



MOTION on NOTICE

Park Board Support for the VPD's 529 Garage Bicycle Registry

MOVER: Commissioner Shum

SECONDER:

WHEREAS:

1. Cycling figures prominently in the City of Vancouver's transportation plan and is one of the greenest and most energy efficient forms of transportation, with the number of citizens choosing cycling as a transportation mode continuing to grow every year;
2. Despite Vancouver Police Department (VPD) anti-theft initiatives, such as Bait Bikes and other initiatives and technologies that make it easier to record bicycle serial numbers, over 2,000 bicycles are reported stolen every year, with almost as many recovered and then ending-up in the VPD Property Office where officers painstakingly work to reconnect bikes with their rightful owners;
3. The VPD are only able to return roughly 10 percent of recovered bikes to their rightful owners due to the fact that bicycle serial numbers and descriptions have not been properly recorded;
4. On October 18, 2015, Councillor Melissa De Genova called for a bicycle registration program that would deter theft and help the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) identify stolen bicycles and return them to their rightful owners;
5. On October 26, 2015, the Vancouver Police Department, the Vancouver Police Foundation, and the City of Vancouver announced that they are partnering with Project 529 to launch a Vancouver Bike Registry called the 529 Garage;
6. The 529 Garage registry is an active network of cyclists who look out for one another and assist law enforcement with real-time alerts and easy reporting that will allow VPD officers to quickly and efficiently recognize a stolen bicycle and get it back to its rightful owner;
7. The Vancouver Police Foundation is funding the cost to register 10,000 Vancouver bicycles for free in the first three years of the registry;
8. Vancouver parks, Park Board facilities, and community centres offer an excellent range of opportunities to promote the 529 Garage bicycle registration program to the citizens of Vancouver;
9. Bicycle owners who register their bicycle have the best chance of getting it returned if it is stolen.



THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to work in partnership with the Vancouver Police Department, the City of Vancouver, and Community Centre Associations to promote the 529 Garage bicycle registration program through community centres and Park Board facilities, including any communication support that the Park Board can provide through social media, the Park Board website, signage, general communications, and through Park Board partners; and
- B. FURTHER THAT the Park Board direct staff to report back on potential and/or existing mechanisms for collecting data on bicycle thefts from Park Board facilities, parks, and community centres, including measures to identify bicycle theft "hot spots", and current strategies to address bicycle theft.