



REPORT TO COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL  
ON CITY FINANCE AND SERVICES

JANUARY 31, 2012

A Regular Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on City Finance and Services was held on Tuesday, January 31, 2012, at 1:57 pm, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT: Councillor Raymond Louie, Chair  
Mayor Gregor Robertson\*  
Councillor George Affleck  
Councillor Adriane Carr  
Councillor Heather Deal, Vice-Chair  
Councillor Kerry Jang  
Councillor Geoff Meggs  
Councillor Andrea Reimer\*  
Councillor Tim Stevenson  
Councillor Tony Tang

ABSENT: Councillor Elizabeth Ball (Leave of Absence)

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Penny Ballem, City Manager  
Sadhu Johnston, Deputy City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Lori Isfeld, Meeting Coordinator

\* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

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*The Committee agreed to vary the order of the agenda to hear from staff on Item 1 prior to the reading of the Proclamation.*

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PROCLAMATION - Toastmasters Month

The Mayor proclaimed February, 2012 as "Toastmasters Month" in the City of Vancouver and invited Reamick Lo, District 21 Governor, Toastmasters International, Margaret Page, District 21 Lieutenant Governor of Education and Training, Toastmasters International, Darren Frew, President, City Hall Connaught Toastmasters Club, Kathy Bengston, Vice President, Public Relations, City Hall Connaught Toastmasters Club and Nancy Largent, Past President, City Hall Connaught Toastmasters Club, to receive the proclamation and say a few words.

1. 2012 Assessment Roll

Jason Grant, Area Assessor, and Grant McDonald, Deputy Assessor, BC Assessment, reviewed the 2012 Assessment Roll, and responded to questions.

2. Increasing Fairness and Citizen Involvement in Municipal Elections

On January 31, 2012, Vancouver City Council referred a motion on the above-noted matter to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting later that day, in order to hear from speakers.

The Committee heard from four speakers in support of the motion, some of whom offered additional comments or suggestions.

The following motion reflects changes agreed to by the Committee:

MOVED by Councillor Reimer  
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. On March 25, 2010 Council, on the advice of an all-party subcommittee, unanimously passed recommendations to the Local Government Elections Task Force in regards to Campaign Finance Reform and other changes to improve fairness and citizen involvement in Vancouver municipal elections (attached as Appendix A of the Motion entitled "Increasing Fairness and Citizen Involvement in Municipal Elections").
2. The Local Government Elections Task Force failed to accept these recommendations and the City of Vancouver requires approval by the Provincial Government in order to make changes to campaign finance rules or voting procedures.
3. The Chief Election Officer implemented enhancements, such as increasing advanced voting opportunities, with an aim to increase voter turnout and citizen involvement in the 2011 municipal election, as well as ensure fairness for all candidates.
4. The Vancouver Charter currently prohibits the release of raw vote data, which is data that is not traceable to individual voters but provides information on the contents of each ballot.
5. The Chief Election Officer and members of Council have received requests from voting policy analysts to access raw vote data for the purpose of conducting academic research and providing policy recommendations on elections.
6. The analysis of raw vote data provided in jurisdictions such as New Zealand, Scotland, and Minneapolis has been invaluable in better informing important policy issues related to electoral systems and the relationship between demographics and voter turn out.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT City Council write to the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and reiterate the request to have the ability under the Vancouver Charter for Council to make campaign finance rules and consider alternate voting systems, as outlined in Appendix A of the Motion entitled “Increasing Fairness and Citizen Involvement in Municipal Elections”, and make a new request for the ability to release raw vote data.
- B. THAT City Council requests recommendations from the 2011 Chief Election Officer for measures to increase voter turnout, citizen involvement and fairness for all candidates in the 2014 Civic Election.
- C. THAT City Council reconfirms its support for items 7, 10, and 11 from the submission to the Provincial Local Government Elections Task Force, approved by City Council on March 25, 2010, as outlined in Appendix A of the Motion entitled “Increasing Fairness and Citizen Involvement in Municipal Elections”.

APPENDIX A

From minutes of March 25, 2010 Planning and Environment Committee Meeting  
<http://vancouver.ca/ctyclerk/cclerk/20100325/documents/penv20100325min.pdf>

1. Set limits on the annual amount of contributions that can be given by an individual to an elector organization, campaign organizer, or an individual seeking elected office.
2. Ban union and corporate donations.
3. Limit the amount of money that may be spent annually by an elector organization, campaign organizer, or an individual seeking elected office during a general local election campaign.
4. These limits on contributions and expenditures would be based upon a per-electoral/capita, per-candidate formula (with individual candidate resources allowed to be pooled for use by elector organizations) and would be no higher than provincial and federal spending limits.
5. Disallow contributions to an elector organization, campaign organizer, or an individual seeking elected office, from sources outside of Canada.
6. Require that all donations and expenses for candidates, elected officials and elector organizations be disclosed on a continuous basis at six month intervals.
8. Change the definition of “candidate” to include anyone seeking nomination within an elector organization for candidacy to a local government office.
9. Appoint the Provincial Chief Election Officer to oversee municipal elections in BC, and establish penalties and mechanisms for enforcement of offences under the amended local government elections legislation.

12. Provide local governments with the authority to use any method of elections they wish to use, and repeal the requirement for Lieutenant Governor in Council approval to adopt such a change.
13. Amend the definition of election offenses and related penalties to include individuals acting as an intermediary in third-party campaign contribution schemes.

NOTE: Items 7, 10 and 11 were removed as they do not directly relate to increasing municipal authority for campaign or electoral reform and were specific to questions posed by the Local Government Elections Task Force. They are provided below for reference.

7. Implement a system of tax credits for municipal donations, similar to those for provincial and federal elections.
10. Extend municipal terms of office to four years.
11. Oppose allowing corporations the right to vote in local elections.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### 3. Allow Safe Tying Up of Leashed Dogs

On January 31, 2012, Vancouver City Council referred a motion on the above-noted matter to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting later that day, in order to hear from speakers.

Licences and Inspections staff responded to questions.

The Committee heard from one speaker opposed to ticketing owners of safely tied up dogs.

MOVED by Councillor Carr  
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

#### WHEREAS

1. It is common practice for many dog owners to tie up their leashed dog for a brief time in a public space outside of a store, café or other establishment.
2. Some business establishments have even encouraged this practice by providing dog-friendly areas outside their entrances.
3. It appears that in the vast majority of cases this practice has not compromised the safety and well-being of the public or the pet.
4. The City of Vancouver Animal Control By-law (9150) states that if a dog is off its property, not leashed and not under the immediate charge and control of a responsible person, it may be impounded and/or the owner or keeper ticketed for breach of the by-law.

5. The intent of this by-law may be to protect the safety and well-being of the public and the pets but in practice unfairly penalizes dog owners who act responsibly and whose dogs are well behaved and pose no threat to public safety or well-being.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT staff report back on options for changing the Animal Control Bylaw so as to allow people to safely tie up and leave temporarily unattended a well behaved leashed dog in a public space, such as outside of a store, café or building.

LOST

(Councillors Affleck, Deal, Jang, Louie, Meggs, Stevenson and Tang opposed)  
(Councillor Reimer and Mayor Robertson absent for the vote)

4. Request Provincial Government to Allow the Rio Theatre to Show Movie Screenings

On January 31, 2012, Vancouver City Council, referred a motion on the above-noted matter to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting later that day, in order to hear from speakers.

Licences and Inspections staff responded to questions.

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

MOVED by Councillor Deal

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. The Rio Theatre is a multi-use cultural venue hosting a variety of events including movie screenings, variety shows, theatre performances, music concerts, and speaker series.
2. The Rio Theatre is legally allowed to serve alcohol at special events, provided it is through a one-time special occasion licence obtained by the event organizer.
3. The Rio Theatre has asked for a liquor licence for pre-booked, live ticketed events, a request which Vancouver City Council approved of in October 2011.
4. The current provincial legislation does not allow for a live performance venue to serve alcohol if it also shows movie screenings at other operating times.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council requests the Provincial Government, through the Liquor Control and Licencing Branch, provide a condition on the Rio Theatre's existing liquor license which allows them to show movie screenings without alcohol service, when no live events are scheduled.

- B. THAT Council requests the Provincial Government undertake a review of liquor policy to streamline existing regulations, particularly those where duplication or contradicting policies are concerned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee adjourned at 5:02 pm

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REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON  
CITY FINANCE AND SERVICES

JANUARY 31, 2012

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Tuesday, January 31, 2012, at 5:03 pm, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, following the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services, to consider the recommendations and actions of the Committee.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Gregor Robertson  
Councillor George Affleck  
Councillor Adriane Carr  
Councillor Heather Deal  
Councillor Kerry Jang  
Councillor Raymond Louie  
Councillor Geoff Meggs  
Councillor Andrea Reimer  
Councillor Tim Stevenson  
Councillor Tony Tang

**ABSENT:** Councillor Elizabeth Ball (Leave of Absence)

**CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE:** Sadhu Johnston, Deputy City Manager

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Lori Isfeld, Meeting Coordinator

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

MOVED by Councillor Deal  
SECONDED by Councillor Tang

THAT this Council resolve itself into Committee of the Whole, Mayor Robertson in the Chair.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Report of Standing Committee on City Finance and Services  
January 31, 2012

Council considered the report containing the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services. Its items of business included:

1. 2012 Assessment Roll
2. Increasing Fairness and Citizen Involvement in Municipal Elections
3. Allow Safe Tying Up of Leashed Dogs
4. Request Provincial Government to Allow the Rio Theatre to Show Movie Screenings

Items 1 to 4

MOVED by Councillor Jang

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services at its meeting of January 31, 2012, as contained in items 1 to 4, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Stevenson

THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPT REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Deal  
SECONDED by Councillor Jang

THAT the report of the Committee of the Whole be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council adjourned at 5:04 pm

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