

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

*For consideration at the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on
October 29, 2025*

1. Safe Streets for Trick or Treats: Creating Safe Pedestrian Areas to Make Halloween a Little Less Scary

Submitted by: Councillor Maloney

WHEREAS

1. Halloween is the one night of the year when kids get to take over their neighbourhoods for a few hours of fun;
2. Halloween is also the day of the year with the highest number of child pedestrian traffic deaths and injuries. This is particularly the case for younger children aged four to eight, who are ten times more likely to be killed by a motorist on that one evening than any other day of the year. The most dangerous hours are between 5:00 pm and 9:00 pm ([Staples et al., 2019](#); see also [Clarkson, 2022](#));
3. In keeping with Council's strategic priority of ensuring Vancouver remains a "dynamic and vibrant city" ([City of Vancouver, 2023](#)), young people and parents should be able to enjoy trick-or-treating around their neighbourhoods without fear of traffic danger, and without feeling obligated to adorn creative costumes with high-visibility embellishments;
4. The City of Vancouver has an existing and well-developed policy framework that could be readily adapted to help facilitate safer trick-or-treating conditions in our neighbourhoods: the block party permit ([City of Vancouver, n.d.](#));
5. Other cities, such as New York City ([New York City Department of Transportation, 2025](#)) and Seattle ([Bancroft, 2025](#)), have successfully implemented "Trick-Or-Streets" programs with simple and accessible application processes;
6. Residents on streets in higher-density areas who wish to organise a block party face additional barriers to doing so, because the City currently requires them to demonstrate the support of 65% of households on their block - a much more onerous task on streets with apartment buildings.;
7. The City could also help reduce motor vehicle traffic on Halloween via a communications campaign that would urge motorists to avoid non-essential vehicle travel on the evening of Halloween each year; and
8. Vancouver has adopted a Healthy City Strategy with a goal that Vancouver's children have the best chance of enjoying a healthy childhood and has committed to Vision Zero, recognising that the only acceptable number of people seriously injured or killed on our streets is zero.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to report back on how to create a simple, free, and inclusive Halloween permit, based on the existing block party permit process, that would empower residents to temporarily pedestrianize parts of their neighbourhoods each Halloween, and have the option in place for 2026.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to review the current block party permit process, and identify opportunities to streamline applications, including lowering the minimum support threshold in denser multi-family neighbourhoods, and explore and report back on the feasibility of providing free street barricade rentals for block parties (including Halloween permits) with delivery and pick-up and free basic event insurance.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to use city communications channels to explicitly request that motorists refrain from non-essential driving on Halloween night and promote Safe Streets for Trick or Treats each year, starting in October 2026.

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