



## REPORT TO COUNCIL

### STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON POLICY AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

**FEBRUARY 25, 2026**

A meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on Policy and Strategic Priorities was held on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 9:34 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 Peter Meiszner, Chair
- Mayor Ken Sim
- Councillor Rebecca Bligh
- Councillor Lisa Dominato, Vice Chair\* (Leave of Absence – Civic Business, 12:30 – 6:30 pm)
- Councillor Pete Fry\* (Leave of Absence – Civic Business, 12 pm onwards)
- Councillor Mike Klassen
- Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung
- Councillor Lucy Maloney
- Councillor Brian Montague
- Councillor Sean Orr
- Councillor Lenny Zhou

**CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE:** Donny van Dyk, City Manager  
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Lesley Matthews, Deputy City Clerk  
Julie Emmerson, Meeting Coordinator

\* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

## WELCOME

The Committee agreed to have Councillor Klassen Chair a portion of the meeting.

Chair Klassen 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.

Chair Klassen 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.

## **PROCLAMATION – International Women’s Day**

The Mayor proclaimed March 8, 2026, as the 115<sup>th</sup> International Women’s Day in the City of Vancouver and invited members of the City’s Women’s Advisory Committee to the podium to accept the proclamation and say a few words.

## **MATTERS ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

MOVED by Councillor Dominato  
SECONDED by Councillor Zhou

THAT the Committee adopt Report 1 on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **REPORTS**

### **1. Contract Award for Provision of City Fleet Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure February 2, 2026**

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council authorize City staff to negotiate an agreement for the provision of the City’s Fleet Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure with SWTCH Energy Inc. for an estimated contract value of \$5,000,000 over the initial five-year term. The Agreement includes the City’s option to extend for up to two additional two-year terms, for a maximum total term of nine years and an estimated total potential value of \$9,000,000, funded from Engineering Services’ current and future operating budget for the City Fleet Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure;

FURTHER THAT Council delegate its authority to execute the Agreement to the City’s Director of Legal Services, Chief Procurement Officer, and General Manager of Engineering Services.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT (Vote No. 11419)

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS’ MOTIONS**

### **1. ICE Out of the Beautiful Game and Vancouver’s World Cup**

Councillor Fry introduced the Motion.

MOVED by Councillor Fry  
SECONDED by Councillor Orr

WHEREAS

1. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is a federal agency within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) with independent statutory law enforcement authority. Under Donald Trump's leadership, ICE's mission has been expanded as a central pillar of his political agenda: aggressive immigration enforcement;
2. In the United States, ICE has faced widespread controversy and upset over allegations of excessive force, blocking local police oversight, violations of civil liberties, racial profiling, and breaches of constitutional rights. In 2025, 32 people died while in ICE custody<sup>1</sup> allegedly due to poor conditions, delayed medical care, and lapsed oversight. ICE Operation Metro Surge deployed heavily armed, masked units into Minneapolis and surrounding communities, provoking extensive protests and raised concerns about federal overreach, militarized policing, erosion of civil liberties, and disproportionate force against unarmed protesters. In 2026, the extrajudicial killings of two U.S. citizens, Nicole Renee Good and Alex Pretti, further highlighted the unlawful and unconstitutional use of lethal force by ICE<sup>2</sup>;
3. Evidence suggests the Trump Administration's rapid expansion of ICE (2025-2026) has compromised the rigor of professional law enforcement training. In the rush to double the number of agents, ICE acting director Todd Lyons has confirmed that training has been shortened from five months to 47 days<sup>3</sup>. Lawmakers in the U.S. are concerned that rapid expansion of ICE came at the expense of standards<sup>4</sup> with critics arguing that deploying thousands of new, less-trained agents has contributed to misjudgment, excessive use of force, and operational misconduct;
4. Opposition to ICE has led to calls for boycotts of companies aiding DHS immigration policies. The boycott targets are widespread, across multiple sectors, and include FIFA World Cup matches<sup>5</sup> in the U.S., and locally, businesses like Hootsuite and Jim Pattison Developments;
5. In late January 2026, U.S. officials announced they would be sending ICE agents to the Milan Winter Olympics to support American security operations. Some

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<sup>1</sup> Immigration Arrests in the Interior of the United States: A Primer Updated June 13, 2025 (LSB10362) [congress.gov/crs\\_external\\_products/LSB/HTML/LSB10362.web.html](https://congress.gov/crs_external_products/LSB/HTML/LSB10362.web.html)

<sup>2</sup> Congress Urged to End 'Extrajudicial Executions' After Alex Pretti Shooting | Newsweek <https://www.newsweek.com/congress-urged-to-end-extrajudicial-executions-after-alex-pretti-shooting-11430101>

<sup>3</sup> ICE officer training requirements are under scrutiny | Politifact.com <https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2026/jan/12/mark-warner/ICE-training-requirements-Trump-Minneapolis/>

<sup>4</sup> ICE Hiring Surge Triggers Capitol Hill Concerns Over Training Standards | Military.com <https://www.military.com/daily-news/headlines/2026/01/06/ice-hiring-surge-triggers-oversight-concerns-over-training-standards.html>

<sup>5</sup> German soccer leader adds to calls for boycott of World Cup matches in United States | LA Times <https://www.latimes.com/sports/soccer/story/2026-01-27/international-leaders-call-for-boycott-of-u-s-world-cup-matches>

reports suggest the role of ICE at the Olympics may be in support of the Homeland Security Investigations Unit (smuggling, transnational and financial crimes) however other capable and appropriate U.S. law enforcement agencies like the Diplomatic Security Service, Secret Service, and/or FBI International Operations would be less controversial. Despite assurances that ICE agents would not be conducting immigration enforcement, the deployment has prompted anger and protests in Italy;<sup>6</sup>

6. At present, ICE maintains an administrative and liaison presence at the U.S. Consulate in Vancouver with the permission of Canadian authorities. Accordingly, U.S. law-enforcement agencies cannot operate in Canada without explicit governmental authorization. Although there has yet to be any reported deployment of ICE in Vancouver for FIFA-related security purposes, it is noteworthy that ICE deployment in Milano Cortino was only announced within days of the start of the 2026 Winter Olympics;
7. Allowing allegedly undertrained foreign ICE agents to conduct security operations for the World Cup in Vancouver would contradict established City policies around equity, safety and access without fear, and established Canadian rights for migrants and due process;
8. If ICE agents were deployed to Vancouver, it could reasonably be expected to cause protests, boycotts, potentially pose a danger to the safety of residents and visitors alike, and disrupt the experience and success of the FIFA World Cup, a significant capital and operational investment by the City and Province. Additional security costs, including managing any ICE-related protests, could impart a significant burden on the City of Vancouver; and
9. FIFA World Cup celebrates diversity and fosters a sense of shared human experience under the ethos that “Football Unites the World”. The City of Vancouver is proud to welcome the world to celebrate the Beautiful Game.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Vancouver City Council affirms its commitment to the success of the FIFA World Cup 2026, and to the values and principles of the World Cup including respect, fair play, sportsmanship, and global unity;

FURTHER THAT Vancouver City Council formally opposes any deployment of ICE agents to Vancouver for FIFA-related security operations.

- B. THAT Council directs the Mayor to write the Honourable Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Public Safety, and the Honourable Anita Anand, Minister of Foreign Affairs (Global Affairs Canada), requesting they reject any additional deployment, advising of Vancouver Council’s opposition, and articulating concerns around

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<sup>6</sup> US to send ICE agents to Winter Olympics, prompting Italian anger | BBC  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c5y29xzjdzvo>

ICE protest-related security costs and reputational damage to Vancouver as a host city.

- C. THAT Council direct the Mayor to share this resolution's intent with the FIFA organizing committee and the Vancouver Police Department;

FURTHER THAT Council directs the Mayor to share this resolution with her Worship Mayor Olivia Chow and Toronto City Council.

not put

At this point in the proceedings, Councillor Montague rose on a point of order under sections 8.7(a) and (f) of the *Procedure By-law* stating that the motion contained misleading information, and asked the Chair to consider the statement from the Mayor, and information provided to Council from the Vancouver Police Department, the US Consulate, the BC RCMP and staff, and to rule under section 8.7 of the *Procedure By-law* that the motion is incorrect and out of order.

\* \* \* \* \*

*The Committee recessed at 9:54 am and reconvened at 10:04 am.*

\* \* \* \* \*

Following the recess, the Chair ruled that the motion out of order pursuant to section 8.7(f) of the *Procedure By-law*, as the information and recommendations of the motion are incorrect. The Chair noted Council had received correspondence that indicated there will not be any presence of such entities within the city regarding FIFA or otherwise.

Subsequently, Councillor Fry challenged the ruling of the Chair stating that the language on this motion was carefully considered.

MOVED by Councillor Fry  
SECONDED by Councillor Orr

THAT Council challenge the ruling of the Chair.

LOST NOT HAVING RECEIVED  
THE REQUIRED MAJORITY (Vote No. 11415)  
(Councillors Klassen, Montague, Zhou and Mayor Sim opposed)

The challenge to the Chair having lost, the motion was not put.

## **2. Strengthening Public Safety Infrastructure**

Councillor Montague introduced the Motion.

Councillor Fry rose on a point of order under section 8.7(a) of the *Procedure By-law*, stating that the motion is incompatible with the purposes and objects of the *Vancouver Charter* including the good rule and government of the City, and requested the motion be ruled out of order.

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*Council recessed at 10:26 am and reconvened at 10:34 am*

\* \* \* \* \*

Following the recess, the Chair ruled that the motion is in order based on the significant work involved in the weeks that follow notice of motion, and that the final motion followed standard procedure and submission deadlines.

Subsequently, Councillor Orr rose on a point of order under section 8.7(a) of the *Procedure By-law* due to incorrect information in the motion and requested the motion be ruled out of order. Following a brief recess, the Chair ruled the motion in order.

The Committee heard from six speakers in opposition of the motion, and one speaker who spoke to other aspects of the motion.

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*During discussion, Chair Klassen relinquished the Chair to Councillor Meiszner to ask questions, and resumed the chair once finished.*

\* \* \* \* \*

MOVED by Councillor Montague  
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. Effective policing is a foundational prerequisite for public safety, community well-being, and economic vitality, and requires a stable, well-trained, and adequately staffed police service;
2. Municipal police recruits in British Columbia are currently trained at the Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC) Police Academy, at a total cost of approximately \$50,000 per recruit, including tuition fees borne by recruits and significant per-seat contributions paid by home police agencies;
3. The number of recruit training seats available annually at the JIBC Police Academy is insufficient to meet the combined demand of independent municipal police services across the province, creating a structural training bottleneck that limits the ability of departments to offset retirements, attrition, and approved staffing growth;
4. This training capacity constraint has materially affected the Vancouver Police Department's (VPD) ability to onboard new officers, contributing to chronic

- staffing pressures, increased overtime expenditures, operational inefficiencies, and impacts on officer wellness and frontline service delivery;
5. In response to these systemic constraints, and consistent with its statutory role under the *Police Act*, the Vancouver Police Board has formally resolved to seek provincial approval for the establishment of a Vancouver Police Department–run police recruit training academy, with all curriculums, facilities, and instruction subject to approval under the *Police Act* and Provincial Policing Standards;
  6. Establishing an in-house VPD recruit training academy at the Woodward’s building would increase annual recruit training capacity, improve operational flexibility, reduce reliance on external facilities, and support long-term cost efficiencies through reduced overtime and scheduling pressures;
  7. The VPD possesses the facilities, instructional expertise, and operational scale necessary to deliver provincially approved recruit training, informed by active in-service officers with subject-matter expertise in urban policing, investigations, public order, emergency response, and specialized enforcement;
  8. A VPD-run police academy would complement rather than displace the JIBC training model by freeing up JIBC training seats for recruits from other municipal police agencies across British Columbia, thereby strengthening provincial policing capacity overall;
  9. On February 3, 2026, the Chair of the Vancouver Police Board formally advised Mayor and Council of the Board’s intention to seek City funding support for two priority initiatives: the establishment and operationalization of VPD District 5, at an estimated cost of \$2.8 million, and the creation of a VPD Police Training Academy, at an estimated cost of \$1.2 million, including estimated costs, anticipated funding requirements, and associated operational considerations;
  10. The establishment and operationalization of District 5 and the standing up of a satellite VPD Police Training Academy are intended to strengthen frontline policing capacity, improve service delivery, and address approved operational requirements associated with Vancouver’s growing and diverse population;
  11. The portion of the VPD budget currently allocated to JIBC training academy fees would be repurposed to offset the estimated ongoing expenses of the VPD Satellite Police Training Academy, potentially generating sustained cost efficiencies of \$0.3M;
  12. The establishment of a VPD Police Training Academy is contingent upon receiving provincial approval;

13. The sworn staffing required for a satellite training academy, if approved, is anticipated to be cost-neutral through the redeployment of officers within the VPD's existing authorized strength;
14. On January 30, 2026, Mayor Ken Sim wrote to the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, the Honourable Nina Kreiger, regarding two important matters related to public safety in the City of Vancouver. The letter included a reiteration of the urgent request for a response to the VPD's proposal to establish a police training academy to address growing pressures on the department related to recruitment, training capacity, and officer deployment;
15. To date, despite repeated requests, the Province has not provided the City, the Vancouver Police Department, or the Vancouver Police Board with a clear response or timeline for a decision regarding approval of a VPD police training academy; and
16. The City maintains reserves intended to support strategic, one-time investments in critical civic infrastructure that enhance service delivery, operational sustainability, and long-term financial resilience.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council approve an allocation of up to \$4 million in one-time funding from the City's General Revenue Stabilization Reserve to the Vancouver Police Department to support the establishment and operationalization of VPD District 5 and a satellite VPD Police Training Academy, subject to provincial approval where required.
- B. THAT the funding allocation be understood to include approximately \$2.8 million for VPD District 5 and approximately \$1.2 million for the police training academy, and be used for capital improvements, equipment, and related setup costs consistent with approved operational and capital requirements.
- C. THAT Council affirm that the sworn staffing required for the satellite VPD Police Training Academy, if provincially approved, is expected to be cost-neutral through redeployment within the VPD's existing authorized strength.
- D. THAT Council direct staff to report back, as appropriate, on implementation progress, provincial approvals, anticipated operational impacts associated with District 5, increases in recruit training capacity, and any projected cost savings or service improvements resulting from these investments.

carried

\* \* \* \* \*

*MOVED by Councillor Fry*  
*SECONDED by Councillor Meiszner*

*THAT under Section 2.8(a) of the Procedure By-law Council extend the meeting past noon to complete Motion 2.*

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND*  
*BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY*  
*(Councillors Kirby-Yung and Meiszner opposed)*

\* \* \* \* \*

During debate, both Councillors Fry and Orr rose on a Point of Order simultaneously, regarding remarks made by Councillor Montague indicating they attributed improper motives. The Chair ruled the comments in order, and discussion continued.

*REFERRAL MOVED by Councillor Fry*  
*SECONDED by Councillor Orr*

THAT Council refer the motion “Strengthening Public Safety Infrastructure” to staff for a comprehensive report back, in camera as necessary, on the full substance of the motion, and that this report include, but not be limited to, the following components:

1. A detailed needs assessment from the Vancouver Police Board, outlining current and projected operational requirements, training demands, resource gaps, facility needs, and any related public-safety infrastructure considerations required to support effective policing in Vancouver;
2. A capacity and curriculum analysis from the Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC), including an evaluation of current training program capacity, readiness to expand or adapt instructional offerings, alignment with modern policing standards, and identification of any infrastructure, staffing, or accreditation constraints affecting their ability to support enhanced municipal police training;
3. An assessment from the provincial government regarding Section 26 of the Police Act, specifically addressing:
  - Existing rules governing the training, certification, and registration of municipal constables;
  - Any statutory, regulatory, or policy barriers to the establishment or operation of a Vancouver-based Police Academy; and
  - A candid evaluation of the Province’s willingness, commitment, and anticipated timelines, if any, for amending the Police Act to enable or support such an academy.
4. A review by the City’s Real Estate Services Department identifying available, viable, and costed real-estate options for a purpose-built or repurposed police training facility, including considerations of location, capital costs, operational

costs, scalability, co-use potential, and long-term suitability to support Vancouver's public-safety infrastructure needs; and

5. A thoughtful legal assessment outlining the appropriate guardrails, governance mechanisms, and accountability structures required to ensure that any police training, matriculation processes, and associated funding are fully protected from real or perceived conflicts of interest. This should include analysis of best-practice models, oversight safeguards, transparency requirements, and measures to ensure institutional independence, public trust, and integrity in all aspects of training delivery.

LOST (Vote No. 11417)

(Councillors Dominato, Kirby-Yung, Klassen, Meiszner, Montague, Zhou and Mayor Sim opposed)

The motion to refer having lost, the motion was put and CARRIED (Vote No. 11418) with Councillors Bligh, Fry, Maloney and Orr opposed.

After the completion of Motion 2, Councillor Bligh rose on a Point of Parliamentary Procedure to withdraw Motion 3 entitled, "Reversing the Costly Ban on Supportive Housing" due to a spread of misinformation and indicated the matter would be brought forward at a future meeting.

### **3. Reversing the Costly Ban on Supportive Housing – WITHDRAWN**

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*Council recessed at 12:13 pm and reconvened at 1:16 pm, with Chair Meiszner in the Chair.*

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### **4. Walking the Talk: Aligning City Staff's and Council's Remote Work Policy**

Councillor Maloney introduced the Motion.

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

MOVED by Councillor Maloney

SECONDED by Councillor Orr

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. Council plays a leadership role in setting expectations for organizational culture and public service, and credibility is strengthened when expectations placed on staff are reflected in the conduct of elected officials;

2. The City Flexible Work Program was launched in 2021. A 2024 survey on City of Vancouver staff noted that 93.2% of respondents shared that the option of remote work is a factor in their choice to take a position or continue working for the City of Vancouver. Respondents also shared that they are more focused when working remotely. Since its inception, it is estimated that the program allowed the City to save \$2 million per annum;
3. In late 2025, the City Manager issued a directive requiring City of Vancouver staff to return to regular in-office attendance, restricting the use of remote and hybrid work arrangements, with the stated objective of strengthening collaboration, accountability, and organizational culture;
4. The City Manager's direction recognizes limited circumstances where working away from the primary workplace may be appropriate;
5. Council has delegated the authority to manage day-to-day municipal operations to the City Manager to ensure operational considerations such as personnel working conditions are handled by professional staff; and
6. Council has the ability to update its own governing rules to eliminate double standards and align its working conditions to current expectations for City of Vancouver staff.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council establish in-person attendance as the default expectation for itself at all meetings where an in-person option is routinely available in Council chambers, including but not limited to regular Council meetings, Public Hearings, Standing Committee meetings and Business Licence Hearings.
- B. THAT Council limit its own remote participation to circumstances consistent with those applied to City staff, including:
  - (i) illness or health-related absence;
  - (ii) approved Council or City business requiring attendance elsewhere;
  - (iii) provision of child care;
  - (iv) or other exceptional circumstances as determined by the City Clerk.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to develop and report back on any required amendments to Council procedures, policies, or bylaws to formalize this expectation and clearly define permissible exceptions.
- D. THAT Council affirm this policy as an expression of leadership by example and a commitment to accountability, fairness, and public confidence in local governance.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung  
SECONDED by Councillor Zhou

THAT in B, the following be struck from iv: “as determined by the City Clerk.”;

FURTHER THAT clause C be struck.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 11420)  
(Councillor Dominato and Fry absent for the vote)

The amendment having carried, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED  
UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 11421) with Councillors Dominato and Fry absent for the vote.

### **FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED**

#### WHEREAS

1. Council plays a leadership role in setting expectations for organizational culture and public service, and credibility is strengthened when expectations placed on staff are reflected in the conduct of elected officials;
2. The City Flexible Work Program was launched in 2021. A 2024 survey on City of Vancouver staff noted that 93.2% of respondents shared that the option of remote work is a factor in their choice to take a position or continue working for the City of Vancouver. Respondents also shared that they are more focused when working remotely. Since its inception, it is estimated that the program allowed the City to save \$2 million per annum;
3. In late 2025, the City Manager issued a directive requiring City of Vancouver staff to return to regular in-office attendance, restricting the use of remote and hybrid work arrangements, with the stated objective of strengthening collaboration, accountability, and organizational culture;
4. The City Manager’s direction recognizes limited circumstances where working away from the primary workplace may be appropriate;
5. Council has delegated the authority to manage day-to-day municipal operations to the City Manager to ensure operational considerations such as personnel working conditions are handled by professional staff; and
6. Council has the ability to update its own governing rules to eliminate double standards and align its working conditions to current expectations for City of Vancouver staff.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council establish in-person attendance as the default expectation for itself at all meetings where an in-person option is routinely available in Council chambers, including but not limited to regular Council meetings, Public Hearings, Standing Committee meetings and Business Licence Hearings.
- B. THAT Council limit its own remote participation to circumstances consistent with those applied to City staff, including:
  - (i) illness or health-related absence;
  - (ii) approved Council or City business requiring attendance elsewhere;
  - (iii) provision of child care;
  - (iv) or other exceptional circumstances.
- C. THAT Council affirm this policy as an expression of leadership by example and a commitment to accountability, fairness, and public confidence in local governance.

**5. Meeting the Moment: FIFA Public Safety and Local Readiness Working Group**

Councillor Bligh introduced the Motion.

The Committee heard from seven speakers in support of the motion.

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*During discussion, Chair Meiszner relinquished the Chair to Deputy Mayor Kirby-Yung to provide comments, and resumed the Chair once finished.*

\* \* \* \* \*

MOVED by Councillor Bligh  
SECONDED by Councillor Orr

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. Vancouver will be hosting 7 games of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, from June 13th to July 7th, attracting a significant number of national and international visitors to the city, and presents an immense opportunity for Vancouver;
2. Major international events such as the 2026 FIFA World Cup will feature an influx of tourists from Australia, New Zealand, Egypt, Switzerland and Qatar, as well as regional day visitors coming into the City, representing a potential overload on local businesses, and strain on public transit, as well as public safety concerns

including a risk of toxic drug overdoses by uninformed soccer fans, the risk of harassment, and increased risk of gender-based violence;

3. Without taking concrete action to mitigate the various risks that are present as a result of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, there could be negative consequences as a result of clearly foreseeable risks;
4. A key factor in addressing the aforementioned foreseeable risks is to work directly with on the ground groups, organizations, and businesses that will be directly affected to ensure that the City can be welcoming, safe, and vibrant for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, as well as align these efforts with pre-existing efforts undertaken by the City; and
5. Strategies implemented in pursuit of an effective 2026 FIFA World Cup can have lasting positive impacts on the City, and thus should have broad stakeholder input.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to establish a 2026 FIFA World Cup Public Safety and Local Readiness Working Group, for the purpose of developing an Integrated Readiness Strategy, with the Working Group to be convened between Vancouver Business Improvement Associations (BIAs), local community organizations, health and safety agencies, transit and hospitality partners, local Indigenous leaders, and key City departments, and to ensure that the Working Group functions in tandem with the FIFA World Cup 26 Vancouver Host Committee to avoid direct overlap of work.
- B. THAT the Integrated Readiness Strategy address, but not be limited to:
  - a. neighbourhood-level safety;
  - b. visitor experience;
  - c. gender-based violence prevention and response;
  - d. neighbourhood ambassador programs;
  - e. local business preparedness;
  - f. restaurant watch, bar watch, and other venue support from VPD; and
  - g. a coordinated public communication effort.
- C. THAT the 2026 FIFA World Cup Public Safety and Local Readiness Working Group be aligned with any and all pre-existing City-led or organized efforts to prepare for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.
- D. THAT the Integrated Readiness Strategy be produced and delivered reasonably well in advance of the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

LOST (Vote No. 11422)

(Councillors Kirby-Yung, Klassen, Meiszner, Montague, Zhou, and Mayor Sim opposed)

(Councillors Dominato and Fry absent for the vote)

## 6. Recommitting to \$10 a Day Childcare

Councillor Orr introduced the Motion.

The Committee heard from six speakers in support of the motion.

MOVED by Councillor Orr

SECONDED by Councillor Bligh

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

### WHEREAS

1. The provincial \$10 a Day ChildCareBC program aims to make licensed early learning and childcare affordable and accessible to families across British Columbia, reducing fees to \$10 per day for full-time care;
2. Universal, affordable childcare supports labour force participation, gender equity in employment, and long-term child development outcomes; and municipalities have a vested interest in stable, high-quality childcare as a foundation for thriving communities;
3. Vancouver's *Making Strides: Vancouver's Childcare Strategy (2018)* affirms a vision of childcare as a universal, publicly funded system that is primarily delivered by non-profit and public providers so that all families have access to affordable, high-quality, inclusive childcare;
4. Recent reports indicate some childcare providers may reconsider participation in the \$10/day program due to funding and wage pressures; and
5. The long-term success of the \$10-a-Day ChildCareBC program, and the transition toward a universal childcare system, requires not only sustained senior government operating and capital funding, but also the availability of suitable land and air parcels on which to build new public and non-profit childcare facilities; and the City of Vancouver plays a critical role in identifying, securing, and enabling access to such sites through its land holdings, planning authority, and development processes.

### THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT Vancouver City Council reaffirm its support for the \$10-a-Day ChildCareBC program, and for the role of publicly funded, public and non-profit childcare in delivering long-term affordability, stability, and access for families.

- B. THAT Council direct staff to monitor, track, and report back on the number of public and non-profit childcare spaces that have been lost, reduced, or converted to private childcare spaces through rezoning, development, or Community Amenity Contribution (CAC) negotiations, including identifying where previously secured public childcare spaces have been removed from development proposals due to financial feasibility claims.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to consult with the Province of British Columbia, including the Ministry of Education and Child Care, prior to accepting rezoning or development proposals that remove or replace committed public or non-profit childcare spaces, and to advocate for provincial support or alternative funding mechanisms that would enable those spaces to remain public or non-profit.
- D. THAT Council affirm that privately operated childcare, while an important component of the childcare system, constitutes a commercial use from a land-use and planning perspective, and that private childcare spaces may be discontinued or converted to other commercial uses at any time at the discretion of the owner; and therefore public resources and CACs should be prioritized toward securing public and non-profit childcare spaces that provide long-term community benefit.
- E. THAT Council direct staff to report back with options to ensure that new developments proposing privately operated childcare spaces are required to secure the use of those spaces as childcare in perpetuity or for the life of the building, through legal agreements or zoning conditions, where public childcare is not being delivered.
- F. THAT Council affirm that residential-scale childcare delivered through individual developments represents only a small portion of overall childcare need, and that large city-facilitated public and non-profit childcare facilities, like public schools, have served generations of families over the long term, and should remain a central focus of municipal childcare policy and investment.
- G. THAT Council direct staff to include these considerations in the forthcoming childcare policy report and public hearing materials, and to reflect this approach in future rezonings, CAC negotiations, and childcare planning frameworks.
- H. THAT Council direct staff to continue to identify and prioritize City-owned land and air parcels for the development of public and non-profit childcare facilities, and to work with senior governments and non-profit partners to advance these sites as part of the expansion of affordable and universal childcare in Vancouver.

- I. THAT Council direct the Mayor to submit a resolution to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) for consideration at the upcoming UBCM convention, urging the Province of British Columbia and federal partners to maintain and enhance funding models that sustain affordable childcare without undermining provider wages and sector stability.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Klassen  
SECONDED by Councillor Zhou

THAT Council strike A to I and replace with the following:

- A. THAT Vancouver City Council expresses concern regarding the Provincial Government's decision to pause the expansion of the \$10-a-day ChildCareBC program.
- B. THAT Council call upon the Province of British Columbia to reaffirm its commitment to achieving a universal \$10-a-day child care system, including:
  - i. establishing a clear timeline for resuming expansion of new \$10-a-day spaces;
  - ii. ensuring stable and adequate operating funding for providers; and
  - iii. working collaboratively with municipalities to accelerate the delivery of new licensed child care spaces.
- C. THAT Council request that the Mayor write to the Premier of British Columbia and the Minister of Education and Child Care conveying Council's support for continued expansion of \$10-a-day child care and urging the Province to make good on its commitment to affordable, accessible child care for families.

CARRIED (Vote No. 11423)  
(Councillors Bligh and Maloney opposed)  
(Councillors Dominato and Fry absent for the vote)

The amendment having carried, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 11416) with Councillors Dominato and Fry absent for the vote.

## **FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED**

WHEREAS

1. The provincial \$10 a Day ChildCareBC program aims to make licensed early learning and childcare affordable and accessible to families across British Columbia, reducing fees to \$10 per day for full-time care;
2. Universal, affordable childcare supports labour force participation, gender equity in employment, and long-term child development outcomes; and municipalities have a vested interest in stable, high-quality childcare as a foundation for thriving

communities;

3. Vancouver's *Making Strides: Vancouver's Childcare Strategy* (2018) affirms a vision of childcare as a universal, publicly funded system that is primarily delivered by non-profit and public providers so that all families have access to affordable, high-quality, inclusive childcare;
4. Recent reports indicate some childcare providers may reconsider participation in the \$10/day program due to funding and wage pressures; and
5. The long-term success of the \$10-a-Day ChildCareBC program, and the transition toward a universal childcare system, requires not only sustained senior government operating and capital funding, but also the availability of suitable land and air parcels on which to build new public and non-profit childcare facilities; and the City of Vancouver plays a critical role in identifying, securing, and enabling access to such sites through its land holdings, planning authority, and development processes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT Vancouver City Council express concern regarding the Provincial Government's decision to pause the expansion of the \$10-a-day ChildCareBC program.
- B. THAT Council call upon the Province of British Columbia to reaffirm its commitment to achieving a universal \$10-a-day child care system, including:
  - i. establishing a clear timeline for resuming expansion of new \$10-a-day spaces;
  - ii. ensuring stable and adequate operating funding for providers; and
  - iii. working collaboratively with municipalities to accelerate the delivery of new licensed child care spaces.
- C. THAT Council request that the Mayor write to the Premier of British Columbia and the Minister of Education and Child Care conveying Council's support for continued expansion of \$10-a-day child care and urging the Province to make good on its commitment to affordable, accessible child care for families.

The Committee adjourned at 3:05 pm.

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**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON  
POLICY AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

**FEBRUARY 25, 2026**

A meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 3:05 pm, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, following the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting, to consider the recommendations and actions of the Committee.

**PRESENT:**

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

**ABSENT:**

Councillor Pete Fry (Leave of Absence – Civic Business, 12 pm onwards)

**CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE:**

Donny van Dyk, City Manager  
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:**

Lesley Matthews, Deputy City Clerk  
Julie Emmerson, Meeting Coordinator

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Report of Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities  
Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Council considered the report containing the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities. Its items of business included:

Reports:

1. Contract Award for Provision of City Fleet Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

Council Members' Motions:

1. ICE Out of the Beautiful Game and Vancouver's World Cup
2. Strengthening Public Safety Infrastructure
3. Reversing the Costly Ban on Supportive Housing
4. Walking the Talk: Aligning City Staff's and Council's Remote Work Policy
5. Meeting the Moment: FIFA Public Safety and Local Readiness Working Group

6. Recommitting to \$10 a Day Childcare

Report 1 and Council Members' Motions 1 to 6.

MOVED by Councillor Orr

SECONDED by Councillor Montague

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities at its meeting of February 25, 2026, as contained in items Report 1 and Motions 1 to 6, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Councillor Bligh

SECONDED by Councillor Orr

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council adjourned at 3:07 pm.

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