



Corporation of the City of  
**NEW WESTMINSTER**

*A vibrant, compassionate, resilient city where everyone can thrive.*

**REGULAR COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

**Monday, June 24, 2024, 6:00 p.m.**

**Meeting held electronically and in Council Chamber  
City Hall**

PRESENT: Mayor Patrick Johnstone  
Councillor Ruby Campbell  
Councillor Daniel Fontaine  
Councillor Tasha Henderson  
Councillor Paul Minhas  
Councillor Nadine Nakagawa

Hanieh Berg, Corporate Officer

ABSENT: Councillor Jaimie McEvoy

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1. **CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Mayor Johnstone called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsundered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. He acknowledged that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. He recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Council amend the agenda to:
  - a. consider Item 4.1 – Presentation of the 2023 Annual Report immediately prior to “New Business;”
  - b. add Item 4.2 – Verbal Update: Permanent Free-Standing Toilet; and
  - c. add Item 10.1 – Public Announcement Arising from Regular (Closed) Council.

2. **THAT** Council adopt the June 24, 2024, Regular Council agenda, as amended.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

In accordance with Section 100 of the *Community Charter*, Councillor Minhas and Councillor Nakagawa declared to be in a conflict of interest as they each reside near the subject property and left the meeting (6:04 p.m.).

### **3. ISSUANCE OF PERMITS**

#### **3.1 Development Variance Permit No. DVP00730 for 602 Agnes Street (68 Sixth Street)**

The Corporate Officer stated that seven pieces of correspondence have been received in relation to the proposed Development Variance Permit, with four pieces distributed on table (attached to and forming part of these Minutes as Schedule 1).

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council receive four pieces of correspondence (Schedule 1) in relation to Development Variance Permit No. DVP00730 for 602 Agnes Street (68 Sixth Street).

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council approve issuance of DVP00730.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Councillor Minhas and Councillor Nakagawa returned to the meeting (6:05 p.m.).

### **4. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

#### **4.1 Presentation of the 2023 Annual Report**

Please see Page 13 for action on this matter.

#### **4.2 Verbal Update: Permanent Free-Standing Toilet**

Please see Page 10 for action on this matter.

## 5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Items 5.1, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.10, 5.11, and 5.12 be removed from the Consent Agenda; and
2. **THAT** Council adopt the recommendations for Items 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.9, and 5.13 by general consent.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **5.1 2023 Statement of Financial Information**

In reply to queries from Council, Shehzad Somji, Director, Finance, advised that staff will report back to Council regarding Council remuneration in relation to the provision of transitional allowance.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council receive and approve the attached 2023 Statement of Financial Information.

The question on the motion was not called as staff was requested to consider listing position titles in lieu of individual names when reporting on employee earnings greater than \$75,000.

The question on the motion was then called and it was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

### **5.2 Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: Metro Vancouver Utility Construction – 1900 Block Stewardson Way**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council grant an exemption from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 to Metro Vancouver and its contractor, Argo Safety Services Ltd. from 10:00 PM to 4:00 AM for one night between Wednesday, June 26, 2024 and Wednesday, July 17, 2024 excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Statutory Holidays to conduct a utility hole hatch upgrade on 1900 block Stewardson Way.

**ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

### **5.3 Council Authorization of the Province's Short Term Rental Information Sharing Agreement**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council authorize the signing of the Province's Short Term Rental Information Sharing Agreement.

**ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

#### **5.4 Fair Wage Policy at the City of New Westminster**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council direct staff to proceed with developing a draft Fair Wage Policy and implementation plan.

**ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

#### **5.5 New Westminster School District's 2024-2025 Eligible School Sites Proposal**

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Council accept the School District 40's 2024-2025 Eligible School Sites Proposal; and
2. **THAT** Council direct staff to send a letter to the School District which:
  - a. includes the resolution regarding the Eligible School Sites Proposal;
  - b. shares that the City will update its Official Community Plan projections consistent with the new provincial legislation; and
  - c. expresses interest in continued collaboration and joint advocacy on school planning.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **5.6 Official Community Plan Amendment and Rezoning: 801 Boyd Street – Bylaws for First and Second Readings**

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Council consider Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw (801 Boyd Street) No. 8448, 2024 for First reading.
2. **THAT** Council consider Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw (801 Boyd Street) No. 8448, 2024 in conjunction with the City's Capital Expenditure Program as contained in the Five Year Financial Plan and the Region's Solid Waste Management Plan and Liquid Waste Management Plan, and which is deemed to be consistent with said program and plans in accordance with Section 477(3)(a) of the *Local Government Act*.
3. **THAT** Council consider Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw (801 Boyd Street) No. 8448, 2024 for Second reading, and forward the bylaw to a Public Hearing.
4. **THAT** Council consider Zoning Amendment Bylaw (801 Boyd Street) No. 8449, 2024 for First and Second readings, and forward the bylaw to a Public Hearing.

**CARRIED**

Opposed: Cllr. Henderson

## **5.7 Public Hearing Prohibited for Residential Development Applications**

Discussion took place and Council commented on the need to maintain the public's access to Council during Regular Council meetings. Discussion also ensued regarding the potential risk of not being consistent with the *Local Government Act* and how that risk may affect development throughout the city.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council Procedure Bylaw No. 6910, 2004, Amendment Bylaw No. 8467, 2024, which prohibits delegations on land use applications for which a public hearing is prohibited, be given First, Second and Third readings.

**CARRIED**

Opposed: Cllrs. Fontaine  
Minhas

## **5.8 Response to Council Motion: 2026 FIFA World Cup**

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Council direct staff to include enhancements in the 2025 budgeting process to operationalize a 2026 FIFA World Cup celebration; and
2. **THAT** Council direct staff to seek corporate and/or other private sector sponsorship agreements to either partially or fully offset the cost of a digital screen.

The question on the motion was not called as discussion took place and it was noted that there may be an opportunity to offset the cost of the digital screen through the provincial Destination Development Fund.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Part 1 of the motion be amended by inserting "city-wide" prior to 2026.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

The question on the motion, as amended, was then called and it was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

## **5.9 Street and Traffic Bylaw Amendment (Bylaw No. 8459, 2024) and Engineering User Fees and Rates Bylaw Amendment (Bylaw No. 8458, 2024) for Three Readings**

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Council give Street and Traffic Amendment Bylaw No. 8459, 2024 First, Second, and Third readings as presented in Attachment #1 of this report; and
2. **THAT** Council give Engineering User Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 8458, 2024 First, Second, and Third readings as presented in Attachment #2 of this report.

**ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

### **5.10 Uptown Live Municipally Significant LCRB Resolution**

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Council support the declaration of the Uptown Live Festival, produced by the Uptown Business Association to be of municipal significance and forward this resolution to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch.
2. **THAT** Council direct staff to develop a policy and decision-making matrix staff may use to evaluate future municipally significant event designation requests and bring a draft to Council for review in Q3.

**ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

### **5.11 Proclamation: Indigenous Survivors Day, June 30, 2024**

Mayor Johnstone proclaimed June 30, 2024, as Indigenous Survivors Day in the City of New Westminster.

### **5.12 Proclamation: Pride Week, August 9-18, 2024**

Katie Stobbart, President, New West Pride, accompanied by members of New West Pride, highlighted the various events scheduled for 2024 New West Pride.

Mayor Johnstone proclaimed August 9 to 18, 2024 as Pride Week in the City of New Westminster.

### **5.13 Minutes for Adoption**

MOVED and SECONDED

- a. **May 27, 2024 Council Workshop**
  - b. **May 27, 2024 Regular Council Meeting**
  - c. **Memo: Correction to the May 6, 2024 Regular Council Minutes**
1. **THAT** Council's resolution on May 27, 2024 to adopt the Minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on May 6, 2024 be rescinded; and
  2. **THAT** the Minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on May 6, 2024 be adopted as amended and circulated.

**ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

## **8. BYLAWS**

### **8.1 Bylaws for Readings**

- a. **Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw (801 Boyd Street) No. 8448, 2024**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw (801 Boyd Street) No. 8448, 2024 First reading.

**CARRIED**

Opposed: Cllr. Henderson

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw (801 Boyd Street) No. 8448, 2024 Second reading.

**CARRIED**

Opposed: Cllr. Henderson

**b. Zoning Amendment Bylaw (801 Boyd Street) No. 8449, 2024**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Zoning Amendment Bylaw (801 Boyd Street) No. 8449, 2024 First reading.

**CARRIED**

Opposed: Cllr. Henderson

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Zoning Amendment Bylaw (801 Boyd Street) No. 8449, 2024 Second reading.

**CARRIED**

Opposed: Cllr. Henderson

**c. Council Procedure Bylaw No. 6910, 2004, Amendment Bylaw No. 8467, 2024**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Council Procedure Bylaw No. 6910, 2004, Amendment Bylaw No. 8467, 2024 First reading.

**CARRIED**

Opposed: Cllr. Fontaine

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Council Procedure Bylaw No. 6910, 2004, Amendment Bylaw No. 8467, 2024 Second reading.

**CARRIED**

Opposed: Cllr. Fontaine

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Council Procedure Bylaw No. 6910, 2004, Amendment Bylaw No. 8467, 2024 Third reading.

**CARRIED**

Opposed: Cllr. Fontaine

**d. Street and Traffic Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 8459, 2024**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Street and Traffic Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 8459, 2024 First reading.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Street and Traffic Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 8459, 2024 Second reading.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Street and Traffic Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 8459, 2024 Third reading.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**e. Engineering User Fees and Rates Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 8458, 2024**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Engineering User Fees and Rates Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 8458, 2024 First reading.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Engineering User Fees and Rates Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 8458, 2024 Second reading.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Engineering User Fees and Rates Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 8458, 2024 Third reading.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



## 8.2 Bylaws for Adoption

### a. Transit Oriented Area Designation Bylaw No. 8460, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council adopt Transit Oriented Area Designation Bylaw No. 8460, 2024.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### b. Zoning Amendment Bylaw (Transit Oriented Area and Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing Amendments) No. 8453, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council adopt Zoning Amendment Bylaw (Transit Oriented Area and Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing Amendments) No. 8453, 2024.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting was recessed at 6:51 p.m.

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The meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m. with all members of Council present, except Councillor McEvoy.

## 6. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK TO COUNCIL

### 6.1 New Westminster Chamber of Commerce: 2024 Strategic Plan & Future Structure

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Rich Patterson and Karima Jivraj, New Westminster Chamber of Commerce, provided an update on the organization's efforts to support New Westminster businesses over the past two years.

K. Jivraj then spoke to challenges faced by the Chamber and commented on potential opportunities to merge with another organization in an effort to remain operational and continue serving the businesses of New Westminster.

### 6.2 Open Delegations

Amrik Mahil, Royal City Taxi, referenced correspondence with the City's Transportation Division (attached to and forming part of these Minutes as Schedule 2) and commented on the need for transportation improvements throughout the city. A. Mahil requested that the City (i) grant taxicabs the same advance right-turn privilege as buses at First Avenue and Royal Avenue during peak hours and (ii) establish designated taxicab stands at high volume areas and in particular at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Street SkyTrain station.

In reply to queries from Council, Kwaku Agyare-Manu, Acting Director, Engineering, advised that the City cannot proceed with road improvements at First Avenue and Royal Avenue until the completion of the new Pattullo Bridge.

Discussion ensued and Council remarked that taxicab service plays a vital role in the City's transportation framework.

Rick Folka spoke to conflicts of interest in reference to Council's consideration of an amendment to the Code of Conduct Bylaw No. 8408 and a resolution regarding costs of the Metro Vancouver North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant. R. Folka was of the opinion that Council members were in conflict and requested Council to reconsider these matters.

In reply to queries from Council, the Corporate Officer commented on the legislative process for reconsideration of a motion.

Holly Mitton, accompanied by members of the Gurdwara Sahib Sukh Sagar, spoke to the Guru Nanak's Free Kitchen, highlighting their efforts to feed those living in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. H. Mitton also commented on the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Bike and Walk-a-Thon, noting that proceeds will support their efforts to feed those in need and their operation of a commercial kitchen at 245 East Hastings Street.

Aaron Fultz, Interurban Strata Council member, spoke in opposition of the installation of a permanent free-standing toilet on Begbie Street. A. Fultz commented on the Strata's efforts to maintain their property, citing retention of a full-time contractor to clean garbage, used syringes, and human waste daily and Capital funds to upgrade the building's security system. A. Fultz cited further concerns with the location of the toilet, noting that the curb upgrade would hinder the ability to enter the building's parkade and the citation of the structure poses risks to those entering and exiting the building's lobby as sightlines would be obstructed. A. Fultz then requested that Council not proceed with the installation of a permanent free-standing toilet at Begbie Street until a broader strategy is developed and suggested the installation of wayfinding signage to improve the public's ability to locate a public washroom in the downtown.

Mark Barber spoke in opposition of the installation of a permanent free-standing toilet on Begbie Street, noting that the public toilet on Sixth Street (between Columbia Street and Front Street) was permanently closed due to ongoing vandalism.

#### **4. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

##### **4.2 Verbal Update: Permanent Free-Standing Toilet**

Mayor Johnstone provided background information regarding the need for a permanent free-standing toilet and spoke to the challenges of public consultation for Capital projects that have not been endorsed by Council.

It was noted that the need for a permanent public toilet remains and its operational model needs to ensure its longevity, maintenance, and access by all. As a result, the following motion was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council request staff develop a work plan and budget to prepare a city-wide comprehensive public toilet strategy that (i) is informed by engagement with the community, (ii) recommends locations and options for different service levels including 24/7 operation, and (iii) recommends options for working with community partners to ensure access to public toilets for all members of the community, and report back.

The question on the motion was not called as in reply to queries from Council, Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer, advised that staff will report back to Council on next steps, including whether or not the installation of the permanent free-standing toilet on Begbie Street will proceed prior to consideration of a comprehensive public toilet strategy.

As a result, the following amendment motion was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** the following be added as Part 2 to the main motion:

*THAT staff be directed to halt the installation of the public toilet at the corner of Begbie Street and Front Street until work has been done on the comprehensive public toilet strategy.*

**DEFEATED**

Opposed: Mayor Johnstone  
Cllrs. Campbell  
Henderson  
Nakagawa

In reply to queries from Council, Tobi May, Senior Manager, Civic Buildings and Properties, advised that the scope of the proposed referral motion expands staff's parameters as it is for a city-wide plan as opposed to one area of the city.

Discussion then took place on deferring consideration of the referral motion to the July 8, 2024 Regular Council meeting to allow Council and the public time to consider what is being proposed. As a result, the following motion was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** consideration of the referral motion to develop a work plan and budget to prepare a city-wide comprehensive public toilet strategy be deferred to the July 8, 2024 Regular Council meeting.

**DEFEATED**

Opposed: Mayor Johnstone  
Cllrs. Campbell  
Henderson  
Nakagawa

Discussion then took place on the need for wayfinding signage for public toilets while a comprehensive public toilet strategy is developed. As a result, the following amendment was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** the following be added as Part 2 to the main motion:

*THAT staff be directed to immediately begin the installation of increased signage through the downtown core and waterfront to increase awareness of all publicly funded toilets.*

The question on the amendment motion was not called as it was noted that it limits the scope of wayfinding signage to the downtown core and waterfront. As a result, the following amendment to the amendment motion was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** the words “through the downtown core and waterfront” be deleted from the amendment motion.

**CARRIED**

Opposed: Mayor Johnstone

The question on the amendment motion, as amended, was then called and it was **CARRIED** with Mayor Johnstone opposed.

There was agreement to consider Parts 1 and 2 of the main motion, which now reads,

“1. *THAT Council request staff develop a work plan and budget to prepare a city-wide comprehensive public toilet strategy that (i) is informed by engagement with the community, (ii) recommends locations and options for different service levels including 24/7 operation, and (iii) recommends options for working with community partners to ensure access to public toilets for all members of the community, and report back.*

2. *THAT staff be directed to immediately begin the installation of increased signage to increase awareness of all publicly funded toilets.”*

separately.

The question on Part 1 of the main motion was then called and it was **CARRIED** with Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

The question on Part 2 of the main motion, as amended, was then called and it was **CARRIED** with Mayor Johnstone and Councillor Campbell opposed.

*Cllr. Fontaine left the meeting (9:10 p.m.).*

#### **4.1 Presentation of the 2023 Annual Report**

The Chair advised that staff’s presentation of the 2023 Annual Report would take place at the next Regular Council meeting.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council receive the 2023 Annual Report as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **9. MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

#### **9.1 Notices of Motion**

- a. **Improving Public Safety through a Community Ambassador Pilot Program**

*Submitted by Councillor Fontaine*

WHEREAS the City of Vancouver previously partnered with Business Improvement Areas to implement and expand an Ambassador Program whereby Community Ambassadors provide assistance to business owners, customers, residents, and visitors in the BIA area by providing hospitality services and addressing community safety; and

WHEREAS Community Ambassadors’ primary functions include connecting those in need to resources, conducting community patrols, contributing to increased safety and order on the streets, and contributing to social responsibility; and

WHEREAS Community Ambassadors can work closely and collaborate directly with the City's bylaw officers as well as the New Westminster Police Department and can become an integral part of a proactive recruitment strategy;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of New Westminster prepare a business case to determine the feasibility of piloting a made-in-New Westminster Community Ambassador program by 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the local Business Improvement Areas be consulted regarding their potential role in supporting or operating a fully funded Community Ambassador pilot program on behalf of the City of New Westminster.

**b. International Travel by Members of Council**

*Submitted by Mayor Johnstone*

BE IT RESOLVED THAT international travel by members of Council to attend conferences, events, and meetings on behalf of the City of New Westminster be subject to Council approval which includes a summary of request to Council in an open meeting including:

- a. projected travel and other expenses related to attendance to be charged to the City;
- b. name of the attendee(s) and relevance to Council or Committee roles; and
- c. a statement of expected value to be derived as a result of attending the function from the attendee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT any participation by members of Council at conferences, events, and meetings (aside from LMLGA, UBCM, and FCM), which require overnight accommodations or travel outside of the province but otherwise fall within allowable Council expense limits shall require a written summary to Council by the attendee(s) in an open meeting within 3 months of the completion of travel which includes:

- a. a summary of actual expenses incurred; and
- b. a description of participation, learnings, and value derived from participation at the event; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff be directed to bring back to Council for consideration revised travel policies for Council members that is consistent with the above resolutions, including any recommended changes to existing policies, expense limits, or reporting requirements that recognizes the benefit of Council participation in exchange and learning.

**c. Increasing Accountability and Transparency regarding Travel for Municipal Elected Officials**

*Submitted by Councillor Fontaine*

WHEREAS Mayor and Council have an interest in the information and outcomes of member-attended conferences, events, study tours, and meetings; and

WHEREAS transparent and equitable policies should be created for use of all City resources applied to Mayor and Council representation at such functions; and

WHEREAS the above is in service of good governance, transparency, and strong relationships between Mayor and Council, our community, and the public they serve in the disposition of limited resources;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT international travel to attend conferences, events, study tours, and meetings on behalf of the City of New Westminster by the Mayor or Councillors be subject to prior approval by Council which includes a summary of the request to Council in an open meeting including:

- a. name of the attendee and relevant Council or Committee role(s);
- b. a statement of expected value to be derived because of attending the function from the attendee and staff;
- c. projected travel expenses;
- d. projected remuneration expenses; and
- e. projected amount of other expenses expected to be incurred; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT any participation by the Mayor or Councillors at conferences, events, study tours and meetings that would incur overnight accommodation outside of British Columbia shall require a written report of the function by the attendee(s) in May or October of each calendar year. This report shall be provided at an open meeting of Council, and include:

- a. a summary of the event and key activities;
- b. the value to the City of New Westminster because of the attendee's participation in the event; and
- c. a summary of actual expenses incurred; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this new policy would apply to all city-paid travel or travel incurred as part of a 'sponsorship' intended to be paid for by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT in the case of any sponsored travel, the attendee would be obliged in an open meeting to seek prior approval from Council to receive these funds and this would include full details regarding the source of funds and financials related to the entire sponsorship package being offered.

**d. Increasing Council Oversight and Involvement in the Issuance of Official Public Statements**

*Submitted by Councillor Minhas*

WHEREAS excluding any statutory powers provided to the Mayor through the *Community Charter*, all other authority is delegated to the Mayor by Council; and

WHEREAS the Mayor is designated by Council as the chief spokesperson who will speak on behalf of the entire Council on matters relating to City business; and

WHEREAS not all members of Council are routinely notified in advance nor consulted regarding non-emergency communications issued by the Mayor through the City of New Westminster Communications Division;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the effective immediately the Mayor and the Communications Division conduct timely, adequate and thorough consultation with all members of Council in advance of the issuance of any public statements, media advisories or media releases that are non-emergency related.

**e. Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters**

*Submitted by Councillor Campbell*

WHEREAS between 2016 and 2021, the number of seniors living in New Westminster increased by 17.2%. By comparison, the overall population increased by 11.2%; and



WHEREAS In 2021, 24.1% of New Westminister's seniors lived in unaffordable housing (30%+ of income spent on housing costs) including 42.8% of senior renters and 16.9% of senior owners; and

WHEREAS the Office of the Seniors Advocate Report Ageing Matters: What We Heard From BC Seniors released in June 2024 states the Provincial Government's Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters subsidy program does not address the financial pressures experienced by seniors who rent;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council write a letter to the Premier of BC, Minister of Housing and Minister of Health asking for immediate financial relief for low-income senior renters by redesigning the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters program so that seniors' rents are 30% of their income and rent ceilings are adjusted to reflect the current reality of the rental market.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS**

### **10.1 Public Announcement Arising from Regular (Closed) Council**

Mayor Johnstone announced that Councillor Henderson has been appointed to the New Westminister Police Board effective July 1, 2024.

## **11. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

Councillor Campbell congratulated Rotarians on their generous financial contribution and efforts in constructing accessible paths in Queen's Park.

*Cllr. Fontaine returned to the meeting (9:12 p.m.).*

Councillor Henderson highlighted that she, along with Councillor Campbell, will be hosting a donation drive for residents who will soon move into the new affordable housing complex on Sixth Street.

## **12. END OF THE MEETING**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council adjourn the June 24, 2024, Regular Council meeting (9:14 p.m.).

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Council meeting of the Council of the City of New Westminster held on June 24, 2024.

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Patrick Johnstone  
MAYOR

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Hanieh Berg  
CORPORATE OFFICER

**From:**  
**To:** [External-Legislative Services](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Development Variance Permit for 602 Agnes Street (68 Sixth Street)  
**Date:** Saturday, June 22, 2024 8:07:54 AM

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the City of New Westminster's network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madam,

The captioned refers.

Schedule F to the Minutes of the Regular Council meeting of New Westminster City Council held on June 24, 2024.

The proposed amendment to the definition of "Security" in Bylaw No. 7142, 2007 would lower the threshold on the financial requirement of companies involved in the construction project, which would allow companies without sufficient resources/capabilities to participate. This would not be beneficial or productive.

The proposal is 'not' supported.

Regards,

Howard

**From:** [hong.tian](#)  
**To:** [External-Legislative Services](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comments on development variance permit for 602 Agnes St. (68 sixth St)  
**Date:** Sunday, June 23, 2024 9:04:33 PM

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the City of New Westminster's network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

## City Council

City of New Westminster

June 23, 2024

Residents of 624 Agnes Street

New Westminster, BC V3M 1G8

Dear City Council,

We are residents of 624 Agnes St, New Westminster, BC, this letter is in opposition to THE DEVELOPMETN VARIANCE PERMIT APPLICATION for the BC housing's Supportive Housing development at 602 Agnes Street, New Westminster, BC.

THE REASONS to oppose this development:

### **Location wrongly choose:**

- Location, Location! Too close to Children center, elementary school École Qayqayt Elementary, 85 Merivale St, Douglas College. Parents and students are all worrying. They will pass by this building every day and scarred.
- Too close to 740 Carvarnon Street, homelessness shelter. And a cannabis store. That will leading to a gathering place at downtown of NW. like main St. Vancouver. City of New Westminster's reputation will be damaged after create this house.

### **Safety Concern:**

- Safety concern, recently homelessness came to our garden side to do drugs. Drug users' dead body to see every month besides the building. And mental illness people. Community's reputation already damaged. Disaster decision to choose this place!!!

We have been living at Downtown New Westminster for about 15 years, and we love the peaceful and beautiful environment around our house. But unfortunately, this plan will add more fire to create a homelessness and drug users gathering place, will ruin our family's life in the future, our safety will be

threatened, thus our house value will go down dramatically, leading to no developer or buyer to purchase our homes in the future. Our families and our neighbors are all concerned about the safety and security issues.

Nowadays, more and more drug users and homeless people coming to our areas especially our garden place camping and smoking, drug-using, and defecating under our balconies. Although they could go when we reported them to the police, but these issues still happening with nonstop. There is also a marijuana store located at the corner of Sixth Street and Agnes Street, with this plan will damage the reputation and images of this location.

With this location already having a homelessness homes, a marijuana store, and another homeless homes will be created; this will cause huge security and safety issues concern in our daily lives and will have a huge negative effect on the children and our future generations living here. We just want a peaceful, drug-free, and clean environment around our houses.

We have our human right that are requiring a peaceful and security life. If this development threatens our safety and human being right, that obviously break the law.

We need you take care of our issues; Can you guys hear our voice to STOP doing this development? Now we are all against this development!! Would you please change the location to somewhere else?

There are tons of vacant land that best suit what BC HOUSING listed, why choose this location? The fact you cannot denied that there is a Cannabis store just located the corner of Sixth St. and Agnes St., and also a homelessness homes located at 750 Carnarvon St. more and more homelessness come to this area, this place will become a gathering location for them.

Our family members and my neighbours will go against this development, we want you provide us a safety development in city of New Westminster. Your duties are not only creating the house to support people at risk or experiencing homelessness, but also to support us – the taxpayers and residents of the City of New Westminster.

How do you guys to explain to our young generation, if you put a huge homelessness gathering place in our peaceful community?

please take your responsibilities to ensure a clean environment in our community, you cannot put a huge bomb in the heart of the city.

**We all oppose this development variance permit application!**

**PLEASE HERE OUR VOICE !!!**

Sincerely,

We are looking forward to your response. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at email: **redacted**

Sincerely,

Victoria Tian

Chengdong Lei

Da Lei

Tracy Tran

Zhongru Liu

**From:** [Dilys Huang](#)  
**To:** [Marina Castillo](#)  
**Cc:** [External-Legislative Services](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Development variance permit concerns  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 3:48:09 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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Hi Marina,

Thank you for your message below regarding the proposed Development Variance Permit (DVP), which has been passed on to us in Planning by our Legislative Services staff.

As a follow-up to your questions below, the proposed DVP that will be considered by Council tonight is specifically related to amending the City's Subdivision and Development Control Bylaw to allow the project to use a different form of security (i.e. a Letter of Indemnity in lieu of a Letter of Credit) for engineering off-site works and services. A copy of the earlier June 10<sup>th</sup> Council report, which includes further details on the proposed DVP, can be [accessed here](#).

In terms of public notification postcards, they were mailed out to residents of properties located within 100 metres of the subject site.

To provide more background on the supportive housing project itself, the review and consultation processes for the site's rezoning and Official Community Plan amendment were undertaken in 2021, with the bylaws adopted in February 2022 to facilitate a six-storey, 52-unit supportive housing building. These bylaws were considered together with the closely related city-wide crisis response bylaw amendments, which allow for more rapid response on projects meeting specific criteria and addressing an identified emergency or crisis in the community. Additional background information on these proposals is still available on our Be Heard New West project page: <https://www.beheardnewwest.ca/crisis-response-bylaws>

In terms of supportive housing locations, they are determined based on availability of property and proximity to services, amenities, and transit. Housing for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness needs to meet people where they are at, providing connection to the resources that they need to work toward living a healthy, stable, and more independent life. In dense, urban areas such as Downtown New Westminster, this can mean there are a variety other uses nearby to a supportive housing project. Staff would be on site 24 hours a day, seven days a week and all residents would sign an agreement in respect to expectations related to their residency.

Kind regards,

**Dilys Huang**, RPP, MCIP, LEED Green Assoc. | Development Planner II  
T 604.527.4562 | E [dhuang@newwestcity.ca](mailto:dhuang@newwestcity.ca)  
🏡 City of New Westminster

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**From:** Marina Castillo  
**Sent:** Monday, June 24, 2024 11:37 AM

**To:** External-Legislative Services <[CorporateOfficer@newwestcity.ca](mailto:CorporateOfficer@newwestcity.ca)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Development variance permit concerns

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Marina Castillo and I own an apartment at 525 Agnes with my partner. This email is in regards to the “development variance permit” we got in our mail. Since the content is quite cryptic and the absence of information on the plot or elsewhere, I would like to request for more information regarding the housing project planned for that plot on Agnes and 6th and express my discontent with the management of this project.

- Why isn't there any more clear information on the plot for everyone to read and consider?
- I consulted with several neighbours of my building but also with residents of 500 Royal and 410 Agnes and they have not received any notice in their mails.
- When are neighbours being consulted about the decision of building an assisted housing project?
- Why is a housing project considered to be built in front of a marihuana dispenser, 2 blocks away from an elementary school, 1 block away from a prestigious college and 2 blocks from Columbia Skytrain station?

There is an alarming lack of information and some kind of intentional abstruse release of information.

We moved to New Westminster for a more calm life. I used to live in the olympic village in Vancouver before and after the housing project was developed and the outskirts blocks became a center for drugs, theft and sadly an overdosed body at the entrance of a residential building.

Regards,

Marina Castillo



**From:** [Mark Shipway](#)  
**To:** [External-Legislative Services](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Development Varince Permit for 602 Agnes Street  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 4:18:18 PM

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Dear Council,

I deeply concerned as to the nature of the planned construction project at 602 Agnes Street. What is the exact nature and purpose of this project? Is it part of the city's **Small Sites Affordable Housing Program**?

A lot of the information regarding this project appears to have been a deliberate lack of transparency in terms of the public and that in itself raises alarm bells. After further exploration, it appears this project is not part of the City of New Westminster's development plans but is earmarked by the province as part of BC's "supportive housing project".

Therefore my primary question. Is this simply part of an affordable housing program for low income earners OR is this part of the BC wide program of modular construction projects to provide housing for those who currently live on the streets?

Whilst I have no problem if it is the former, I do take issue with the latter. I do seriously believe many of these folks can live healthier and more fulfilling lives in permanent housing. I would pause at this point and make it known that two of my friends, one male and one female, had periods in their teenage lives where they were forced to live on the street, having been thrown out of their homes. One nearly died and had to be hospitalised, thankfully now a loving father of two and successful individual in the workplace. The other went on to become a highly successful entrepreneur in her own right. Therefore, I have some knowledge and empathy for the situations that some people can find themselves forced into.

The issue with people who have been living on the streets for a considerable period of time is the community they form whilst there, many of whom consist of hardened drug addicts, alcoholics and those with unfortunately severe mental health problems. The result is that when those who truly meet the criteria for "supportive housing" already have a sustained friendship with those who do not. When the "supportive housing" is located close to either a skytrain and / or a central area where the homeless congregate, it forms traffic to and from the place of housing by those still living on the street. This can take them into residential areas which hitherto might be considered safe and without sufficient security to prevent opportunistic theft or damage to property.

I have serious concern that the location of lot on Agnes St (currently a Dog Park), is not a suitable location for a "supportive housing development", being very close to two skytrain stations as well as one of New Westminster's hubs for the homeless and open drug use on the streets. I would suggest the seeking out an alternative lot for this project that is NOT in a Downtown location and thus acting as a deterrent for such traffic (or trafficking) from occurring.

On a final note I may also add that another friend of mine recently made a small and moving documentary that followed the positive impact on an individual who was placed in supportive housing on Hastings Street in Vancouver. So I am not against this in theory but the proposed location for this project is very far from optimum and the potential issues are extremely detrimental to the neighbourhood.

Yours faithfully,

A concerned and educated downtown resident.

Mark Shipway DipWSET, FWS Official Bourgogne Wines Ambassador CMS Advanced  
Sommelier Director of Education & Training - Christopher Stewart 2016 Winner of the WSG  
Top Program Provider Award 2009 Winner of the WSET Highly Commended Trophy Phone:  
**Redacted** Email: **Redacted** Web: <http://www.cruconsultancy.com/>

I will advise that my team is very short-staffed at the moment, so we may not be able to respond immediately and that is another reason why some advance information would be helpful. Fan Jin from our team is copied and will likely be reviewing your requests.

I should also note that we have Council-approved plans that will require changes at 6<sup>th</sup> St and 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, so we would have been contacting you about that location anyway (likely in a few months).

Regards,

**Mike Anderson** | Manager, Transportation  
City of New Westminster | Engineering Services  
511 Royal Avenue, New Westminster, BC V3L 1H9  
[www.newwestcity.ca](http://www.newwestcity.ca)

Schedule 2 to the Minutes of the Regular Council meeting of New Westminster City Council held on June 24, 2024.

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**From:** Amrik Mahil <[amrik@royalcitytaxi.com](mailto:amrik@royalcitytaxi.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 5, 2023 1:50 PM  
**To:** Walt Cirillo <[wcirillo@newwestcity.ca](mailto:wcirillo@newwestcity.ca)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] transportation

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Hi Walt, we have few places in town to make changes: 1. New west Station (8<sup>th</sup> St.)  
2. 1 St and Royal Ave  
3. 22 Nd Skytrain  
4. 6 St and 6 Ave area

The best way to improve Taxi service for the New West residence would be if a person from transportation department and Royal City Personnel

Went around the city and show the locations for changes.

Thank you,  
Yours truly,

Amrik Mahil  
Supervisor

Royal City Taxi Ltd.  
436 Rousseau St.,  
New Westminster, B.C.  
V3L 3R3

Ph: 604 525 5616 ext.: 1  
Dispatch: 604 526 6666  
[www.royalcitytaxi.com](http://www.royalcitytaxi.com)

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## Amrik Mahil

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**From:** Amrik Mahil  
**Sent:** December 4, 2023 1:15 PM  
**To:** Mike Anderson  
**Subject:** Royal City Taxi Requests

Hi Mike,  
Busy time of the year has arrived. Can we please help to implement our requests to better service our clients. I will be happy to meet you asap.

Thank you,  
Yours truly,

Amrik Mahil  
Manager

Royal City Taxi Ltd.  
436 Rousseau St.,  
New Westminster, B.C.  
V3L 3R3

Ph: 604 525 5616 ext.: 1  
Cell: 778-791-6666  
Dispatch: 604 526 6666  
[www.royalcitytaxi.com](http://www.royalcitytaxi.com)

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## Amrik Mahil

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**From:** Amrik Mahil  
**Sent:** July 11, 2023 4:19 PM  
**To:** 'Mike Anderson'  
**Subject:** RE: ROYAL CITY TAXI REQUEST

Hi Mike, thank you for the quick response. For now, if we can work on 1. On 1<sup>st</sup> and Royal Ave. If the city can grant same rights as buses to take right turn at rush hours. This will help customers and drivers to save money and time. There should be inconvenience to buses.

2. 22<sup>nd</sup> skytrain is a very busy area at both rush hours and customers can not get taxis on time due to the traffic. If you would allow use of bus lane for taxis this would be very customer friendly. PS. Vancouver allows use of bus lanes for taxis.

3. At 8<sup>th</sup> St skytrain station the taxi stand should be ahead of drop off and pick-up. We carry same passengers as transit. These are some ideas to start working on to improve customer service in our city.

Thank you,  
Yours truly,

Amrik Mahil  
Supervisor

Royal City Taxi Ltd.  
436 Rousseau St.,  
New Westminster, B.C.  
V3L 3R3

Ph: 604 525 5616 ext.: 1  
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**From:** Mike Anderson <manderson@newwestcity.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 7, 2023 4:16 PM  
**To:** Amrik Mahil <amrik@royalcitytaxi.com>  
**Cc:** Walt Cirillo <wcirillo@newwestcity.ca>; Fan Jin <fjin@newwestcity.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: ROYAL CITY TAXI REQUEST

You don't often get email from [manderson@newwestcity.ca](mailto:manderson@newwestcity.ca). [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Amrik:

Walt has forwarded your message to me.

We would be happy to discuss potential changes, but it would be most helpful for you to send us an initial document (email is fine) highlighting issues and requests before we meet on site. Sketches would be fine if that helps.

## Amrik Mahil

---

**From:** Amrik Mahil  
**Sent:** January 29, 2024 12:43 PM  
**To:** Mike Anderson  
**Subject:** Taxi issues

Hi Mike,  
Thank you for changing the Taxi Stand at New West Station. Can I have a meeting with you some time within 10 days or so at your convenience.

Thank you,  
Yours truly,

Amrik Mahil  
Manager

Royal City Taxi Ltd.  
436 Rousseau St.,  
New Westminster, B.C.  
V3L 3R3

Ph: 604 525 5616 ext.: 1  
Cell: 778-791-6666  
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## Amrik Mahil

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**From:** Amrik Mahil  
**Sent:** March 21, 2024 2:05 PM  
**To:** Mike Anderson  
**Subject:** Meeting

Hi Mike,  
Thank you for your time to meet with me. We had good discussion.  
Could you please update me on the discussions we had.

Thank you,  
Yours truly,

Amrik Mahil  
Manager

Royal City Taxi Ltd.  
436 Rousseau St.,  
New Westminster, B.C.  
V3L 3R3

Ph: 604 525 5616 ext.: 1  
Cell: 778-791-6666  
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## Amrik Mahil

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**From:** Amrik Mahil  
**Sent:** April 5, 2024 3:23 PM  
**To:** Mike Anderson  
**Subject:** Right turn o 1St and Royal

Hi Mike,

Can you give an update on the right turn request; with the bridge construction the congestion is getting worse. Hope to hear from you asap.

Thank you,  
Yours truly,

Amrik Mahil  
Manager

Royal City Taxi Ltd.  
436 Rousseau St.,  
New Westminster, B.C.  
V3L 3R3

Ph: 604 525 5616 ext.: 1  
Cell: 778-791-6666  
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## Amrik Mahil

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**From:** Amrik Mahil  
**Sent:** April 16, 2024, 12:57 PM  
**To:** Mike Anderson  
**Subject:** RE: Right turn o 1St and Royal

Hi Mike,

I am disappointed; I made a few requests 11 months ago. All requests are very doable and very reasonable and are helpful to the public we serve ( That is the tax paying people of New Westminster) Every time they take taxi into Surrey in rush hour, they are paying unreasonable amount of money.

Staffing short is understandable but 11months. I am a Civil Engineer by profession and something like this does not take long. Please let me know if I must go in front of Council to plead my concerns.

Thank you, with respect.

Thank you,  
Yours truly,

Amrik Mahil  
Manager

Royal City Taxi Ltd.  
436 Rousseau St.,  
New Westminister, B.C.  
V3L 3R3

Ph: 604 525 5616 ext.: 1  
Cell: 778-791-6666  
Dispatch: 604 526 6666  
[www.royalcitytaxi.com](http://www.royalcitytaxi.com)

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**From:** Mike Anderson <manderson@newwestcity.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2024 2:12 PM  
**To:** Amrik Mahil <amrik@royalcitytaxi.com>  
**Cc:** Michael Nguyen <mnguyen@newwestcity.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Right turn o 1St and Royal

Hello Amrik:

Sorry for the delay in my response. I'm afraid we have been unable to prioritize further consideration of this change since we met. We remain short-staffed and are therefore having to prioritize construction management, special events, and other safety issues that arise.

We will discuss further when we have the capacity to do so.