

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

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

6. Breaking up with the X: Equitable Access for Real-time Council Agenda and Speaker Updates

Submitted by: Councillor Fry

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver currently relies on the microblogging website X.com (formerly Twitter) as the primary platform for real-time online updates on Council agendas and speaker lists;
2. Sole reliance on X.com for real time online updates poses accessibility challenges for residents who do not use or cannot access the platform;
3. Residents who do not consent to creating an account with X.com are unable to see real-time updates. For instance, the @VanCityClerk account displays content only up to December 2024 for viewers without an X.com account¹;
4. Creating an X.com account requires users share personal information like email and phone number, and grant X worldwide license to use, copy, and reproduce their content, including the right to use their content to train its AI model, Grok;
5. Research indicates X.com promotes disinformation and misinformation, fosters political polarization, may be involved in election interference, and amplifies divisive narratives, undermining the neutrality expected of official government communications¹;
6. Recent controversies involving Grok, X.com's AI chatbot, producing antisemitic and extremist outputs, misidentifying public figures and misrepresenting factual information raises reputational and ethical concerns for public institutions using the platform^{2 3 4};

¹ The Counterterrorism Group, Feb 3, 2025 | DIGITAL INVESTIGATION OF FOREIGN INFLUENCE IN EUROPEAN ELECTIONS: EXAMINING X, ELON MUSK, AND THE AMPLIFICATION OF MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION
<https://www.counterterrorismgroup.com/post/digital-investigation-of-foreign-influence-in-european-elections-examining-x-elon-musk-and-the-am>

² Tech Policy Press, Oct 30, 2025 | The US Government's Use of Elon Musk's Grok AI Undermines Its Own Rules
<https://www.techpolicy.press/the-us-governments-use-of-elon-musks-grok-ai-undermines-its-own-rules/>

³ PBS, Nov 21, 2025 | France will investigate Musk's Grok after AI chatbot posted Holocaust denial claims
<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/france-will-investigate-musks-grok-after-ai-chatbot-posted-holocaust-denial-claims>

⁴ Human Rights Watch, Dec 20, 2024 | Brazil Bans X from Using Children to Power Its AI
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/12/20/brazil-bans-x-using-children-power-its-ai>

7. Following the interest in Vancouver's 2026 budget, many of the 639 registered speakers expressed frustration that X.com was the only means available to them for tracking real-time schedule updates; and
8. Numerous open-source and third-party APIs exist to provide micro-blogging that can be embedded on the official city website, either as server-side or client-side integrated solution: including RSS and XML feeds, JavaScript widgets, and/or government-grade meeting management platforms to integrate micro-blogging real-time updates.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to explore micro-blogging alternatives to X.com as the sole source for real-time online council agenda and speaker updates, and report back to Council;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to report back on designating its official website and council meeting portal as the primary source for all real-time online updates, agendas, and speaker lists.

- B. THAT staff develop and publish a public education campaign explaining the transition, emphasizing inclusivity, reliability, and transparency.

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¹ Figure A: X.com/VanCityClerk as viewed by non-user (retrieved Nov 24, 2025)

Figure B: X.com/VanCityClerk as viewed by registered user (retrieved Nov 24, 2025)

