



2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee

VanRIMS No.: 08-3000-11

MEMORANDUM

September 22, 2022

TO: Mayor and Council

CC Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Rosemary Hagiwara, Acting City Clerk
Tina Penney, Director, Legislative Operations
Kevin Burris, Manager, Civic Agencies

FROM: 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee Report of Activities, 2021–2022

PURPOSE

To provide Vancouver City Council with a report on the activities of the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee for the period of May 18, 2021 to November 6, 2022.

BACKGROUND

The 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee was established by Council 2SLGBTQ+ to advise Council and staff on enhancing access and inclusion for two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer communities to fully participate in City services and civic life.

DISCUSSION

The Committee's significant accomplishments and recommendations for future action are discussed in Appendix A, attached.

The foregoing information is presented to Vancouver City Council for information.

Appendix A: Motions and Work Items from May 2021 – September 2022

Red – Ongoing (Very Important)
Yellow – Ongoing (Moderately Important)
Green – Completed
Purple – Not started (Suggested for Next Term)

<i>Item and Context</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Actions</i>	<i>Work to be Done</i>
Vancouver Police Department Policies and Procedures			
VPD Strategic Plan 2022-26 VPD Business Plan 2022	Throughout term	<p>VPD executive met with Committee on January 20, 2022 to present draft updates on these two plans and hear Committee's recommendations.</p> <p>Co-Chair Elmer met with VPD executive numerous times to provide detailed feedback on improving relations with 2SLGBTQ+ communities.</p>	Continue meeting with VPD to monitor implementation of the two plans, especially with respect to 2SLGBTQ+ people.
<p>Committee Motion: Facilitating Reporting of Hate Crimes/Incidents</p> <p>Toronto Police Service: Missing and Missed Report by Judge Gloria Epstein</p>	Throughout term	<p>Co-Chair Elmer met with VPD throughout term to monitor status of recommendations in hate crimes motion.</p> <p>Co-Chair Elmer conveyed additional concerns re: long wait times for reporting hate crimes/incidents via non-emergency line. He also reminded VPD of the recommendations made in the <i>Missing and Missed</i> report in order to improve relations with the 2SLGBTQ+ community.</p> <p>VPD has made various changes, including streamlining online reporting and ensuring a dedicated 2SLGBTQ+ liaison officer to provide support for victims.</p>	Continue liaising with VPD to facilitate implementation of recommendations in the Committee motion and the <i>Missing and Missed</i> report.

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		<p>On August 4, 2022, Co-Chair Elmer was invited to speak on CBC Early Edition re: rise in 2SLGBTQ+ hate crimes in 2021. He offered suggestions on how City and VPD could facilitate hate crime reporting, and highlighted valuable work of community-led groups like <i>Good Night Out Vancouver</i>, which the Committee had endorsed in past.</p>	<p>Continue liaising with <i>Good Night Out Vancouver</i> and other peer-led programs to see how Committee could offer support.</p>
VPD Gender Diversity Policy	March 31, 2022	<p>VPD executive met with Committee on March 31, 2022 to seek feedback on proposed updates to Policy. Committee was satisfied with changes and suggested using gender-neutral language.</p>	<p>Ask VPD to come back to Committee with final language for updated policy.</p>
VPD Social Media Policies	March 31, 2022	<p>Co-Chair Elmer spoke with VPD Inspector Sandra Glindinning to convey community's concern that some of the VPD's online recruitment videos appeared militaristic, detracted from the department's stated focus on community policing, and reinforced fear that some 2SLGBTQ+ people experience when interacting with police.</p> <p>Co-Chair Elmer indicated that the Committee was always available to review future advertising materials.</p>	<p>Continue liaising with VPD to reiterate the Committee's willingness to provide feedback on advertising materials, particularly as they may affect perceptions of VPD by 2SLGBTQ+ community members.</p>

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Gender-based/Sexualized Violence and Harassment in Public Spaces			
UN Safe Cities and Safe Spaces Initiative	Fall 2021	<p>Committee members completed survey to identify safety concerns among women and 2SLGBTQ+ people in public spaces, and offered suggestions to address these concerns.</p> <p>On November 25, 2021, Staff sought feedback from Committee on interim report.</p>	Follow up on status of final report and ask staff what steps are being taken to improve safety in public spaces in Vancouver.
Safety Issues in Jim Deva Plaza and Davie Street			
Committee Motion: Addressing Safety Concerns in Jim Deva Plaza	Throughout term	<p>Co-Chair Elmer met with President of West End Business Improvement Association (WEBIA) to share Committee's recommendations for improving safety in the area.</p> <p>On November 25, 2021, Engineering staff presented to Committee regarding stewardship of Plaza. Members reiterated concerns re: safety, noise, and accessibility. Staff promised to look into these matters.</p> <p>In Fall 2021, Councillors Bligh and Wiebe met with VPD and WEBIA to discuss suggested safety improvements, including re-arranging plaza furniture, improving lighting, hosting more events in the plaza, encouraging patios in the area, and extending hours of West End-Coal Harbour Community Police Centre (WECHCPC).</p>	No actions appear to have been taken on these suggestions. Continue meeting with City, WEBIA, West End-Coal Harbour Community Policing Centre, and other stakeholders to implement safety measures in Plaza and surrounding area.

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Improving Safety Through Street Lighting			
<p>Committee Motion: Ensuring Adequate Funds for Street Lighting in 2023-26 Capital Plan</p> <p>Committee Motion: Improving Street Lighting in Vancouver</p>	Throughout term	<p>Co-Chair Elmer was in regular contact with City staff to follow up on numerous Committee recommendations re: improving street lighting.</p> <p>On June 14, 2022, Committee passed motion calling on Council to ensure adequate money in 2023-26 Capital Plan to fund lighting upgrades. Co-Chair Elmer spoke to Council on this matter (see Budget and Capital Plan below).</p>	Strongly recommend ongoing consultation with staff to reiterate critical importance of maintaining and adding street lighting infrastructure.
Impact of Climate Emergency on Vulnerable 2SLGBTQ+ Groups			
Committee Motion: Supporting Vulnerable Residents During Heat Domes and Other Climate Emergencies	June 14, 2022	Committee passed motion by Co-Chair Jackson calling on City of Vancouver, Board of Parks and Recreation, Vancouver Coastal Health, and other agencies to consult with our Committee when drafting climate emergency plans.	Liaise with relevant bodies to ensure marginalized members of 2SLGBTQ+ community (eg., seniors, homeless youth, isolated individuals) are adequately represented in climate emergency plans.
City of Vancouver Equity Framework			
Proposed Equity Framework		Chief Equity Officer updated Committee on development of Equity Framework and received feedback from Committee.	Monitor status of Equity Framework to ensure needs of 2SLGBTQ+ people are addressed.

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Commemoration of 2SLGBTQ+ History			
Aaron Webster Memorial Bench funding	January 20, 2022	<p>Committee wrote to Park Board to underscore the importance of the memorial to the 2SLGBTQ+ community and request that the Board cover costs rather than rely on public donations through regular commemoration program.</p> <p>Park Board responded to letter on May 26, 2022, declining request (letter on file with Clerk's Office).</p>	See July 21, 2022 Committee motion re: Stewardship of 2SLGBTQ+ Memorials
Committee Motion: Recognition and Stewardship of 2SLGBTQ+ Memorials	July 21, 2022	Committee passed motion by member Rick Hurlbut to encourage recognition and stewardship of 2SLGBTQ+ memorials, including Aaron Webster memorial.	<p>Work with Park Board liaison and staff to identify and formally recognize 2SLGBTQ+ monuments within park system.</p> <p>Work with Park Board liaison and staff to develop funding mechanism to ensure continued maintenance and renewal of memorials.</p>
Proposed Commemoration Framework	March 31, 2022	Committee heard from staff and provided recommendations.	Request to see final copy of Framework to see if it includes any of Committee's recommendations.
Proposed updates to Vancouver Heritage Register	July 21, 2022	Committee heard presentation from staff re: updates to Register. Members recommended that the register include buildings/places of special importance to queer communities (e.g., AIDS Memorial, Little Sisters Bookstore).	Follow up on status of updates, including possibility of adding 2SLGBTQ+ spaces to the Register.

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5083 Joyce Street Development	February 24, 2022 and May 26, 2022	On Council direction and recommendation from member Hurlbut, City staff sought feedback from Committee on ways to incorporate 2SLGBTQ+ culture and history into the public realm of this development. Committee provided extensive oral and written suggestions.	Follow up with developer and architect regarding the final design of the public art installation.
Queer Arts and Culture Spaces	Throughout term	Committee discussed prioritizing space for queer arts and culture organizations in new developments (e.g., 1157 Burrard Street).	Draft a motion recommending that Council prioritize space for queer arts and culture organizations.
Pride Representation			
VPD Participation in Pride Festivities	Throughout term	Committee had discussions with VPD on this matter. Co-Chair Elmer and member Saif Al Shamaa offered to liaise with VPD and Pride Society to resolve ongoing differences. Co-Chair Elmer liaised with Out on Patrol President and offered to meet with him and Pride Society to see if Out on Patrol (rather than VPD specifically) could participate in Pride Parade. Pride Society declined request to meet unless its demands were met.	Continue reaching out to all parties to reach a resolution.
Pride Week 2021	July 26, 2021	Co-Chair Jackson gave opening remarks at City Hall Pride Week Launch.	
Pride Week 2022	July 25, 2022	Co-Chair Jackson gave opening remarks at City Hall Pride Week Launch, with other members in attendance. Co-Chair Elmer represented Committee at VPD Pride Week Launch.	

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		VPD Liaison Officer, Det. Cst. Bryan Watson, discussed plans to ensure safety at Pride Parade and asked Committee for information on individuals or organizations that might try to disrupt the event.	
Mobility and Transit			
Neighbourhood Traffic Management Program	June 16, 2022	Staff sought feedback re: proposed measures. Committee offered recommendations with focus on 2SLGBTQ+ neighborhoods.	
Stanley Park Mobility Study	July 21, 2022	Staff sought feedback re: Mobility Study, with a focus on access and inclusion.	
Needs of Older 2SLGBTQ+ Adults			
Seniors Advisory Committee Motion: “Advancing Efforts for an Age-Friendly City of Vancouver”	January 20, 2022	<p>Committee supported motion from Seniors’ Advisory Committee to provide funding for dedicated seniors social planner and commencement of Age-Friendly Strategy.</p> <p>Co-Chair Elmer spoke to Council in support of motion, with recommendation that focus not be on creating new reports but, rather, implementation of existing reports (Age-friendly Action Plan, Healthy City Strategy, and Social Isolation and Loneliness in Seniors Report). Elmer also recommended that 2SLGBTQ+ seniors be part of mandate for new Social Planner. Amended motion passed by Council.</p>	<p>Follow up with Seniors Advisory Committee and Social Policy & Planning to see when new seniors planner will be hired.</p> <p>Ask that Committee be consulted on development of Age-Friendly Strategy.</p>

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VPD ElderPride Program	Throughout term	<p>Co-Chair Elmer provided ongoing advice to 2SLGBTQ+ Liaison Officer on improving ElderPride, a program to build connections between VPD and older 2SLGBTQ+ people who have historically had negative experiences with police.</p> <p>Co-Chair Elmer and member Rick Hurlbut attended several meetings. Elmer also gave a presentation on social isolation and loneliness in this population.</p>	Continue working with new VPD 2SLGBTQ+ liaison officer to expand the program and reach a wider range of older adults who may benefit from it.
Inclusive housing checklist		Committee discussed checklist for staff to ensure that new multi-tenant housing is inclusive and welcoming of all groups, including 2SLGBTQ+ people. Due to short committee term, work did not commence.	Start draft checklist and ask relevant community groups to review.
2SLGBTQ+ Business Community			
Park Board Procurement Policy	June 29, 2022	Member Rick Hurlbut worked with Park Board Commissioner Mackinnon on amendment to Policy to include minority-owned businesses.	
		<p>Committee hoped to draft recommendations to protect and support 2SLGBTQ+ small businesses and queer workers.</p> <p>Member Laura Dale offered to invite a representative from Vancouver Board of Trade to discuss queer workplace issues. Due to time constraints, meeting did not happen.</p>	Recommend that next Committee pursue these topics.

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Improvements to Functioning of Advisory Committees			
Type A Advisory Body Review and Improvement Report	Throughout term	<p>Co-Chairs Elmer and Jackson met several times with Kevin Burris, Manager of Civic Agencies, to provide extensive feedback on improving advisory body recruitment, retention, functioning, and effectiveness.</p> <p>Co-Chair Elmer shared Committee suggestions at joint meeting between all Type A Advisory Bodies.</p> <p>On March 30, 2022, Co-Chair Elmer spoke at Council to convey Committee's support for Report and offered additional suggestions for improvement, including honoraria (see below)</p>	<p>Continue liaising with Manager of Civic Agencies to monitor implementation and effectiveness of recommendations in Report.</p> <p>Remind Council to thank advisory committee members for the many hours of service they give to the City.</p>
<p>Committee Motion: Exploring Feasibility of Honoraria for Type A Advisory Committee Members</p>	June 14, 2022	<p>Committee passed motion to explore pilot project to provide honoraria for Type A Advisory Committee members. Intended purpose was to improve recruitment and retention, especially of under-represented groups in the 2SLGBTQ+ community.</p> <p>Motion received broad support at June's joint meeting of Type A Advisory Bodies. Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee passed parallel motion supporting our Committee's motion. Topic was also flagged for further consideration in the Advisory Body Review and Improvement Report.</p>	<p>Continue liaising with Kevin Burris, Manager of Civic Agencies, and Nominations Committee to encourage implementation of the pilot project and study its effectiveness in recruitment and retention.</p>

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		At Special Council meeting on 2022 budget, Co-Chair Elmer asked that money be set aside for honoraria pilot; several councilors expressed support. He also spoke with Councilor Boyle, head of Nominations Committee, to ask colleagues to support project.	
Building Relationships with Other 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committees			
City of Toronto 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee	Throughout term	Member Rick Hurlbut attended several meetings of the City of Toronto's 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee. He asked if he could send greetings on behalf of our Committee, but the Toronto committee said they only invite chairs/co-chairs.	Attend meetings of other cities' advisory committees, so long as they are not restrictive about who can represent the CofV Committee.
City of Vancouver Friendship City Program	September 21, 2021	Member Rick Hurlbut spoke at a Council meeting in support of this report and recommended that there be a parallel program to build a "gaybourhood-to-gaybourhood" relationship with another city.	Follow up with staff re: "gaybourhood-to-gaybourhood" initiative.
2023 Budget and 2023-26 Capital Plan			
2022 City Budget	Fall/Winter 2021	On September 22, 2021, Co-Chair Jackson provided feedback at joint committee staff presentation. On December 1, 2021, Co-Chair Elmer spoke to Council to recommend that money be set aside to provide honoraria for all Type A Advisory Committee members (see relevant motion above).	Continue liaising with Council and staff to set aside money in next budget for pilot project.

<i>Item and Context</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Actions</i>	<i>Work to be Done</i>
2023-26 Capital Plan	Summer 2022	<p>Committee discussed proposed Capital Plan, particularly re: street lighting. Committee questioned if funding was adequate and whether in-kind contributions from developers could be relied upon to provide critical infrastructure.</p> <p>Co-Chair Elmer liaised with Budget Office re: Committee's motion to increase funding for street lighting infrastructure (see above). Elmer subsequently discussed motion at June 29, 2022 Special Council meeting.</p>	<p>Monitor to ensure that developers contribute sufficient funds to lighting.</p> <p>Request that next Capital Plan allocates sufficient funds for lighting.</p>
Vancouver 2022 Election Outreach and Voters' Guide			
<p>Vancouver Election Outreach Strategy</p> <p>Vancouver Voters Guide</p>	Throughout term	<p>Election Outreach Manager met with Committee several times to seek feedback on making Voters Guide inclusive and accessible; to increase voter turnout; and to make voting as easy and accessible as possible for all groups.</p> <p>Co-Chair Elmer and member Rick Hurlbut provided extensive written feedback on several drafts of the Voters Guide, with emphasis on improving clarity.</p>	