governments should always try to provide as much information as possible about any resolutions passed during closed meetings, including when possible, the considerations on which they were based.” ;

10. Meetings held in camera can and should be a “safe space” for discussion. To facilitate that, best practices suggest discussions should not be captured in notes or minutes. The Province of Alberta strongly recommends that, “a closed session discussion not be recorded as any notes or minutes taken during the discussion may become part of a FOIP request.”²⁴ However, while respecting safe space for discussion, accountability for the outcomes of those discussions should provide a counter balance;
11. As a matter of practice, the City of Vancouver releases in camera decisions and reports specifically and only “because they are no longer considered sensitive”²⁵. These releases do not include the voting records of decisions made or minutes of discussion;
12. Following the release of an in camera decision on the Living Wage Program by the City of Vancouver in March 2023, one Councillor indicated how they voted while two Councillors indicated their position on the issue but not explicit vote. The former Councillor was subsequently subject of a code of conduct complaint for disclosing their vote, costing good will and taxpayer funds to resolve, and illustrating the lack of clarity around in camera procedure. A subsequent investigation by the Integrity Commissioner for the City of Vancouver showed that the City has been unclear and inconsistent with regard to disclosure of in camera votes and recommended the City adopt a clear policy that clarifies expectations for Council about how, if ever, a Councillor can say how they voted in an in camera meeting²⁶; and
13. A further bulletin by the Integrity Commissioner for the City of Vancouver highlighted the Open Meeting Principle, and its importance to municipal

²³ BC Ombudsperson | Open Meetings: Best Practices Guide for Local Governments

<https://bcombudsperson.ca/assets/media/Special-Report-No-34-Open-Meetings-Best-PracticesGuide-for-Local-Governments.pdf>

²⁴ City of Vancouver | Information released from in-camera meetings

<https://covapp.vancouver.ca/councilMeetingPublic/InCameraInfoReleases.aspx>

²⁵ City of Vancouver | Information released from in-camera meetings

<https://covapp.vancouver.ca/councilMeetingPublic/InCameraInfoReleases.aspx>

²⁶ | Lisa Southern, Integrity Commissioner, City of Vancouver | Report September 29, 2023 <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/integrity-commissioner-investigation-report-september-29-2023.pdf>

democratic process; specifically highlighting the requirement to allow for public discussion and consideration of the matter before any vote is made by Councillors. With affirmation that if a majority or caucus of Councillors are informally gathering to discuss a matter it must be transparent and accessible to the public.²⁷

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council affirms the principles of accountability for decisions and actions taken during the course of their duties should apply as rigorously as possible.
- B. THAT Council request staff to report back with proposed amendments to the Procedure By-law to provide additional guidance on in-camera meeting procedures not otherwise explicitly provided for in the By-law, toward a clear policy that clarifies the expectations for Council to abide by, with consideration of but not limited to:
 - i. Open meeting justifications for going in camera that are as explicit as possible;
 - ii. Wherever advisable, decisions to take place in open meetings.
- C. THAT Staff are directed to summarize as explicitly as possible what in camera meetings were held at the next available open meeting, and to advise Council of the publication of any in camera items deemed no longer sensitive as part of regular Council reporting agenda.

The Committee adjourned at 3:57 pm.

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²⁷ Lisa Southern, Integrity Commissioner, City of Vancouver | Open Meeting Principle <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/integrity-commissioner-bulletin-2023-03.pdf>



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

NOVEMBER 29, 2023

A meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, at 3:57 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: Mayor Ken Sim
Councillor Rebecca Bligh
Councillor Christine Boyle
Councillor Adriane Carr
Councillor Lisa Dominato
Councillor Pete Fry
Councillor Mike Klassen
Councillor Peter Meiszner
Councillor Brian Montague
Councillor Lenny Zhou

ABSENT: Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Tina Penney, Deputy City Clerk
Cassia Nasralla, Meeting Coordinator

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities
Wednesday, November 29, 2023

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

Reports:

1. Childcare Strategy Implementation Phase 1 Update and Next Steps
2. Joining UN-Habitat's Quality of Life Initiative as a Pilot City
3. Changes to the Procurement Policy and Delegated Authority
4. 111 West Hastings Street Unit 10 (Basement Level)
351 Abbott Street Unit 110 (Main Floor)
Kokoro Dance Theatre Society
Liquor Primary Liquor Licence Application
Liquor Establishment – Venue
5. Mountain View Cemetery - 2024 Fee Increases and Adjustments

Council Members' Motions:

1. Requests for Leaves of Absence
2. Trans, Gender Diverse and Two-Spirit (TGD2S) Inclusion and Safety Action Plan
3. Regularizing Road Paint Maintenance for Safety
4. Uplifting the Downtown Eastside and Building Inclusive Communities that Work for All Residents
5. Transparency and Accountability in Conducting Council Business

MOVED by Councillor Zhou

SECONDED by Councillor Meiszner

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities at its meeting of November 29, 2023, as contained in Reports 1 through 5 and Council Members' Motions 1 through 5, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Zhou

SECONDED by Councillor Klassen

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council adjourned at 3:58 pm.

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