

## ON TABLE ITEM

Date: Sept. 4 2018  
Meeting: Public Hearing  
Item: #7

**CityClerk**

Schedule 7 to the Minutes of the  
Public Hearing meeting of  
Richmond City Council held on  
Tuesday, September 4, 2018.

**From:** De Whalen <de\_whalen@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 September 2018 16:24  
**To:** CityClerk  
**Subject:** Delegation to September 4, 2018 Richmond City Council Public Hearing  
**Attachments:** Sept 4 PH\_Market Rental Policy.docx

Greetings City Clerks Office: Please see below and attached a delegation from the Richmond PRC for tonight's public hearing. Thanks! De Whalen

September 4, 2018 Richmond City Council Public Hearing

My name is Deirdre Whalen and I live at 1331 Blundell Road Richmond. I would like to speak to item 7 on behalf of the Richmond Poverty Response Committee (PRC). Item 7 refers to changes to the OCP and the adoption of a Citywide market rental policy.

Thank you for inviting the Richmond PRC to stakeholder meetings to hear our members ideas for an acceptable market rental policy. We are pleased to see many of our proposals reflected in the policy.

As the staff report states, "Market rental housing, along with affordable housing units, are important components of the City's housing continuum." This policy recognizes that a significant number of our residents are renters, and the number will only increase as housing purchase prices continue to rise. This policy recognizes that we must start building supply for the real need, not supply for financial assets.

We note the policy includes:

- inclusion of family-friendly units,
- universal design,
- density bonusing,
- reduced parking requirements,
- fast-tracking proposals,
- pre-zoning in some areas, and
- building close to transit



In concert with the City's 1:1 Replacement policy and the Standards of Maintenance Bylaw, we hope this new policy will fill the gaps and increase the supply of purpose-built rental developments substantially.

This policy is well timed. The BC government recently amended the Local Government Act to allow Cities to rezone areas to residential rental only. The Federal government also announced that the National Housing Strategy will include a plan to renew and repair existing rental units. The City of Richmond should be ready for any housing opportunities that senior levels of government can offer.

Finally I would ask that you review a report, "An Affordable BC is Possible," written by the BCGEU and CUPE BC. This plan that tackles the affordability crisis by curbing speculation and making investments into housing and infrastructure that benefits all British Columbians. They posit that speculative housing built close to public amenities such as transit, community centres, schools and hospitals should have additional taxes in proportion to the community benefits they receive.

If Council accepts and endorse the market rental policy, the Richmond PRC will await its rollout and observe its impact. Let's hope it takes a big bite out of the vacancy rate and provides safe, affordable and accessible housing for those who need it.

Thank you.

De Whalen  
604.230.3158

"Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can quietly become a power no government can suppress, a power that can transform the world." Howard Zinn

*"You can't undo the past. You don't have to feel guilty about the past. You don't even have to apologize for the past. All you have to do is say YES. Yes, this happened. We can start there."* Richard Wagamese on Reconciliation.