

“Elimination of Train Whistle Noise and Supporting Increased Liveability”

Moved: Councillor Daniel Fontaine

Seconded: Councillor Paul Minhas

WHEREAS an important role for any city government is to ensure the liveability of its residents; and

WHEREAS citizens who live in high density living are helping to reduce the city’s carbon footprint and as such are helping to tackle climate change; and

WHEREAS train whistle noise has severely impacted the quality of life for residents in both Sapperton and Queensborough; and

WHEREAS the previous City Council eliminated the Railway Community Advisory Panel that was making progress to eliminate unnecessary train whistle noise; and

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster has made very little progress over the last four years in relation to whistle cessation; and

WHEREAS the current Mayor and Council have the ability to strongly advocate to senior orders of government to assist with infrastructure costs and policy changes related to upgrading train crossings; and

WHEREAS the re-establishment of the Railway Community Advisory Panel was a commitment made by the New West Progressives in the recent civic election;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT *Council re-establish the Railway Community Advisory Panel and that staff report back to Council on the updated terms of reference by no later than January 31, 2023*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of New Westminster establishes a target of eliminating all unnecessary train whistles which are negatively impacting the quality of life for thousands of Sapperton and Queensborough residents by no later than 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Council draft a letter to the Federal Minister of Transportation advising that we wish to accelerate negotiations with the Federal Government to get their support and assistance with whistle cessation in our neighbourhoods; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff be required to provide quarterly updates to City Council and the public regarding progress made to eliminate unnecessary train whistles; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff ensure the website containing critical information regarding whistle cessation is updated with the latest information; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff report back on the capital costs related to the infrastructure upgrade to the Sapperton and Queensborough train crossings and if we are eligible to apply for provincial or federal infrastructure funding to lower the tax burden on city ratepayers