



REPORT TO COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON CITY FINANCE AND SERVICES

MAY 21, 2025

A meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on City Finance and Services was held on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 9:36 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 Lenny Zhou, Chair
- Councillor Rebecca Bligh*
- Councillor Mike Klassen, Vice Chair
- Councillor Peter Meiszner
- Mayor Ken Sim*
- Councillor Lisa Dominato
- Councillor Pete Fry
- Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung*
- Councillor Lucy Maloney
- Councillor Brian Montague
- Councillor Sean Orr

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Paul Mochrie, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Tina Penney, Deputy City Clerk
Olivia Kam, 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 Kirby-Yung
SECONDED by Councillor Fry

THAT the Committee adopt Report 3 on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

1. **Urban Forest Strategy – 2025 Update May 20, 2025**

Staff from the Board of Parks & Recreation provided a presentation and responded to questions.

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During questions to staff, it was

MOVED by Councillor Fry

SECONDED by Councillor Klassen

THAT under section 5.4(e) of the Procedure By-law, the Committee be permitted to ask a second round of questions.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Councillor Kirby-Yung and Mayor Sim absent for the vote)

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The Committee heard from two speakers who provided general comments on the report.

MOVED by Councillor Klassen

SECONDED by Councillor Bligh

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council adopt the 2025 Urban Forest Strategy as shown in Appendix A of the Report dated May 20, 2025, entitled “Urban Forest Strategy – 2025 Update” and direct staff to advance the three short-term high priority actions to maintain and protect, plan and expand canopy and work cross-departmentally to establish an associated budget allocation.
- B. THAT staff report back in mid-2026 with long-term canopy cover targets by land-use and neighbourhood with a supplementary 4-year action plan.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Klassen

SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the following be added as C:

THAT staff explore innovative ways to reduce urban heat islands in neighbourhoods with minimal tree canopy cover, particularly in public areas where trees have struggled to grow or in areas where space constraints limit traditional tree planting, including looking at the feasibility of piloting vegetated shade structures—such as the *GreenShades*¹ system successfully implemented in European cities—as part of the Urban Forest Strategy’s approach to urban cooling and equitable canopy coverage;

FURTHER THAT staff report back on potential locations, costs, and implementation options as part of the 2026 action plan update.

CARRIED (Vote No. 10715)
(Councillor Maloney opposed)

The amendment having carried, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10716).

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

- A. THAT Council adopt the 2025 Urban Forest Strategy as shown in Appendix A of the Report dated May 20, 2025, entitled “Urban Forest Strategy – 2025 Update” and direct staff to advance the three short-term high priority actions to maintain and protect, plan and expand canopy and work cross-departmentally to establish an associated budget allocation.
- B. THAT staff report back in mid-2026 with long-term canopy cover targets by land-use and neighbourhood with a supplementary 4-year action plan.
- C. THAT staff explore innovative ways to reduce urban heat islands in neighbourhoods with minimal tree canopy cover, particularly in public areas where trees have struggled to grow or in areas where space constraints limit traditional tree planting, including looking at the feasibility of piloting vegetated shade structures—such as the *GreenShades*² system successfully implemented in European cities—as part of the Urban Forest Strategy’s approach to urban cooling and equitable canopy coverage;

FURTHER THAT staff report back on potential locations, costs, and implementation options as part of the 2026 action plan update.

2. Permanent Outdoor Location for an Iconic Vancouver Sign Update April 17, 2025

Staff from Engineering Services provided a presentation and responded to questions.

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¹ <https://www.singulargreen.com/en/green-shades-valladolid/>

² <https://www.singulargreen.com/en/green-shades-valladolid/>

During questions to staff, it was

MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung
SECONDED by Councillor Meiszner

THAT under section 5.4(e) of the Procedure By-law, the Committee be permitted to ask a second round of questions.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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MOVED by Councillor Montague
SECONDED by Councillor Klassen

THAT under section 2.8 of the Procedure By-law, the Committee extend past noon in order to complete Report 2.

withdrawn

MOVED by Councillor Montague
SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the previous motion to extend be withdrawn.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

Subsequently, it was

MOVED by Councillor Montague
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT under section 2.8 of the Procedure By-law, the Committee extend past noon in order to complete hearing speakers on Report 2.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

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The Committee heard from two speakers who spoke in support of the motion.

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The Committee recessed at 11:58 pm and reconvened at 2:55 pm.

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MOVED by Councillor Meiszner

SECONDED by Councillor Bligh

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve, in principle, the placement of a VANCOUVER sign at 1055 Canada Place, with an implementation target for the end of Q1 2026.
- B. THAT Council approve a \$300,000 capital project budget for the VANCOUVER sign, to be funded by an additional contribution to capital from the 2025 operating budget.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to incorporate ongoing operating costs related to the VANCOUVER sign totaling to \$50,000 as part of the 2026 Operating Budget for Council consideration.
- D. THAT Council direct staff to continue to discuss opportunities with local Nations on representation as part of the VANCOUVER sign project.
- E. THAT Council instruct the Director of Legal Services to prepare an operating agreement between the City, the Vancouver Convention Centre, the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (DVBIA), Destination Vancouver, and the Vancouver Hotel Destination Association (VHDA), for the delivery and management of a VANCOUVER sign.
- F. THAT Council direct staff to report back on progress for the VANCOUVER sign in Q4 of 2025.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Meiszner
SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the following be added to the end of B:

“and direct staff to reinitiate engagement with community partners and interested local philanthropists, in order to further reduce the city’s financial contribution to the Vancouver Sign project, while ensuring timelines are still met.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10717)

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During debate and decision on the amended motion, Chair Zhou relinquished the Chair to Vice-Chair Klassen in order to provide comments and resumed the role of Chair once finished.

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The amendment having carried unanimously, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED (Vote No. 10718), with Councillor Orr opposed.

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

- A. THAT Council approve, in principle, the placement of a VANCOUVER sign at 1055 Canada Place, with an implementation target for the end of Q1 2026.
- B. THAT Council approve a \$300,000 capital project budget for the VANCOUVER sign, to be funded by an additional contribution to capital from the 2025 operating budget; and direct staff to reinstate engagement with community partners and interested local philanthropists, in order to further reduce the city's financial contribution to the Vancouver Sign project, while ensuring timelines are still met.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to incorporate ongoing operating costs related to the VANCOUVER sign totaling to \$50,000 as part of the 2026 Operating Budget for Council consideration.
- D. THAT Council direct staff to continue to discuss opportunities with local Nations on representation as part of the VANCOUVER sign project.
- E. THAT Council instruct the Director of Legal Services to prepare an operating agreement between the City, the Vancouver Convention Centre, the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (DVBIA), Destination Vancouver, and the Vancouver Hotel Destination Association (VHDA), for the delivery and management of a VANCOUVER sign.
- F. THAT Council direct staff to report back on progress for the VANCOUVER sign in Q4 of 2025.

3. Chinatown Strategic Priority Grants May 21, 2025

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve four Uplifting Chinatown Action Plan grants totaling \$387,000 to the organizations and for the amounts listed in Appendix A of the Report dated May 21, 2025, entitled "Chinatown Strategic Priority Grants" to support the Uplifting Chinatown Action Plan, from the City's 2025 Operating Budget.
- B. THAT Council approve a grant of \$17,000 to the Vancouver Chinatown BIA Society (Chinatown BIA) from the City's 2025 Operating Budget to support a process to develop advice on a draft vision and program for an economic development pilot project for Chinatown Plaza, which will support key goals in the Chinatown Cultural District Framework.
- C. THAT pursuant to Section 206(1)(j) of the Vancouver Charter, Council deems any organization listed in Appendix A of the Report dated May 21, 2025, entitled "Chinatown Strategic Priority Grants" that is not otherwise a charity registered with Canada Revenue Agency to be contributing to the culture, beautification, health, or welfare of the city.
- D. THAT Council delegate its authority to execute grant agreements that disburse

the grants described in this report to the City's Director of Legal Services.

- E. THAT no legal rights or obligations will arise or be created by Council's adoption of A through D above unless and until all legal documentation has been executed and delivered by the respective parties.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT AND A AND B
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY (Vote No. 10726)

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTIONS

1. Increasing Funding for Vital Community Libraries

The Committee heard from 15 speakers who spoke in support of the motion and one speaker who provided general comments.

MOVED by Councillor Orr
SECONDED by Councillor Fry

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. Public libraries serve as vital community hubs that provide free and equitable access to information, technology, and educational resources for people of all ages and backgrounds;
2. Libraries provide essential services that support students, seniors, job seekers, families, and underserved populations through programs and services that are often unavailable elsewhere;
3. Increasing funding to Vancouver's Libraries is a direct investment in education, equity, and resilience in our communities that will benefit seniors, families, and people across Vancouver;
4. The Council allocated budget for Vancouver libraries has resulted in a total of ten branches being closed on Mondays and shortened hours at a number of branches.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to work with Library staff and the Vancouver Library Board to report back by Q3 with an estimate of cost to restore all hours cut in April and opening all Vancouver libraries on Mondays;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to identify potential sources of municipal funding to cover the costs of restoring cut library hours and opening all branches on Mondays.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the motion be struck and replaced with the following:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to work with Library staff and the Vancouver Library Board to report back by Q3 with an estimate of cost to open-all Vancouver libraries on Mondays, based on the current collective agreement provisions and service delivery standards;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to identify potential sources of municipal funding and work with library staff to identify potential senior government funding to cover the costs of opening all branches on Mondays, including a request that library management continue to engage with CUPE Local 391 to address operational issues associated with the scheduling provisions in the collective agreement that affect the Library's ability to maintain consistent service levels across branches;

AND FURTHER THAT Council affirm additional funding was provided in the 2025 budget to support Monday openings at South Hill and Champlain branches, but ongoing service challenges stem in part from staffing constraints and scheduling limitations under the current collective agreement, and not from Council-directed cuts, including:

- Limited flexibility to schedule full-time staff on Sundays,
- Increased costs to cover short-notice absences, and
- Reliance on part-time and auxiliary staff.

CARRIED (Vote No. 10719)
(Councillor Maloney opposed)
(Councillor Fry abstaining from the vote)
(Councillor Bligh absent for the vote)

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During debate and decision on the amended motion, Chair Zhou relinquished the Chair to Vice-Chair Klassen in order to provide comments and resumed the role of Chair once finished.

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The amendment having carried, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10720), with Councillor Bligh absent for the vote.

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

WHEREAS

1. Public libraries serve as vital community hubs that provide free and equitable access to information, technology, and educational resources for people of all ages and backgrounds;
2. Libraries provide essential services that support students, seniors, job seekers, families, and underserved populations through programs and services that are often unavailable elsewhere;
3. Increasing funding to Vancouver's Libraries is a direct investment in education, equity, and resilience in our communities that will benefit seniors, families, and people across Vancouver;
4. The Council allocated budget for Vancouver libraries has resulted in a total of ten branches being closed on Mondays and shortened hours at a number of branches.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to work with Library staff and the Vancouver Library Board to report back by Q3 with an estimate of cost to open all Vancouver libraries on Mondays, based on the current collective agreement provisions and service delivery standards;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to identify potential sources of municipal funding and work with library staff to identify potential senior government funding to cover the costs of opening all branches on Mondays, including a request that library management continue to engage with CUPE Local 391 to address operational issues associated with the scheduling provisions in the collective agreement that affect the Library's ability to maintain consistent service levels across branches;

AND FURTHER THAT Council affirm additional funding was provided in the 2025 budget to support Monday openings at South Hill and Champlain branches, but ongoing service challenges stem in part from staffing constraints and scheduling limitations under the current collective agreement, and not from Council-directed cuts, including:

- Limited flexibility to schedule full-time staff on Sundays,
- Increased costs to cover short-notice absences, and
- Reliance on part-time and auxiliary staff.

2. Reducing Home Demolition Waste in Vancouver

MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. Residential construction and demolition waste is a growing issue in Vancouver and the region;

2. In response to the issue, Metro Vancouver through the initiative of its Zero Waste Committee and staff have been engaging with companies working to provide alternatives to demolition, and are supporting and partnering together with the Government of Canada Research and Knowledge Initiative and the sector on a Home Demolition Waste Prevention Forum that will take place in early June that will bring together government and industry to discuss alternatives to residential demolition;
3. Alternatives to residential demolition that adds to landfills include options such as home relocation, home repurposing, and home deconstruction;
4. Regulations regarding home demolition fall within the jurisdiction of local governments;
5. Currently in Vancouver, the Green Demolition By-law regulates the Re-use and Recycling of Building Materials from Residential Buildings and stipulates that:
 - a. (3.1) No person may cause, permit or allow the demolition of a residential building constructed in whole or in part before 1950 without a demolition permit.
 - b. (3.2) Every demolition permit authorizing demolition of a residential building constructed in whole or in part before 1950 must include a green demolition condition, imposed by the Chief Building Official, requiring that the building be subject to demolition resulting in the reuse or recycling of not less than 75% of all building materials, by weight, excluding hazardous materials.
 - c. (3.3) Every demolition permit authorizing demolition of a character residential building constructed in whole or in part before 1950 must include a green demolition condition, imposed by the Chief Building Official, requiring that the character residential building be subject to demolition resulting in the reuse or recycling of not less than 90% of all building materials, by weight, excluding hazardous materials.
 - d. (3.4) In addition to the applicable green demolition condition imposed under section 3.2 or 3.3 above, every demolition permit authorizing demolition of a residential building constructed in whole or in part before 1910, or demolition of a heritage listed residential building constructed in whole or in part before 1950, must include an additional green demolition condition, imposed by the Chief Building Official, requiring that the residential building be subject to demolition by means of deconstruction, resulting in the salvage of at least three tonnes of wood.

There is no similar reuse or recycling requirement in Vancouver for post 1950 residential homes;

6. From 2016 to 2021 Metro Vancouver was the fastest growing metro area in Canada welcoming 179,000 new residents -- a 7.3% population increase. This growth which is expected to continue, Provincial Transit Oriented Development regulations, and City of Vancouver planning initiatives supporting densification in order to deliver needed new multi-family homes, puts pressure on our housing

supply and has the unintended consequence of generating huge amounts of material and embodied carbon waste due to the demolition of oftentimes single family homes;

7. Sadly, Metro Vancouver is one of the demolition capitals of the world on a per capita basis. Currently more than 2,700 single family homes on average are demolished across Metro Vancouver every year. The average 2,000 sq ft wood framed building contains 65,000 KG of embodied carbon³ and 100,000 KG of raw materials;
8. Thirty-three percent of our local landfills are full of construction and demolition waste. There are responsible and sustainable alternatives to home demolition including relocation and deconstruction. Reducing and recycling more home waste would support sustainability, as well as enable the ability to extend landfill life to support regional waste management needs for longer.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to report back in Fall 2025 on opportunities to implement strategies to reduce home demolition waste in Vancouver through educational initiatives such as but not limited to: the provision of information materials, resources such as Building Removal Assessment checklists, and information sessions for the development and construction sectors.
- B. THAT following the implementation of any strategies to raise awareness of the importance and benefits of reducing home demolition waste, Council direct staff to report back on the response to such measures.
- C. THAT recognizing Council's priority direction to streamline development and permitting approvals to expedite new housing and not to add to the time for delivering new homes, that Council affirms that any future updates to the Green Demolition By-law that regulates the Re-use and Recycling of Building Materials from Residential Buildings to apply to homes built post 1950 be considered at a future date should the educational measures not yield positive results, as well as any additional initiatives to promote responsible alternatives to demolition such as the requirement for a Responsible Building Removal Assessment, Early Green Removal Permits, Refundable Demolition Deposits, Density Bonus for Relocated or Fully Deconstructed Homes and a Streamlined Building Move-On Permit Process.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10721)
(Councillor Bligh absent for the vote)

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At this point in the proceedings, it was

MOVED by Councillor Dominato
SECONDED by Councillor Meiszner

THAT under section 2.8 of the Procedure By-law, the Committee extend past 5 pm in order to complete all remaining business on the agenda.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY**

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3. Honouring Trey Helten: Renaming “Ashtrey Alley”

The Committee heard from eight speakers who spoke in support of the motion.

MOVED by Councillor Orr
SECONDED by Councillor Klassen

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver has an east-west alleyway in the Downtown Eastside located between Hastings and Pender, connecting Cambie and Abbott Street; which was the site [of Graffiti Art Wall Pilot](#)³ between artist Trey Helten and Vancouver Native Housing Society. The goals of the [pilot](#)⁴ stated that:

“Graffiti art walls support artistic expression, with a focus on supporting equity denied communities. They provide a sanctioned location for street artists which in-turn can foster a culture that discourages disrespectful or nuisance graffiti. As dedicated spaces, they can also serve as a place for street artists to meet, build community, and can provide opportunities for mentorship. Graffiti art walls are considered temporary”.
2. Trey Helten was a beloved harm reduction advocate in the Downtown Eastside who was known for his tireless work to help others, fight stigma against drug users, and who saved hundreds of lives;
3. Trey Helten passed away in April of 2025;
4. The City of Vancouver has been a leader in harm reduction policies in Canada, approving the “Four Pillars” approach to drug addiction starting in 2001, and opening the first safe injection site in Canada in 2003;

³ City of Vancouver, n.d. “Graffiti art wall pilot”. <https://vancouver.ca/home-property-development/graffiti-art-wall-pilot.aspx>

⁴ Maria Diment, 2022: “Vancouver now has its first legal 'graffiti wall' and more could be in the works”. *Vancouver Is Awesome* <https://www.vancouverisawesome.com/local-news/first-legal-graffiti-wall-alley-tagging-vancouver-bc-5707660>

5. Community members in the DTES are already informally calling the alley between Hastings and Pender, connecting Cambie and Abbott Street “Ashtrey Alley” in memory of Trey Helten.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to report back on the most expeditious way to name the alley between Hastings and Pender, connecting Cambie and Abbott Street, “Ashtrey Alley” in memory of Trey Helten and his contributions to the community.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10722)

4. Places to Be and Places to Go

The Committee heard from three speakers who spoke in support of the motion.

MOVED by Councillor Fry
SECONDED by Councillor Bligh

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver is committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for all residents and visitors;
2. Accessible drop-in spaces and public washrooms are essential for the dignity, health, and well-being of both unhoused individuals and housed individuals;
3. The lack of accessible public washroom facilities can be uncomfortable for visitors, in particular women and families with small children, but also tourists and crowds for large public events from fireworks to FIFA;
4. The lack of accessible public washroom facilities disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, including unhoused or underhoused people, elderly people and people with disabilities. Most public washrooms are located in Vancouver’s parks, and only available from dusk to dawn;
5. The lack of public washrooms impacts the city, health authority, and local businesses. Open defecation brings significant engineering costs, water use, disruption to small businesses, and major public health issues like dysentery or Shigella. A disease of destitution, severe, multidrug-resistant (MDR) shigellosis has been on the rise in Vancouver ⁵ “like wildfire among people who don’t have

⁵ CBC, January 2025 | Endless diarrhea and exhaustion: the stomach bug making the rounds among the most vulnerable <https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/shigella-infection-canada-1.7437238>

access to toilets, sinks, or showers”;

6. Business Improvement Areas in Vancouver are sounding the alarm as public defecation in the city reaches new heights, the issue has “certainly gotten worse” in recent years and has skyrocketed particularly in the previous two years⁶;
7. The Vancouver Charter (Part XV-Health s.330)⁷ empowers the local government’s role regarding insanitation: (b) preventing, prohibiting, and remedying insanitary conditions and places in the city; and (i) for acquiring real property, and for constructing and maintaining thereon or thereunder lavatories, urinals, water-closets, and the like conveniences, and for constructing and maintaining such conveniences upon or under a street;
8. The lack of accessible drop-in and daytime shelter spaces disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, including unhoused or underhoused people. In many cases, street loitering and daytime encampments are a direct result of lack of drop-in spaces, as most shelters are only open dusk to dawn. Anecdotally many people congregate in alleys, on streets, and under awnings because they have no where else to be, which presents a challenge to disincentivizing loitering, camping, and certain forms of street disorder;
9. Demonstrably, according to the City’s recent Storefront Reports and Update on Vacancy Analysis reporting, many of the areas with higher levels of loitering and street disorder also have some of the highest rates of storefront vacancy;
10. The lack of accessible drop-in centres has direct cost impacts on City engineering and police services and more indirectly on business viability, retail districts, tourism and perceptions of public safety;
11. The City’s Vibrant Vancouver strategy calls for high-quality city services and public infrastructure that make Vancouver a healthy, safe, beautiful and enjoyable place for everyone, and strive to alleviate barriers to residents’ well-being and sense of belonging.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to complete a needs assessment and identify locations and funding necessary to support places to be and places to go, by Q3 2025 specifically:

⁶ CTV News, May 2025 | Frustrations rise over human waste on Vancouver Streets
<https://www.ctvnews.ca/vancouver/article/frustrations-rise-over-human-waste-on-vancouver-streets-prompting-return-of-poop-fairy-program/>

⁷ King’s Printer Victoria | Vancouver Charter
https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/vanch_16

- a. Accessible daytime drop-in shelter space
- b. Accessible universal washrooms

FURTHER THAT Considerations for accessible daytime drop-in shelter spaces:

- Identify and repurpose underutilized buildings and spaces for drop-in centers.
- Ensure these spaces are equipped with essential amenities such as seating, charging stations, and access to information and services, and washrooms.
- Collaborate with local organizations to provide support services, including mental health resources, job assistance, and social services.
- Are located strategically in areas with high prevalence of unhoused or underhoused people, street loitering, and near overnight shelters or unhoused serving services.

AND FURTHER THAT Considerations for accessible public washrooms:

- Are located in high-traffic areas, including downtown and other busy neighborhoods, close to transit.
- Ensure these washrooms are accessible to people with disabilities and are maintained to good hygiene standards.
- Implement a system for regular cleaning and maintenance to ensure the facilities remain safe and usable.

- B. THAT the Mayor writes to the Provincial Government including Ministers of Health, Poverty Reduction, Infrastructure and Public Safety respectively, and to Vancouver Coastal Health with strongly worded request for capital and operating funds to support, and call to action to support places to be and places to go.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Montague
SECONDED by Councillor Fry

THAT the motion be struck and replaced with the following:

- A. THAT Council direct staff to incorporate a needs assessment for Accessible Universal Washrooms into the ongoing public washroom strategy report currently in development. This assessment should identify potential locations and funding sources and consider, but not be limited to, the following:
- Washrooms in high-traffic areas such as downtown, busy neighbourhoods, and near transit hubs;
 - Fully accessible facilities that meet the needs of people with disabilities;
 - Safe, clean, and well-maintained washrooms, with clear systems in place for upkeep.

FURTHER THAT staff be directed to include the results of this needs assessment as part of the final public washroom report to be presented to Council by Q4 2025.

- B. THAT Council call on the Province to complete a needs assessment for Accessible Daytime Drop-in Shelter Spaces, in consultation with City staff, that identifies locations and funding opportunities, with consideration for (but not limited to) the following:
- Using underused buildings or spaces that could be adapted for daytime drop-in use.
 - Making sure drop-in spaces include basic needs like seating, phone charging stations, access to washrooms, information, secure storage for personal belongings, and services.
 - Partnering with local organizations that can provide support services like mental health care, job assistance, and other community supports.
 - Locating drop-in spaces where they are most needed, areas with high numbers of unhoused or underhoused people, near overnight shelters, and where loitering or need is most visible.

FURTHER THAT staff report back with a progress update on the provincial needs assessment by Q3 2025.

- C. THAT Council request the Mayor write to the Provincial Government, including the Ministers of Health, Social Development and Poverty Reduction, Infrastructure, and Public Safety, as well as Vancouver Coastal Health, urging immediate action and funding to support inclusive, accessible public spaces across the city. This includes capital and operating support for essential “places to go” and “places to be.”

amended

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Meiszner
SECONDED by Councillor Klassen

THAT the following be added as a new sub section in B:

- “Ensuring that a sufficient portion of funding secured for daytime drop-in shelter spaces is allocated towards management of the public realm of the building’s exterior, including but not limited to: cleaning of sidewalk and laneway on a regular schedule; and ensuring structures are not erected on the sidewalk outside drop-in shelter sites.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10723)

The amendment to the amendment having carried unanimously, the amended amendment was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No.10724).

The amended amendment having carried unanimously, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10725).

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver is committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for all residents and visitors;
2. Accessible drop-in spaces and public washrooms are essential for the dignity, health, and well-being of both unhoused individuals and housed individuals;
3. The lack of accessible public washroom facilities can be uncomfortable for visitors, in particular women and families with small children, but also tourists and crowds for large public events from fireworks to FIFA;
4. The lack of accessible public washroom facilities disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, including unhoused or underhoused people, elderly people and people with disabilities. Most public washrooms are located in Vancouver's parks, and only available from dusk to dawn;
5. The lack of public washrooms impacts the city, health authority, and local businesses. Open defecation brings significant engineering costs, water use, disruption to small businesses, and major public health issues like dysentery or Shigella. A disease of destitution, severe, multidrug-resistant (MDR) shigellosis has been on the rise in Vancouver ⁸ "like wildfire among people who don't have access to toilets, sinks, or showers";
6. Business Improvement Areas in Vancouver are sounding the alarm as public defecation in the city reaches new heights, the issue has "certainly gotten worse" in recent years and has skyrocketed particularly in the previous two years⁹;
7. The Vancouver Charter (Part XV-Health s.330)¹⁰ empowers the local government's role regarding insanitation: (b) preventing, prohibiting, and remedying insanitary conditions and places in the city; and (i) for acquiring real property, and for constructing and maintaining thereon or thereunder lavatories, urinals, water-closets, and the like conveniences, and for constructing and

⁸ CBC, January 2025 | Endless diarrhea and exhaustion: the stomach bug making the rounds among the most vulnerable <https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/shigella-infection-canada-1.7437238>

⁹ CTV News, May 2025 | Frustrations rise over human waste on Vancouver Streets <https://www.ctvnews.ca/vancouver/article/frustrations-rise-over-human-waste-on-vancouver-streets-prompting-return-of-poop-fairy-program/>

¹⁰ King's Printer Victoria | Vancouver Charter https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/vanch_16

maintaining such conveniences upon or under a street;

8. The lack of accessible drop-in and daytime shelter spaces disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, including unhoused or underhoused people. In many cases, street loitering and daytime encampments are a direct result of lack of drop-in spaces, as most shelters are only open dusk to dawn. Anecdotally many people congregate in alleys, on streets, and under awnings because they have no where else to be, which presents a challenge to disincentivizing loitering, camping, and certain forms of street disorder;
9. Demonstrably, according to the City's recent Storefront Reports and Update on Vacancy Analysis reporting, many of the areas with higher levels of loitering and street disorder also have some of the highest rates of storefront vacancy;
10. The lack of accessible drop-in centres has direct cost impacts on City engineering and police services and more indirectly on business viability, retail districts, tourism and perceptions of public safety;
11. The City's Vibrant Vancouver strategy calls for high-quality city services and public infrastructure that make Vancouver a healthy, safe, beautiful and enjoyable place for everyone, and strive to alleviate barriers to residents' well-being and sense of belonging.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to incorporate a needs assessment for Accessible Universal Washrooms into the ongoing public washroom strategy report currently in development. This assessment should identify potential locations and funding sources and consider, but not be limited to, the following:
 - Washrooms in high-traffic areas such as downtown, busy neighbourhoods, and near transit hubs;
 - Fully accessible facilities that meet the needs of people with disabilities;
 - Safe, clean, and well-maintained washrooms, with clear systems in place for upkeep.

FURTHER THAT staff be directed to include the results of this needs assessment as part of the final public washroom report to be presented to Council by Q4 2025.

- B. THAT Council call on the Province to complete a needs assessment for Accessible Daytime Drop-in Shelter Spaces, in consultation with City staff, that identifies locations and funding opportunities, with consideration for (but not limited to) the following:

- Using underused buildings or spaces that could be adapted for daytime drop-in use.
- Making sure drop-in spaces include basic needs like seating, phone charging stations, access to washrooms, information, secure storage for personal belongings, and services.
- Partnering with local organizations that can provide support services like mental health care, job assistance, and other community supports.
- Locating drop-in spaces where they are most needed, areas with high numbers of unhoused or underhoused people, near overnight shelters, and where loitering or need is most visible.
- Ensuring that a sufficient portion of funding secured for daytime drop-in shelter spaces is allocated towards management of the public realm of the building's exterior, including but not limited to: cleaning of sidewalk and laneway on a regular schedule; and ensuring structures are not erected on the sidewalk outside drop-in shelter sites.

FURTHER THAT staff report back with a progress update on the provincial needs assessment by Q3 2025.

- C. THAT Council request the Mayor write to the Provincial Government, including the Ministers of Health, Social Development and Poverty Reduction, Infrastructure, and Public Safety, as well as Vancouver Coastal Health, urging immediate action and funding to support inclusive, accessible public spaces across the city. This includes capital and operating support for essential “places to go” and “places to be.”

The Committee adjourned at 6:03 pm.

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**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON
CITY FINANCE AND SERVICES**

MAY 21, 2025

A meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 6:03 pm, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, following the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting, to consider the recommendations and actions of the Committee.

PRESENT:

Mayor Ken Sim
Councillor Rebecca Bligh
Councillor Lisa Dominato
Councillor Pete Fry
Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung
Councillor Mike Klassen
Councillor Lucy Maloney
Councillor Peter Meiszner
Councillor Brian Montague
Councillor Sean Orr
Councillor Lenny Zhou

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Paul Mochrie, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Tina Penney, Deputy City Clerk
Olivia Kam, Meeting Coordinator

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Standing Committee on City Finance and Services
Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Council considered the report containing the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services. Its items of business included:

Reports:

1. Urban Forest Strategy - 2025 Update
2. Permanent Outdoor Location for an Iconic Vancouver Sign Update
3. Chinatown Strategic Priority Grants

Council Members' Motions:

1. Increasing Funding for Vital Community Libraries
2. Reducing Home Demolition Waste in Vancouver
3. Honouring Trey Helten: Renaming "Ashtrey Alley"
4. Places to Be and Places to Go

MOVED by Councillor Klassen
SECONDED by Councillor Montague

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services at its meeting of May 21, 2025, as contained in Reports 1 through 3 and Council Members' Motions 1 through 4, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

URGENT BUSINESS

MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung
SECONDED by Councillor Klassen

THAT Councillor Kirby-Yung be granted a Leave of Absence for personal reasons from meetings on May 27, 2025, from 3 pm onwards.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Klassen
SECONDED by Councillor Montague

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council adjourned at 6:04 pm.

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