



Council Member Motion

For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of July 27, 2017

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** July 20, 2017
From: Councillors Alto & Loveday
Subject: Upholding Non-Discrimination Principles at City Land Use Consultations

BACKGROUND

The City of Victoria is a signatory to both the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination and the Vienna Declaration, and has committed to taking concrete action to identify, monitor, and proactively address forms of individualized and systemic racism and discrimination in the Victoria community. Despite that civic commitment, social and economic status are not protected grounds in the Human Rights Code and thus need to be specifically identified as not acceptable considerations in a CALUC or other land use review process.

Participatory community consultation through the CALUC and Council public hearings are an essential component of rezoning and variance permits, and the focus of rezoning applications in residential neighbourhoods ought to be about buildings, and not the personal characteristics of those who might inhabit them.

Some recent neighbourhood CALUC meetings have included comments that speak to presumptions and stereotypes about potential residents that add no value to valid considerations in land use decisions.

MOTION

RESOLVED that Mayor and Council act to ensure that all City endorsed public consultations regarding land use and development be carried out in a manner that upholds the City's commitment to non-discrimination;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council direct staff to create policies to guide and facilitate safe, inclusive, and constructive public consultations that include the following measures:

- Communicate to the public the terms of reference to be addressed in rezoning/development applications, including direction that an individual's race, gender, age, religion, political or ethnic affiliation, sexual orientation, marital or family status, social or economic status, or disability, are not acceptable considerations for approval or denial of these applications.
- Prepare, present and post at a CALUC or other city-endorsed land use review meetings a list of guidelines that outline acceptable behaviours in public consultations, including anti-bullying and anti-discrimination best practices.

- Develop and implement procedures to confront bullying and discriminatory conduct that violates the City's commitment to human rights, anti-racism and anti-discrimination, and denies or restricts the participation of organizations and individuals in CALUC meetings or public hearings.
- Provide opportunities for public sessions in which dialogue is had that will help to confront community stigma associated with poverty and addictions

Respectfully submitted,



Councillor Marianne Alto



Councillor Jeremy Loveday