COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

For consideration at the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on November 18, 2026

11. Introducing the People's Audit

Submitted by: Councillor Orr

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver's 2026 budget has significantly impacted operations at the City of Vancouver, including significant impacts on City staff;

2. Since at least January 1, 2024, the City has undertaken staffing and operational changes in anticipation of, or in response to, 2026 budget pressures. These actions may include layoffs, position eliminations, vacancy freezes, reclassifications, hours reductions, and the contracting out of previously in-house functions;

3. The 2026 budget was presented to the public at a significantly reduced level of detail when compared to previous budgets;

4. Transparency about the scope and impact of these changes is necessary for Council to exercise its oversight responsibilities, and for the public to assess the impact of budget decisions in a democracy;

5. Vancouver has adopted strategies, action plans, frameworks and Council priorities that have set goals across housing, climate, transportation, health, and equity, but there is no single public account of which goals have been met, which are outstanding, and which have been abandoned, and often targets under consecutive councils have ceased to be reported on; and

6. Understanding how Vancouver's goals have been met, or not met, over time is an essential piece of information for City Councillors to make informed decisions on future budget priorities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

A. THAT Council direct the City Manager to produce a public, non-confidential written report to Council by Q1 2027 that outlines comprehensively, key staffing operational changes made across de-resourced City departments and functions between January 1, 2024, and the date of this motion that relate to meeting budget targets, including but not limited to:

    a. Positions eliminated or delisted;

    b. Teams, projects, or services defunded or paused;

    c. Layoffs and terminations including both Unionized and non-Unionized;

d. Vacancy freezes (positions left unfilled by policy or direction);

e. Reductions in hours or changes in employment status;

f. Reclassifications and bumping;

g. Functions, services, or work contracted out to external providers;

h. Any other measures that reduced the City's workforce or service delivery capacity; and

i. Any other measures taken in service of implementing the 2026 budget.

B. THAT the report identify, for each change, the department affected, the nature of the change, the date the change was directed, and the impacts on staff and city services.

C. THAT the report discloses all new costs incurred, including severances, new training costs, and subcontracts and automation to complete work previously done by staff.

D. THAT the report estimate the costs of re-instating lost positions, departments, or programs.

E. THAT the report provide options on policy to strengthen procedures on city governance, provide more information to Councillors, and increase transparency and participation with the Public in future budget processes.

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