

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION**

*For consideration at the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on  
December 10, 2025*

### **3. Urgent Actions from the Vancouver Business Growth Task Force**

Submitted by: Councillors Klassen and Zhou

#### **WHEREAS**

1. In April 2025, Council unanimously supported the establishment of the Vancouver Business Growth Task Force to respond to the significant and escalating economic challenges facing Vancouver and to position the city as one of the most competitive jurisdictions in North America to start, grow, and scale a business. This mandate includes recommending immediate and medium-term changes to City processes that directly impact business competitiveness;
2. The Task Force brings together leaders from technology, finance, tourism, clean energy, real estate, hospitality, trade, creative industries, and education (sectors that collectively anchor Vancouver's economy) to identify the systemic barriers that restrict business growth and to develop practical, evidence-based actions the City can take to reduce red tape, improve regulatory predictability, and support job creation;
3. Vancouver's business environment is under mounting pressure from rising operating costs, supply-chain disruptions, workforce challenges, public-safety concerns, and increased tariff impacts that are placing a strain on small, medium, and large employers across the city;
4. Family-supporting businesses of all sizes across Vancouver are urgently advocating to all orders of government for emergency measures to support their operations and long-term viability;
5. The Red Tape Reform Subcommittee of the Task Force has identified a series of priority actions the City can undertake in the near term to address long-standing permitting, licensing, and regulatory challenges. These changes would provide near-term relief for businesses through 2026 and help strengthen Vancouver's economic readiness ahead of the FIFA World Cup; and
6. The Economic Development Subcommittee will be finalizing additional recommendations in the coming months.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council direct staff to implement the following recommendations of the Vancouver Business Growth Task Force without delay:

- A. Digitize and streamline all business-related permits, including those in the film sector, to reduce processing times, improve clarity, and enhance the overall user experience;
- B. Align all business-related permit renewal dates with business licence renewal cycles to simplify requirements and reduce administrative burden;
- C. Modernize and accelerate liquor licensing by fast tracking liquor licence renewals, and eliminate all study requirements that duplicate existing provincial requirements;
- D. Create a simplified, rapid short-term activation and pop-up approval pathway (where no life-safety issues exist) to encourage programming and animation of sidewalks, plazas, and other public spaces;
- E. Expand the Temporary Occupancy Permit Pilot city-wide in advance of the FIFA World Cup to activate vacant spaces and bolster neighbourhood business vibrancy;
- F. Establish a Small Business Navigator with a fast-track option for established businesses, providing a single point of contact and "front-counter" support to help businesses navigate City processes, permits, and services more efficiently;
- G. Develop plain-language toolkits for common business licence types, clearly outlining steps, fees, timelines, and required approvals;
- H. Include a "Business Implications" section in all Council staff reports to increase transparency regarding how proposed decisions may affect local businesses;
- I. Adopt an Education-First Compliance Model for all business-related permits where life safety is not affected to ensure a collaborative, problem-solving approach.

\* \* \* \* \*