



Council Member Motion

For the Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting of October 9, 2014

Date: October 3, 2014

From: Councillors Helps and Alto

Subject: Motion to amend Business Licencing Bylaw re: newspaper Hawkers

Issue Summary

The Megaphone (formerly The Victoria Street Newz) “employs” individuals to sell their publication on City streets. The Megaphone is not a charity but an enterprising non-profit. The City’s Business Licence Bylaw has an appropriate classification for this activity - “newspaper hawkers”. The Business Licence Bylaw enables the Megaphone to obtain licences for their hawkers at \$1.00 per licence. There is no limit on the number of licences that can be issued. As they have arranged in Vancouver, the Megaphone would prefer a fixed fee that entitles them to as many licences as they need. This will make it easier for The Megaphone to work with and empower the low-income people who sell the newspapers.

Since the Business Licence Bylaw is the right fit, an amendment to the Business Licence Bylaw to change the licensing provisions for “newspaper hawker” would be one way to address their concern.

Recommendation

“That Council amend the Business Licence Bylaw provisions respecting “newspaper hawkers” to enable a licensed newspaper business to obtain an unlimited number of “newspaper hawker” licences for the prescribed annual licensing fee.”

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Z. Helps".

Councillor Helps

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Alto".

Councillor Alto