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CANDIDATES SLATE 2014

Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver is an independent Third Party Sponsor for the 2014 civic election and is recommending a strategic slate for change to reclaim democracy at City Hall.

BACKGROUND:

Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver was formed in 2007 as an umbrella group to represent the shared concerns of neighbourhood organizations across Vancouver in response to EcoDensity, the first in a series of city-wide planning initiatives designed to circumvent established local planning and enable profit-motivated tower development beyond the city's core.

In the run-up to the 2008 civic election, NSV conducted a survey of leading political parties and independent candidates to establish positions on key election issues, including EcoDensity. On the basis of Vision Vancouver's claimed support for neighbourhood-based planning through CityPlan and a pledge to address outstanding public concerns around EcoDensity, NSV endorsed the Vision slate and looked forward to working with Vision Vancouver to chart a more sustainable way forward.

Speaking at a reception organised by NSV in wake of Vision's success at the polls, our newly elected mayor, Gregor Robertson, appeared to confirm our best hopes, noting that neighbourhood's were...

"the only thing, really, that pushed back effectively enough against the branding of EcoDensity.. and when you say the word EcoDensity, well, it sounds kinda good, sounds reasonable, something we maybe should get behind.. ,but the reality, I think, was very different.. and it took a very, very intense effort on behalf of all of you in the neighbourhoods to counter that effectively and to reframe the whole debate around what matters most and that is community and our neighbourhoods".

Watch video of Robertson at Heritage Hall in 2008:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2cQKBpHe688>



Regrettably, however, the foregoing expression of appreciation and common ground was roughly the beginning and the end of a healthy and productive relationship between Vision Vancouver and the city's neighbourhoods. We could speculate as to the influences both inside and outside City Hall that nipped the promise of good will and cooperation in the bud, but shortly thereafter "neighbourhoods" became "NIMBYs" and an obstacle to all the good that Vision Vancouver was determined to do for the real people of Vancouver.

Pointing to "convenient truths" from climate change to affordability, the following six years under Vision Vancouver have seen the City roll out a series of EcoDensity-like initiatives, enabling spot zonings across Vancouver to permit forms of development that are entirely out of scale and character with the surrounding neighbourhood. (Online version has link to NSV information on Vancouver planning and development.)

And the greater the local opposition, the clearer the view from the Mayor's office and Vision-dominated Council chambers that local neighbourhoods are full of "political hacks", "people who don't want any change" or "regulars at City Hall".

Most recently, Vision refused to endorse a set of principles and goals for neighbourhood-based planning recommended by the Coalition of Vancouver Neighbourhoods CVN, a group of 25 residents associations and groups. In a recently televised interview with the Vancouver Courier, Mayor Robertson noted that the CVN proposal "doesn't align with the City's existing policy", a fact already too clear to neighbourhoods. Watch video: http://youtu.be/_mLojv10j0k?t=23m41s



What's become clear to citizens across Vancouver is that community and neighbourhoods are no longer what matters most to Vision Vancouver. On the contrary, there is a growing sense across Vancouver that City Hall is out of touch with the balance of public opinion and that it's time for change.

RATIONALE:

As a registered third-party sponsor for the 2014 civic election, NSV's aim is to give a political voice to the view that it's time for change and to make it happen by advancing a strategic slate of candidates for Mayor and City Council that

- ✓ appeals to a broad cross-section of voters,
- ✓ avoids a single-party majority,
- ✓ has the best chance of being elected and
- ✓ is representative of the following set of basic principles that NSV believes are essential to Vancouver's future as a truly sustainable city of diverse and livable neighbourhoods.

NSV – BASIC PRINCIPLES

1. Make City Hall Open and Accountable
2. Advance Campaign Finance Reform
3. Value Vancouver as Community—not Commodity
4. Respect Community Supported Local Area Plans and Community Visions
5. Support Neighbourhood-based Planning
6. Community Initiative
7. Promote a Diverse and Sustainable Economy
8. Advance Social Justice and End Homelessness
9. Make Real Progress on Housing Affordability
10. Protect and Expand Rental Housing
11. Support the Arts, Film, Culture and Tourism
12. Protect Heritage Buildings and Viewscapes
13. Improve Public Transit
14. Reject Development-Based Funding Models for Public Transit
15. Support Active Transportation
16. Promote Environmental Sustainability

NSV's view is that strategic voting is essential to restoring open and accountable government at Vancouver City Hall and that the following slate has the best chance of achieving that outcome. In addition to foregoing strategy, individual candidates were selected on the basis of 1) feedback provided to NSV through a candidates questionnaire (NSV website includes link to questionnaire), 2) support for NSV Basic Principles by associated elector organizations, 3) assessment of prior performance, 4) ongoing monitoring of views expressed through the 2014 campaign and, last but not least, 5) available polling data.

NSV acknowledges that there is a wider field of excellent candidates that could have been endorsed and we have suggested a number of options for the tenth slot on the ballot. However, again, we believe that the recommended slate has the best chance of succeeding and therefore encourage voters across the political spectrum to vote the slate.

To provide a measure of flexibility, NSV is recommending two candidates for mayor, either of which will advance our cause. And, finally (for those familiar with NSV), we are acutely aware that the strategy NSV is advocating is not entirely consistent with established views, but believe that the current state of affairs at Vancouver City Hall demands it.

REFERENCE – POLLING: Justason Market Intelligence, October 20, 2014: <http://www.justasonmi.com/?p=4085>
Insights West - <http://www.insightswest.com/news/vancouver-municipal-government-gets-mixed-reviews/>


SUMMARY OF SELECTION

Of the parties, the Greens have the closest platform to the NSV Principles and Policies, especially on campaign financing, so please vote all the Green candidates first.

1 for MAYOR:

 Kirk LaPointe	OR	 Meena Wong
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10 for COUNCIL:

3	3	3	1
	 Green Party		Optional*
Lisa Barrett	Cleta Brown	George Affleck	One Optional
Gayle Gavin	Adriane Carr	Gregory Baker	
Tim Louis	Pete Fry	Elizabeth Ball	

*** OPTIONAL FROM (Pick one):**

- **COPE:** Keith Higgins (www.cope.bc.ca or www.votecope.ca) or
- **NPA:** Ian Robertson (www.npavancouver.ca) or
- **CEDAR:** Nicholas Chernen (www.cedarparty.ca)



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CANDIDATES SLATE BALLOT 2014

MAYOR: LAPOINTE, Kirk (NPA) **OR** WONG, Meena (COPE)

COUNCIL (10)	PARK BOARD (7)	SCHOOL BOARD (9)
AFFLECK, George (NPA)	COUPAR, John (NPA)	BALLANTYNE, Fraser (NPA)
BAKER, Gregory (NPA)	CRAWFORD, Casey (NPA)	DAY, Diana (COPE)
BALL, Elizabeth (NPA)	MACKINNON, Stuart (Green)	FRAATZ, Ralph (COPE)
BARRETT, Lisa (COPE)	POPAT, Imtiaz (COPE)	FRASER, Janet (Green)
BROWN, Cleta (Green)	ROMANIUK, Anita (COPE)	NOBLE, Penny (NPA)
CARR, Adriane (Green)	SHUM, Erin (NPA)	OAK, Mischa (Green)
FRY, Pete (Green)	WIEBE, Michael (Green)	RICHARDSON, Christopher (NPA)
GAVIN, Gayle (COPE)		ROBERTSON, Stacy (NPA)
LOUIS, Tim (COPE)		SHECTER, Ilana (COPE)
1 OPTIONAL*		

* Optional for Council (pick one) from:
 CHERNEN, Nicholas (Cedar) or
 HIGGINS, Keith (COPE) or ROBERTSON, Ian (NPA)

11-Nov-2014