

AND WHEREAS the federal government has indicated it is premature to discuss these measures until there are comprehensive supports for people to get well;

AND WHEREAS supports are needed, but measures that save lives are essential if people are to survive and access supports;

AND WHEREAS the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police has stated that they agree the evidence suggests “decriminalization for simple possession as an effective way to reduce the public health and public safety harms associated with substance use”, causing the government to indicate that it is now “deliberating” over decriminalization;

AND WHEREAS the overdose crisis rages, showing few signs of abating;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of New Westminster calls upon the Government of Canada to declare the overdose crisis a national public health emergency so that it is taken seriously and funded appropriately as well as to immediately seek input from the people most affected by this crisis and meet with provinces and territories to develop a comprehensive, pan-Canadian overdose action plan, which includes comprehensive supports and full consideration of reforms that other countries have used to significantly reduce drug-related fatalities and stigma, such as legal regulation of illicit drugs to ensure safe supply of pharmaceutical alternatives to toxic street drugs, and decriminalization for personal use.

37. Motion: Lifting Restrictions on Farmers Market Vendors, Councillor Johnstone (On Table)

a. New West Farmer’s Market correspondence dated February 24, 2021 re Restrictions on Vendors at Farmers Markets

38. Motion: Support for Laid-off Hotel and Tourism Industry Workers, Councillor Nakagawa

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing inequalities and its social, health, and economic impacts are particularly devastating for women and racialized communities; and

WHEREAS the tourism and hospitality industries have been drastically impacted; and

WHEREAS of the 50 000 hotel workers workers that were laid off in March 2020, the majority are women and people of colour; and

WHEREAS the duration of the pandemic means that recall rights require extension; and

WHEREAS there are reports of hotels in British Columbia refusing to commit to bringing workers back to their jobs when business returns; and

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster is committed to a COVID recovery plan that takes better care of people, the environment, and the community than the systems we had before the pandemic; and

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster recognizes hotel workers and people who work in the tourism industry as valued and valuable members of our community;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of New Westminster affirms that people should not lose their livelihoods due to the pandemic; and

THAT the City of New Westminster write to the Ministers of Labour and Tourism expressing our support for the right for laid off workers to return to their jobs when the pandemic eases; and

THAT this letter be forwarded to all BC municipalities asking to write their support; and

THAT the City of New Westminster writes to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association and Union of BC Municipalities encouraging them to host future conferences and events in venues that respect worker rights and pay at least a living wage.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

NEXT MEETING

March 22, 2021

On March 22, a Public Hearing will be held which begins at 6:00 p.m. Immediately following the Public Hearing, a Regular meeting will be held to consider the business conducted at the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing will be held electronically under Ministerial Order No. M192 and the Regular meeting will be held electronically under Ministerial Order No. M192 and the current Order of the Provincial Health Officer - *Gatherings and Events*.

ADJOURNMENT