

# NSV - Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver

February 28, 2012

Mayor Robertson and Councillors  
City of Vancouver  
453 West 12 Avenue  
Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 1V4

Dear Mayor Robertson and Councillors,

**Re: Council February 28, 2012 -  
A2 - Public Hearing Procedures and Amendments to Procedure By-law No. 9756**

Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver (NSV) is very concerned about the proposed bylaw amendment above.

The staff report suggests that citizen input had been considered, however there was no such consultation process. NSV therefore requests that this item be withdrawn and referred to a public consultation process prior to enacting any new procedures. This should have considerable time for the public to review and comment since public hearings are such an important part of the regulatory process.

Of particular concern is that this proposed by-law amendment is being proposed in the middle of a contentious public hearing for the Rize project at Broadway and Kingsway. It would be considered unethical and an act in bad faith to change the rules of the public hearing process given that the hearing for this item started yesterday and will continue for potentially several nights.

If Council chooses to proceed with the by-law amendments, please make the following changes:

1. As a minimum please amend the proposed change of clause under "Time limit for speakers":

*"18.18 A speaker who is speaking on his or her own behalf, or on behalf of an organization, must not speak at a public hearing for more than five minutes in total nor more than once."*

Please delete "...in total nor more than once..." and replace with "...at one time, but may speak at the end of the speakers lists to complete the speaker's input if required."

This process has been common past practice and allows for adequate time for a speaker's public hearing response on more complex issues.

2. We also have concerns about sweeping powers of the Chair and request that clause 18.14 (d) be deleted.

NSV has a number of concerns and has not had adequate time to review and comment on this issue. Please refer this item A2 to an inclusive public consultation process with significant time for public review and comment prior to making changes to the public hearing process.

Sincerely,

The Steering Committee  
Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver  
Group contact email: [nsvancouver@hotmail.com](mailto:nsvancouver@hotmail.com)  
Website: [www.nsvancouver.ca](http://www.nsvancouver.ca)