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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
Date: 3/26/2020 5:23:26 PM
Subject: New meeting rules issued by Province today

Greetings Mayor and Council

In an effort to enable municipalities to continue their business while dealing with COVID, the province has issued orders that simplify the electronic and virtual meeting rules during an emergency.

The regulation says that the public does not need to be allowed to attend an open meeting of Council. The regulation means that we do not have to only hold "special meetings" electronically. A regular Council meeting can be held electronically.

The regulation also means that we do not need to provide a "place" where the public can attend to hear the proceedings.

The regulation also applies to other bodies, including:

- the Park Board
- the Board of Variance
- an advisory committee, or other advisory body, established by Council

The regulation governs other local governments, too.

The key sections of the regulation that govern Vancouver are sections 5 and 8. They are set out below. Law and Clerks are working to assess how this impacts our meeting next week as well as other meetings, including public hearings going forward. We'll update you on that shortly.

Open meetings - Vancouver

5 (1) Despite

(a) section 165.1 [*general rule that meetings must be open to the public*] of the *Vancouver Charter*, and
(b) any applicable provision in the Vancouver procedure bylaw, the Vancouver council or a body referred to in section 165.7 [*application to other city bodies*] of the *Vancouver Charter* is not required to allow members of the public to attend an open meeting of the council or body.

(2) For the purposes of section 165.1 of the *Vancouver Charter* if the Vancouver council or a body do not allow members of the public to attend an open meeting under subsection (1) of this section, the open meeting is not to be considered closed to the public.

Electronic meetings - Vancouver

8 Despite

(a) section 164.1 [*meeting procedures*] of the *Vancouver Charter*,
(b) the City of Vancouver Council Electronic Meetings Regulation, B.C. Reg. 42/2012,
(b) any applicable provision in the Vancouver procedure bylaw, the Vancouver council or a body referred to in section 165.7 [*application to other city bodies*] of the *Vancouver Charter* may conduct all or part of a meeting of the council or body by means of electronic or other communication facilities.

(2) A member of the Vancouver council or other body who participates in a meeting by means of electronic or other communication facilities under this section is deemed to be present at the meeting.

(3) Section 2 (2) (c) and (d) [*electronic meetings authorized*] of the City of Vancouver Council Electronic Meetings Regulation does not apply in respect of a meeting conducted by means of electronic or other communication facilities under this section.

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Pronouns: he, him, his



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.