



For Immediate Release
November 15, 2023

Council Forges Ahead with Fresh, New Housing Initiatives

VANCOUVER, BC – Today, Vancouver City Council took fresh new steps in the ongoing battle to address the city’s housing crisis and build more homes faster. The motions passed today are a testament to this Council's commitment to delivering housing and creating a more inclusive, vibrant city for all.

Mayor Sim’s motion to expand the mandate of the new Vancouver Housing Development Office to include enabling middle-income housing on City-owned land is a major step toward filling the significant middle-income housing gap identified by staff. By leveraging land the City owns in new ways with various partners, we are laying the foundation for the next generation of residents in our rapidly growing city.

“Middle-income earners are the economic engine of our city. These are our workers, police, firefighters and nurses,” said Mayor Sim in his comments at Council. “We have a shortage of middle income housing that threatens the sustainability and growth of our city”

It’s worth noting that Mayor Sim's motion marks the first time in memory that the City of Vancouver has tackled the creation of middle-income housing. Given the city’s median household income is \$82,000 as of 2021, the Mayor’s motion is more than timely.

City Council also gave approval to a motion introduced by Councillor Lenny Zhou focused on addressing declining enrollment in Vancouver schools by looking at ways to increase family-friendly density near schools. His motion specifically asks staff to explore opportunities to see how family-oriented density can be increased near schools by working with the Vancouver School Board.

Council also took a bold step to remove parking minimums for new buildings in the West End and Broadway Plan areas, to be effective January 1, 2024. This modernization of the City’s parking minimums policies was the result of a motion introduced by Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung during the previous Council term. The new policy offers greater

flexibility that will improve the viability of many projects, reduce the embodied carbon in buildings, and get more housing built faster.

The removal of parking minimums also signals an important generational change in the city where younger residents are living less car-dependent lives and embracing alternative modes of transportation. City staff will report back in 2024 with the next phase of this initiative to remove parking minimums.

These dynamic initiatives reflect Vancouver City Council's vision for a vibrant, inclusive, and healthy city. It builds on groundwork already laid by a series of motions passed over the last year and helps us build the brighter future we want for all Vancouverites.

- 30 -

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