

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION**

*For consideration at the Standing Committee meeting of City Council on July 23, 2025*

### **1. Request for Review of School Liaison Officer Program**

Submitted by: Councillor Fry (on behalf of the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee)

#### **WHEREAS**

1. The School Liaison Officer (SLO) program in Vancouver was previously eliminated in 2021 after careful consideration;
2. The Vancouver School Board's review of the School Liaison Officer program, conducted by Argyle Communications (the Argyle study), was completed, and due to predominantly Indigenous and Black voices articulating that they felt unsafe and/or it did not foster a safe school environment, it was eliminated;
3. The current SLO program has been revised but continues to raise concerns. It is understood that officers are now plain-clothed, have concealed weapons, and must engage in special training such as de-escalation techniques with special considerations towards mental health, while recognizing that student safety is a priority;
4. As per the Argyle study, 60% of Black students disagreed or strongly disagreed that SLO contributed to a sense of safety in schools;
5. As per the Argyle study, 33% of Indigenous students disagreed or strongly disagreed that SLO contributed to a sense of safety in schools.

#### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

THAT, per the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee, Council express its concern regarding the renewal of the School Liaison Officer Program in Vancouver Schools without a full review;

FURTHER THAT, per the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee, Council request the Vancouver School Board conduct a new independent review of the SLO program by a neutral organization with expertise in equity and policing, with a focus on centering equity-deserving communities who have historically expressed distrust towards police (particularly Indigenous and Black communities).

\* \* \* \* \*