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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL" <CCDTMACDL@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/29/2017 3:50:58 PM
Subject: Distribution at Lunar New Year Parade

Greetings Mayor and Council,

At the Regular Council meeting of March 28th, Councillor De Genova indicated that at the Lunar New Year parade an elected official was distributing gift bags displaying the City logo. She stated each gift bag held a traditional red envelope that allegedly contained an item of a political nature. This claim was refuted by the Mayor's office. The Mayor's office has said the red envelopes they were distributing contained Werther candies and that no Vision branded materials were handed out. The Mayor's Office also indicated that Vision was at the parade and handed out their own red envelopes containing chocolate.

Councillor De Genova has asked for information on the use of the City logo and when it is appropriate to distribute political materials. She has also asked whether City funds may be used cover the cost of items, such as the red envelopes, handed out by the elected official at a civic event.

With respect to the use of the City logo, while there is not a specific City policy that addresses the distribution of materials that display the City logo, in practice, when a Council member attends an event as a City representative, the Council member may hand out materials representative of the City (i.e. bearing the City logo). Materials of a political nature are not to be distributed when acting in their capacity as a City representative.

With respect to the use of City funds to cover the cost of such items as the red envelopes mentioned above, under the Mayor and Councillor Expenses Bylaw (sections 5.1 - Mayor's discretionary expenses and 7.2 - Councillor discretionary expenses), the Mayor and each Councillor is allocated a budget that may be used for cover eligible expenses related to various constituency activities such as such as community outreach and events. The envelopes are considered eligible discretionary expenses.

I hope that this information is of assistance to Mayor and Council.

Best

Sadhu

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