

**Notice of Motion, Cr Susan Riley: Publication ‘The year that was...2020’ to record COVID-19 crisis and impact on the City of Melbourne.**

4 August 2020

**Motion**

1. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
  - 1.1. Recognises the very difficult and evolving period of time we are currently living through, what our city is experiencing, and expresses an intention to record these experiences for future generations.
  - 1.2. Requests that management:
    - 1.2.1. Considers options for commissioning the content as a publication of a book, journal, or other digital media format, potentially led by independent researchers, artists and/or journalists, on the concept ‘The year that was...2020’ to capture the City of Melbourne’s and the community responses and adaptation to challenges presented by COVID-19 between 1 January to 31 December 2020 or until the pandemic is over.
    - 1.2.2. Collate all initiatives, programs and support from across the organisation into one central source to record this extraordinary time in history, and to highlight the work and achievements undertaken by the City of Melbourne and the community.
    - 1.2.3. Arrange for printing and distribution of limited hard copies of any publication, including copies for the City of Melbourne archive, City of Melbourne libraries, the National Library of Australia, the State Library of Victoria, and the City’s university based libraries.
    - 1.2.4. Consider how in-house expertise can contribute to the project.
    - 1.2.5. Make any recommendations regarding the resourcing of the project to the Council as necessary.

**Background**

2. COVID-19
  - 2.1. COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by the most recently discovered coronavirus. This new virus and disease were unknown before the outbreak began in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. COVID-19 is now a pandemic affecting many countries globally.
  - 2.2. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses which may cause illness in animals or humans. In humans, several coronaviruses are known to cause respiratory infections ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The most recently discovered coronavirus causes coronavirus disease COVID-19.
  - 2.3. The global COVID-19 crisis and the responses from Australian Federal and Victorian State Government have banned mass gatherings, closed venues, restricted travel and people’s participation in non-essential activities.
3. City of Melbourne
  - 3.1. The City of Melbourne faced a number of unprecedented challenges due to COVID-19. Events and festivals were cancelled, our thriving retail and hospitality sector has been impacted and workers and tourists deserted the city due to stay at home orders.
  - 3.2. The pandemic also impacted communities and a broad range of community organisations identified that vulnerable community members have been at a heightened risk of hardship.

3.3. The City of Melbourne responded with a wide range of initiatives, program and support including:

- Support for artists
- Support for local business
- Business Concierge
- Support for the homeless, community groups and local organisations
- Support for international students
- Support for Flemington, Kensington and North Melbourne high rise estate residents
- Provision of parking for essential workers
- Business as usual delivering essential services
- Rates freeze and hardships packages
- Fast track planning approvals and planning stimulus
- Establishing Taskforces
- Increased communications through e-Business Newsletter
- Media team response
- Staff redeployments
- Staff adjusting to the new norm of working from home

**Moved: Cr Susan Riley**

**Seconded: Cr Jackie Watts**