



WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 23, 2025

A meeting of the Women's Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 5:54 pm, in the Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall, and via electronic means.

PRESENT: Alida Oegema Thomas, Chair
Morrell Andrews
Alaina Chun
Katsy Concepcion
Ellie Lawson, Co-Chair
Nazma Lee
Serena Mohammed

ABSENT: Molly Needham (Leave of Absence)
Avani Patel (Leave of Absence)
Amy Robichaud (Leave of Absence)
Olga Shcherbyna (Leave of Absence)
Shirin Shushtarian (Leave of Absence)

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Julie Emmerson, Meeting Coordinator
Cheryll Chingcuangco, Meeting Coordinator

WELCOME

The Chair acknowledged we are on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples. We thank them for having cared for this land and look forward to working with them in partnership as we continue to build this great city together.

Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Nazma Lee
SECONDED by Katsy Concepcion

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee approve leaves of absence for Molly Needham, Avani Patel, Amy Robichaud, Olga Shcherbyna, and Shirin Shushtarian, for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Chair emphasized the importance of regular attendance and timely submission of leave requests prior to meetings.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Alida Oegema Thomas
SECONDED by Ellie Lawson

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of Thursday, July 17, 2025, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Working Session Updates

The Chair provided a brief update on the working session held on July 17, 2025, and opened the floor for discussion.

The Committee passed the following motions:

Motion 1 - Reiterating Gender-Based Violence / Intimate Partner Violence (GBV/IPV) Prevention

MOVED by Morrell Andrews
SECONDED by Katsy Concepcion

WHEREAS

1. The Women's Advisory Committee passed a motion on November 19, 2024, calling for action to address gender-based violence and intimate partner violence in the City of Vancouver;
2. Vancouver City Council has not actioned the recommendations in the motion passed on November 19, 2024;
3. The Vancouver Women's Equity Strategy aims to increase women's sense of safety by at least 10% by 2025;
4. The 2025 *Independent Systemic Review: The British Columbia Legal System's Treatment of Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence (2025)* by Dr. Kim Stanton found that 37% of women over the age of 15 in British Columbia have been sexually assaulted;
5. The media have reported on a series of disturbing incidents of sexual violence and gender-based violence that have recently occurred in the City of Vancouver; and
6. Violence against women and girls, sexual violence, and intimate partner violence must never be tolerated or normalized.

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

- a) Declare gender-based violence, intimate-partner violence, and family violence an epidemic in Vancouver;

- b) Create a City of Vancouver gender-based violence task force that is community and survivor-centered to coordinate safety across policing, housing, and justice to address this pressing issue;
- c) Direct the City Manager, in consultation with relevant stakeholders in the City and community organizations serving survivors of intimate partner violence, 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; and
- d) In collaboration and consultation with community organizations, observe the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence scheduled to run from November 25, 2025, to December 10, 2025, and continue to observe it on an annual basis thereafter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion 2 – Gender-Based Violence / Intimate Partner Violence (GBV/IPV) Incident in Vancouver May 19, 2025

MOVED by Ellie Lawson

SECONDED by Alida Oegema Thomas

WHEREAS

- 1. The Vancouver Police Department reported an incident of gender-based violence perpetrated by a man against a woman in Stanley Park on May 19, 2025;
- 2. The Vancouver Police Department arrested and charged the man with sexual assault with a weapon, assault by choking, unlawful confinement, robbery, and uttering threats to cause death;
- 3. Violence against women and girls, sexual violence, and intimate partner violence must never be tolerated or normalized; and
- 4. The Women's Advisory Committee condemns in the strongest terms this unacceptable and gender-based act of violence.

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

- a) Declare gender-based violence, intimate-partner violence, and family violence an epidemic in Vancouver.
- b) Dedicate adequate resources to support community-based victim services organizations and initiatives that work to proactively prevent violence against women and girls.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion 3 - Gender-Based Violence / Intimate Partner Violence (GBV/IPV) Incident in Vancouver May 28, 2025

MOVED by Katsy Concepcion

SECONDED by Nazma Lee

WHEREAS

1. The Vancouver Police Department reported two incidents of gender-based violence perpetrated by a man against a girl and a woman in South Vancouver on May 28, 2025;
2. The Vancouver Police Department arrested and charged the man with sexual assault with a weapon against a person under 16, forcible confinement, carrying a concealed weapon, robbery, and assault;
3. Violence against women and girls, sexual violence, and intimate partner violence must never be tolerated or normalized; and
4. The Women's Advisory Committee condemns in the strongest terms this unacceptable and gender-based act of violence.

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

- a) Declare gender-based violence, intimate-partner violence, and family violence an epidemic in Vancouver.
- b) Dedicate adequate resources to support community-based victim services organizations and initiatives that work to proactively prevent violence against women and girls.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion 4 - Gender-Based Violence / Intimate Partner Violence (GBV/IPV) Incident in Vancouver May 28, 2025

MOVED by Serena Mohammed

SECONDED by Ellie Lawson

WHEREAS

1. The Vancouver Police Department reported an incident of gender-based violence perpetrated by a man against a woman in East Vancouver on May 28, 2025;
2. The Vancouver Police Department arrested and charged the man with one count of an indecent act;
3. Violence against women and girls, sexual violence, and intimate partner violence must never be tolerated or normalized; and

4. The Women's Advisory Committee condemns in the strongest terms this unacceptable and gender-based act of violence.

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

- a) Declare gender-based violence, intimate-partner violence, and family violence an epidemic in Vancouver.
- b) Dedicate adequate resources to support community-based victim services organizations and initiatives that work to proactively prevent violence against women and girls.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion 5 - Gender-Based Violence / Intimate Partner Violence (GBV/IPV) Incident in Vancouver June 9, 2025

MOVED by Nazma Lee

SECONDED by Serena Mohammed

WHEREAS

1. The Metro Vancouver Transit Police reported an incident of gender-based violence perpetrated by a man against a woman on the 99-B Line bus on June 9, 2025;
2. The Metro Vancouver Transit Police arrested and charged the man with sexual assault;
3. Violence against women and girls, sexual violence, and intimate partner violence must never be tolerated or normalized; and
4. The Women's Advisory Committee condemns in the strongest terms this unacceptable and gender-based act of violence.

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

- a) Declare gender-based violence, intimate-partner violence, and family violence an epidemic in Vancouver.
- b) Dedicate adequate resources to support community-based victim services organizations and initiatives that work to proactively prevent violence against women and girls.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion 6 - Gender-Based Violence / Intimate Partner Violence (GBV/IPV) Incident in Vancouver July 13, 2025

MOVED by Ellie Lawson
SECONDED by Katsy Concepcion

WHEREAS

1. The Vancouver Police Department reported an incident of gender-based violence and possible intimate partner violence perpetrated by a man against an Indigenous woman in Gastown on July 13, 2025;
2. The Vancouver Police Department arrested the man, and released him pending completion of an investigation;
3. Violence against women and girls, sexual violence, and intimate partner violence must never be tolerated or normalized; and
4. The Women's Advisory Committee condemns in the strongest terms this unacceptable and gender-based act of violence.

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

- a) Declare gender-based violence, intimate-partner violence, and family violence an epidemic in Vancouver.
- b) Dedicate adequate resources to support community-based victim services organizations and initiatives that work to proactively prevent violence against women and girls.

*Motion 7 - Gender-Based Violence / Intimate Partner Violence (GBV/IPV) Incident in Vancouver
September 5, 2025*

MOVED by Morrell Andrews
SECONDED by Alida Oegema Thomas

WHEREAS

1. The Vancouver Police Department reported three incidents of gender-based violence and intimate partner violence perpetrated by a man against three women in East Vancouver on September 5, 2025, resulting in their deaths;
2. The Vancouver Police Department arrested and charged the man with three counts of second-degree murder;
3. Violence against women and girls, sexual violence, and intimate partner violence must never be tolerated or normalized; and
4. The Women's Advisory Committee condemns in the strongest terms this unacceptable and gender-based act of violence.

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

- a) Declare gender-based violence, intimate-partner violence, and family violence an epidemic in Vancouver.
- b) Dedicate adequate resources to support community-based victim services organizations and initiatives that work to proactively prevent violence against women and girls.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion 8 - Gender-Based Violence / Intimate Partner Violence (GBV/IPV) Incident in Vancouver September 9, 2025

MOVED by Nazma Lee

SECONDED by Morrell Andrews

WHEREAS

- 1. The Vancouver Police Department reported an incident of gender-based violence perpetrated by a man against a woman in Downtown Vancouver on September 9, 2025;
- 2. The Vancouver Police Department arrested the man for the assault;
- 3. Violence against women and girls, sexual violence, and intimate partner violence must never be tolerated or normalized; and
- 4. The Women's Advisory Committee condemns in the strongest terms this unacceptable and gender-based act of violence.

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

- a) Declare gender-based violence, intimate-partner violence, and family violence an epidemic in Vancouver.
- b) Dedicate adequate resources to support community-based victim services organizations and initiatives that work to proactively prevent violence against women and girls.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Liaison Updates

None.

3. Subcommittee Updates

The Committee discussed the Gender-based Violence Subcommittee and next steps.

4. New Business

The Committee encouraged participation in the following events:

- FIFA Human Rights Action Plan joint engagement – September 29, 2025
- Vancouver Official Development Plan joint engagement – October 22, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Morrell Andrews

SECONDED by Serena Mohammed

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting:

DATE: Tuesday, November 18, 2025
TIME: 5:30 PM
PLACE: Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall
/ Microsoft Teams Online

The Committee adjourned at 6:55 pm.

* * * * *