

- B. THAT Council approve, in principle, and instruct the Director of Legal Services to bring forward a by-law to impose and collect a tax on empty homes generally as set out in Appendix A of the Administrative Report dated November 6, 2016, entitled “Encouraging Homes for Renters: Recommended Approach for Taxing Empty Homes”, for enactment.
- C. THAT staff do further analysis with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and other organizations as needed to assess the number of homes in the city that are subject to the 2017 Empty Homes tax, including those frequented for family purposes, and report back to Council in advance of the 2018 Empty Homes Tax period.

7. Support for a Democratically Elected Board of Education

At the Regular Council meeting on November 15, 2016, Vancouver City Council referred this matter to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on November 16, 2016, to hear from speakers.

The Committee heard from three speakers in support of the motion and one speaker who, while in support of the return of a democratically elected Vancouver Board of Education, spoke in opposition to the motion.

The Committee agreed to sever the vote on parts A and B of the motion.

MOVED by Councillor Reimer
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. On November 15, 2014, nine individuals were democratically elected to the Vancouver Board of Education (VBE) for a term of four years by a process certified by the City of Vancouver and Elections BC;
2. On October 17, 2016, the provincial government’s Minister of Education dismissed the VBE and replaced them with one appointed individual;
3. The City has a number of resident advisory committees and other bodies in which it reserves a spot for a VBE trustee with the assumption that the individual appointed by the VBE has a direct mandate from Vancouver residents;
4. Several advisory committees have expressed confusion or concern about having an individual with no mandate from Vancouver residents act in any capacity on an advisory committee established to empower resident voices;
5. The BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) passed a motion calling on the provincial government to hold an election to fill vacant trustee positions no longer than six months from the date of dismissal of a democratically elected board and as soon as is feasible;

6. Residents of Vancouver deserve the same right as residents of every other municipality in the Province of BC to independent and democratically elected School Trustees to represent their interests in regard to education, school facilities and related matters.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT, interim to the provincial government requiring an election to allow for a democratically elected Vancouver Board of Education (VBE), the terms of reference for City of Vancouver Type A and B committees be amended to remove a request to the VBE to appoint a “liaison trustee” and instead invite the most recently democratically elected individuals to the office of School Trustee to apply to be a non-voting “special representative”.

CARRIED (Vote No. 01589)
(Councillors Ball, Affleck and De Genova opposed)
(Councillor Jang absent for the vote on Medical Leave)
(Mayor Robertson absent for the vote)

- B. THAT Vancouver City Council write to the Minister of Education and the Premier to state unequivocal support for the return of a democratically elected Vancouver Board of Education as soon as is feasible and no later than six months from the date of dismissal.

CARRIED (Vote No. 01590)
(Councillors Affleck, Ball and De Genova opposed)
(Councillor Jang absent for the vote on Medical Leave)
(Mayor Robertson absent for the vote)

8. Homeowners’ Advisory Committee

At the Regular Council meeting on November 15, 2016, Vancouver City Council referred this matter to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on November 16, 2016, to hear from speakers.

REFERRAL MOVED by Councillor Reimer
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council refer the motion proposing the establishment of a Homeowners’ Advisory Committee to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on November 30, 2016.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 01592)
(Councillor Jang absent for the vote on Medical Leave)
(Mayor Robertson absent for the vote)

The Committee adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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