



## REPORT TO COUNCIL

### STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON POLICY AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

APRIL 2, 2025

A meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on Policy and Strategic Priorities was held on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at 9:45 am, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall. This Council meeting was convened in person and via electronic means as authorized by the Part 14 of the *Procedure By-law*.

- PRESENT:** Councillor Peter Meiszner, Chair  
Mayor Ken Sim  
Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung  
Councillor Mike Klassen  
Councillor Brian Montague  
Councillor Lenny Zhou
- ABSENT:** Councillor Rebecca Bligh (Leave of Absence – Civic Business)  
Councillor Lisa Dominato, Vice Chair (Leave of Absence – Civic Business)  
Councillor Pete Fry (Leave of Absence – Civic Business)
- CITY MANAGER’S OFFICE:** Paul Mochrie, City Manager  
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager
- CITY CLERK’S OFFICE:** Lesley Matthews, Acting Deputy City Clerk  
Irina Dragnea, Meeting Coordinator  
Connie Law, Meeting Coordinator

### 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 Klassen  
SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council adopt Reports 2 and 3 on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## PRESENTATIONS

### 1. Vancouver Fire Rescue Services Wildfire Risk Report

The Fire Chief, Vancouver Fire Rescue Services provided a presentation, and along with staff from Vancouver Fire Rescue Services, responded to questions.

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*Following questions to staff on Presentation 1 - Vancouver Fire Rescue Services Wildfire Risk Report, Chair Meiszner relinquished the Chair to Deputy Mayor Klassen in order to participate in debate and returned as Chair once finished.*

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MOVED by Councillor Meiszner  
SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council direct staff to report back in 2026 with an update on mitigation of wildland-urban interface (WUI) fire risks for the City of Vancouver.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10606)

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*The Committee recessed at 10:44 am and reconvened at 10:50 am*

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## REPORTS

### 1. Change Order to Consulting Services Agreement for the Healthy Waters Plan March 7, 2025

Staff from Engineering Services responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Zhou  
SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council authorize City staff to negotiate a \$1,704,290 change order to an existing agreement with Brown and Caldwell Consultants Canada Ltd., resulting in an estimated new total contract value of \$6,423,260, such change order to be funded from approved Multiyear Capital Project Budget within the 2023-2026 Clean Water Planning program and the 2023-2026 Capital Plan for the Targeted Combined Sewer Overflow separation program.
- B. THAT Council delegate its authority to execute the change order to the City's Director of Legal Services, Chief Procurement Officer, and General Manager of Engineering Services.
- C. THAT no legal rights or obligations will be created by Council's approval of A and B above unless and until the City executes and delivers the change order.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10607)

**2. Approval of Change Orders to Professional Services Agreement No. PS20220048-ENG-RFP Consultant for Trenchless Sewer Design and Contract Administration March 4, 2025**

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council authorize City staff to negotiate to the satisfaction of the City's General Manager of Engineering Services, City's Director of Legal Services, and the Chief Procurement Officer, change orders to add scope to Professional Services Agreement No. PS20220048-ENG-RFP Consultant for Trenchless Sewer Design and Contract Administration with GHD Limited for the Victoria Broadway Area Renewal project. The additional scope of the recommended change orders would increase the term of the agreement by approximately four (4) years, and add an incremental value of \$4,900,000 (including contingency and contract administration services), for an estimated total contract value of \$6,700,000 and total term of nine (9) years. Funding for the Trenchless Sewer Design is included in the approved Multiyear Capital Program Budget for the 2023-2026 Sewer Main - Grandview Catchment Area Program (CES-00101).
- B. THAT Council delegate its authority to execute the Change Orders to the City's Director of Legal Services, Chief Procurement Officer, and General Manager of Engineering Services.
- C. THAT no legal rights or obligations will be created by Council's approval of A and B above unless and until the City executes and delivers the Agreement.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT (Vote No. 10610)

**3. Contract Award for Construction Services for Upgrading the Thornton Pump Station  
March 5, 2025**

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council authorize City staff to negotiate an agreement for Construction Services for Upgrading the Thornton Pump Station with Bennett Construction Group for an estimated total contract value of \$10,760,700 over the initial 2-year term (the "Agreement"), which will be funded by the 2023-2026 Capital Plan through the Utility Development Cost Levies (UDCL) and Upgrade & Replace Pump Station programs.
- B. THAT Council delegate its authority to execute the Agreement to the City's Director of Legal Services, Chief Procurement Officer, and General Manager of Engineering Services.
- C. THAT no legal rights or obligations will be created by Council's approval of A and B above unless and until the City executes and delivers the Agreement.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT (Vote No. 10611)

**COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTIONS**

**1. Supporting Local Businesses: A Proactive Approach to Retail Security**

MOVED by Councillor Montague  
SECONDED by Councillor Zhou

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. Retail merchants in the City of Vancouver, particularly in the downtown core, are experiencing an unprecedented increase in retail theft, leading to significant financial losses and jeopardizing their ability to continue operating;
2. Many businesses have reported that the severity and frequency of retail theft are unsustainable, with some facing potential closure as a result;
3. Business owners and their employees – many of whom are women and young people – are experiencing an escalation in violent interactions with increasingly unpredictable and brazen shoplifters;
4. Recent data presented by the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) shows an 11.7 per cent jump in reported shoplifting incidents city-wide in 2024: An increase to 7,686 reported incidents. This number is considered to be a small fraction of the total number due to significant under-reporting of shoplifting incidents;

5. Retail theft has far-reaching consequences, including economic losses, reduced consumer confidence, and negative impacts on public safety and community well-being;
6. Addressing retail theft effectively requires a comprehensive and coordinated approach involving key stakeholders, including business owners, law enforcement, social service agencies, municipal and provincial authorities; and
7. A dedicated Type D task force would provide a structured approach to engaging stakeholders, analyzing data, addressing complex issues, and developing actionable, evidence-based recommendations tailored to Vancouver's retail security needs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Vancouver City Council direct staff to establish a Type D task force titled the Retail Security Task Force, comprising representatives from the Vancouver Police Department (VPD), local business improvement associations (BIAs), retail merchants, legal experts, social service organizations, and other relevant stakeholders, including provincial government representatives.
- B. THAT the Retail Security Task Force be tasked with conducting a thorough assessment of the root causes and impacts of retail theft, including but not limited to organized retail crime, social factors, enforcement challenges, and existing legislative and policy frameworks.
- C. THAT the task force engage with affected businesses, law enforcement, community organizations, and key stakeholders from other jurisdictions that have successfully mitigated retail theft to gather their input on best practices.
- D. THAT the task force prepare and submit a comprehensive report to Vancouver City Council within six (6) months of its formation, outlining its findings and providing evidence-based recommendations for immediate, short-term, and long-term solutions and strategies to reduce retail theft and enhance business security;

FURTHER THAT following presentation of the task force report, Vancouver City Council direct staff to explore potential funding and partnership opportunities with provincial and federal governments, as well as private sector stakeholders, to support the implementation of the task force's recommendations.

amended

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*The Committee recessed at 11:08 am and reconvened at 11:19 am*

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AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Montague  
SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT A be amended as follows:

- Inserting the words “endorse the creation of a Mayor’s Task Force (type D advisory committee)”, after the word “Council”;
- Deleting the words “direct staff to establish a Type D task force”; and
- Inserting the words “with membership and terms of reference to be established by the Mayor”, after the words “Retail Security Task Force”;

FURTHER THAT D be amended by deleting the “FURTHER THAT” clause.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10608)

The amendment having carried, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10609).

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*During debate on Council Members’ Motion 1 - Supporting Local Businesses: A Proactive Approach to Retail Security, Chair Meiszner relinquished the Chair to Deputy Mayor Klassen in order to participate in debate and returned as Chair once finished.*

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## **FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED**

WHEREAS

1. Retail merchants in the City of Vancouver, particularly in the downtown core, are experiencing an unprecedented increase in retail theft, leading to significant financial losses and jeopardizing their ability to continue operating;
2. Many businesses have reported that the severity and frequency of retail theft are unsustainable, with some facing potential closure as a result;
3. Business owners and their employees – many of whom are women and young people – are experiencing an escalation in violent interactions with increasingly unpredictable and brazen shoplifters;
4. Recent data presented by the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) shows an 11.7 per cent jump in reported shoplifting incidents city-wide in 2024: An increase to 7,686 reported incidents. This number is considered to be a small fraction of the total number due to significant under-reporting of shoplifting incidents;
5. Retail theft has far-reaching consequences, including economic losses, reduced consumer confidence, and negative impacts on public safety and community well-being;

6. Addressing retail theft effectively requires a comprehensive and coordinated approach involving key stakeholders, including business owners, law enforcement, social service agencies, municipal and provincial authorities; and
7. A dedicated Type D task force would provide a structured approach to engaging stakeholders, analyzing data, addressing complex issues, and developing actionable, evidence-based recommendations tailored to Vancouver's retail security needs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Vancouver City Council endorse the creation of a Mayor's Task Force (type D advisory committee), titled the Retail Security Task Force, with membership and terms of reference to be established by the Mayor comprising representatives from the Vancouver Police Department (VPD), local business improvement associations (BIAs), retail merchants, legal experts, social service organizations, and other relevant stakeholders, including provincial government representatives.
- B. THAT the Retail Security Task Force be tasked with conducting a thorough assessment of the root causes and impacts of retail theft, including but not limited to organized retail crime, social factors, enforcement challenges, and existing legislative and policy frameworks.
- C. THAT the task force engage with affected businesses, law enforcement, community organizations, and key stakeholders from other jurisdictions that have successfully mitigated retail theft to gather their input on best practices.
- D. THAT the task force prepare and submit a comprehensive report to Council within six (6) months of its formation, outlining its findings and providing evidence-based recommendations for immediate, short-term, and long-term solutions and strategies to reduce retail theft and enhance business security.

The Committee adjourned at 11:22 am.

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

**APRIL 2, 2025**

A meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at 11:22 am, 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 Sarah Kirby-Yung  
Councillor Mike Klassen  
Councillor Peter Meiszner  
Councillor Brian Montague  
Councillor Lenny Zhou

**ABSENT:**

Councillor Rebecca Bligh (Leave of Absence – Civic Business)  
Councillor Lisa Dominato, Vice Chair (Leave of Absence – Civic Business)  
Councillor Pete Fry (Leave of Absence – Civic Business)

**CITY MANAGER’S OFFICE:**

Paul Mochrie, City Manager

**CITY CLERK’S OFFICE:**

Lesley Matthews, Acting Deputy City Clerk  
Irina Dragnea, Meeting Coordinator  
Connie Law, Meeting Coordinator

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Report of Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities  
Wednesday, April 02, 2025

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

Presentations:

1. Vancouver Fire Rescue Services Wildfire Risk Report

Reports:

1. Change Order to Consulting Services Agreement for the Healthy Waters Plan
2. Approval of Change Orders to Professional Services Agreement No. PS20220048-ENG-RFP Consultant for Trenchless Sewer Design and Contract Administration
3. Contract Award for Construction Services for Upgrading the Thornton Pump Station



Council Members' Motions:

1. Supporting Local Businesses: A Proactive Approach to Retail Security

MOVED by Councillor Montague  
SECONDED by Councillor Zhou

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities at its meeting of April 2, 2025, as contained in Presentation 1, Reports 1 through 3, and Council Members' Motion 1, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Councillor Klassen  
SECONDED by Councillor Montague

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council adjourned at 11:23 am.

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