

## Many Council decisions “have moved us backward” - WTC

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She goes on to say, “We’ve analyzed Council’s voting record on issues like housing, climate action, and community safety over the past year and in many cases, their decisions have moved us backward.”

While their “asks” fall within the jurisdiction of the city, some require the participation of other levels

of government. For example, the report highlights a member motion from this past year (that the majority of Councilors rejected), Endorsing the Transit for Teens Campaign to Extend BC’s Get on Board Program up to Age 18. This motion called on City Council to support

provincial legislation that would provide free transit for minors up to the age of 18. That motion was defeated with the majority of ABC party Councilors voting no.

“This Council has not made progress on most of their HPPC policy commitments in their first year. While there have been a few steps in the right direction, such as initiating an equity review of past bylaws, the move has been backwards on their

commitments on affordable housing, community safety, climate justice and accessible transit.”

As an ongoing community partner, the SVNH Reframing South Vancouver (RSVI) says on their Facebook Page that they support WTC in advocating for these systemic changes, specifically Alternative Models to Community Safety and Affordable and Accessible Transit.

RSVI acknowledges that “WTC’s support of Reframing played a significant role in empowering and preparing our staff and residents to speak to Council for the motion that passed unanimously in June 2023.” That motion by Councilor Christine Boyle presented as “Addressing Ongoing Inequities by Improving Social Infrastructure and Access to Services Across South Vancouver and Marpole Neighbourhoods” was instrumental in RSVI receiving a civic grant of \$161,000 in December 2023 to continue their work.

Their Facebook statement goes on to say, “We hope to see Council and Mayor work collaboratively with grassroots organizations such as Women Transforming Cities in the future to effect long-term and meaningful change...” and they are “...hopeful that 2024 will bring more opportunities for teamwork on our aligned goals.”

Women Transforming Cities is non-profit, member-based organization.

You can view their one-

year report on Vancouver City Council here: <https://www.womentransformingcities.org/hpp-progress>.

Visit Reframing South Vancouver at

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100083592541431>

- Disclosure: The author of this story is a member of the Board of Directors of South Vancouver

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