



## **WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

**November 19, 2024**

A meeting of the Women's Advisory Committee was scheduled for Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 5:36 pm, in the Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall, and via electronic means.

**PRESENT:** Alida Oegema Thomas, Vice-Chair  
Morrell Andrews  
Nazma Lee  
Serena Mohammed  
Avani Patel

**ABSENT:** Molly Needham (Leave of Absence)  
Amy Robichaud, Chair (Leave of Absence)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Stephanie Kripps, Vancouver Public Library Liaison  
Trustee Preeti Faridkot, Vancouver School Board Liaison  
Inspector Kelly Risebrough, Vancouver Police Department  
Liaison

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Julie Emmerson, Committee Clerk

#### **Leave of Absence Requests**

MOVED by Avani Patel  
SECONDED by Nazma Lee

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee approve leaves of absence for Molly Needham and Amy Robichaud for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#### **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED by Morrell Andrews  
SECONDED by Avani Patel

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee adopt the Minutes from the meeting of Tuesday, September 17, 2024, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## 1. **FIFA World Cup 2026 (FWC26) in Vancouver**

Staff from Arts, Culture and Community Services provided a presentation and responded to questions and comments.

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### **VARY AGENDA**

*At this point in the meeting the Committee agreed by consensus to vary the agenda to hear item 3, Liaison Updates, next, followed by item 2, Working Session Updates.*

*For ease of reference, the minutes are recorded in chronological order.*

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## 3. **Liaison Updates**

The Vancouver Public Library Liaison and Vancouver Police Department Liaison provided updates and responded to questions and comments.

## 2. **Working Session Updates**

Nazma Lee provided an update on the working session held on October 8, 2024, and the Committee engaged in discussion.

## 4. **Subcommittee Updates**

Committee members received updates from the Gender-Based Violence/Women's Safety Subcommittee and the Childcare Strategy Subcommittee. Following discussion, it was

MOVED by Avani Patel

SECONDED by Morrell Andrews

### **WHEREAS:**

1. At least 95 municipalities in Canada have declared violence against women and intimate partner violence an epidemic;
2. Violence against women and girls has been described by the World Health Organization as a global public health pandemic, with one in three women around the world experiencing physical or sexual violence in their lifetime;
3. Between 2018 and 2022, the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability reports that 850 women and girls were killed in Canada;
4. According to Statistics Canada, between 2009 and 2022, 18 percent of homicide victims whose cases were solved were killed by an intimate partner and 46 percent of solved homicides of women and girls were perpetrated by an intimate partner, compared to just six per cent of solved homicides of men and boys;

5. The Downtown Eastside Women's Centre *Red Women Rising Report* found that Indigenous women and girls in Canada have been murdered or have gone missing at a rate four times higher than their rate of representation in Canada, and Indigenous women's rate of violent victimization is nearly triple that of non-Indigenous women, with 24 percent of homicide victims in Canada being Indigenous women;
6. The final report of the Mass Casualty Commission - *Turning the Tide Together* recommended that all levels of government in Canada declare gender-based, intimate partner, and family violence to be an epidemic that warrants a meaningful and sustained society-wide response;
7. The final report of the Renfrew County Inquest into the deaths of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk, and Nathalie Warmerdam recommends intimate partner violence be formally declared an epidemic;
8. The United Nations General Assembly officially designated 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women to raise awareness of the many forms of violence and abuse faced by women around the world;
9. The City of Vancouver has previously created comprehensive programming to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence to reflect on violence against women and to take action to end it.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Women's Advisory Committee recommend that Vancouver City Council:

1. Declare gender-based violence, intimate-partner violence, and family violence an epidemic in Vancouver.
2. Urge the Provincial and Federal Governments to declare intimate partner and gender-based violence an epidemic and enact the additional 85 recommendations from the inquest into the 2015 murders of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam in Renfrew County, Ontario, which provide a roadmap to preventing intimate partner violence from escalating to femicide.
3. Request the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Union of BC Municipalities to declare a gender-based and intimate partner violence epidemic across the country.
4. Request the Provincial and Federal Governments to provide the necessary support to meaningfully address the gender-based violence and intimate-partner violence epidemic.
5. Direct the City Manager, in consultation with relevant stakeholders in the City, community organizations serving victims of intimate partner violence, and the Vancouver Police Department, to report back to Council within one year of the direction on the best ways to actualize this declaration through community safety, wellbeing, and other related plans and making meaningful investments to the programs and services that prevent intimate partner and gender-based violence and support those who face it.

6. Observe the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence scheduled to run from 25 November 2024 to 10 December 2024, and continue to observe it on an annual basis thereafter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**5. New Business**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Serena Mohammed  
SECONDED by Avani Patel

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Next Meeting:**

DATE: Tuesday, January 07, 2025  
TIME: 5:30 PM  
PLACE: Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall  
/ Webex Online

The Committee adjourned at 7:21 pm.

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