

Subject: Consolidation of Public Compensation for Council Members

Member of Council: Kash Heed

Meeting: Regular (Open) Council

Notice Provided on: January 17, 2025

For Consideration on: January 27, 2025, in accordance with Procedure By-law No 7560

Background

The obligation for elected representatives to disclose their public compensation is rooted in the principles of transparency, accountability, and fostering public trust. By mandating that these officials reveal their earnings, citizens can better understand how taxpayer money is allocated. This openness not only ensures that elected officials receive appropriate compensation but also validates the rationale behind their salaries.

When all remuneration tied to tax funds is reported, it enables the public to examine the compensation structures and confirm that they are commensurate with the officials' duties and performance levels.

Transparency in financial matters can also significantly bolster public confidence in government entities; when citizens observe this openness, they are more inclined to trust their representatives. Furthermore, when elected officials are aware that their financial compensation is subject to scrutiny, they are less prone to engage in self-serving financial behaviors.

This critical information should be readily accessible via official websites, reports, or other platforms, allowing the public to easily review the compensation details of their elected officials.

At present, it is exceedingly difficult for both the public and the media to ascertain the exact amount each elected official receives in terms of base salary, stipends, per diems, allowances, retainers, benefits, and expense reimbursements.

Disclosure requirements aim to cultivate a culture of transparency and accountability to ensure that elected officials prioritize the interests of the communities they represent.

Motion

1. THAT the City of Richmond prepare a comprehensive annual financial report that details the total compensation received by Richmond Council members who serve on regional or provincial organizations, including but not limited to EComm911, Municipal

Finance Authority, TransLink, and Metro Vancouver, and that this report be made accessible to the public; and,

2. THAT the annual financial report provides a complete itemization of each Council member's base salary and benefits, as well as per diems, stipends, allowances, retainers, expense reimbursements, and any other compensation associated with their roles.