



Council Member Motion

For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 20, 2018

To: Committee of the Whole

Date: September 12, 2018

From: Councillor Loveday

Subject: Safeguarding Against Organized Crime and Money Laundering

BACKGROUND

In 2015, the BC Lottery Corporation called for expressions of interest from municipalities that would like to host a casino. The City of Victoria applied to be considered and was eventually chosen as a preferred host municipality by the BCLC. The last update Council received stated that an application could be expected for a downtown location later in 2018.

Since 2015, when the City of Victoria initially expressed support for the idea of hosting a casino in downtown Victoria, new information has come to light regarding rampant money laundering and organized crime operations in Vancouver casinos. The Attorney General of British Columbia has stated that there are links between the money laundering occurring in Vancouver casinos, the sale of Fentanyl, and the housing crisis in the Lower Mainland.

The City of Victoria must grant formal approval for a casino before a gaming license can be issued by the BC Lottery Corporation. It is imperative that the City of Victoria has all pertinent information readily available so that the public and City Council can be fully informed ahead of any Public Hearing process. Specific to any landuse application for a casino, it is necessary to consider information regarding measures taken to avoid money laundering and the associated negative impacts.


Therefore, it is recommended that Council request an update from the Office of the Attorney General and BCLC on the results of the Dirty Money investigation and to seek assurances that all necessary precautions will be taken to ensure that organized crime and money laundering will not occur in any potential new casino in downtown Victoria. It is also recommended that any landuse applications for new casinos are sent to VicPD for comment, similar to the process for liquor license applications.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council request the Mayor write to the Office of the Attorney General and BCLC requesting an update on the results of the Dirty Money investigation and to seek assurances that issues of organized crime and money laundering will not occur in any potential new casinos in the City of Victoria.

AND THAT Council direct staff to refer any applications to build or operate a casino in the City of Victoria to the Victoria Police Department for comment.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Loveday', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Councillor Loveday

List of Attachments

Appendix A: https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/German_Gaming_Final_Report.pdf