

CityClerk

Subject: FW: Public Hearing April 20, 2020 re: Headwater Rental Housing Development 5500
No. 3 Road Richmond
Attachments: PRC submission re Headwater rental proposal Apr 20, 2020.pdf

From: De Whalen <de_whalen@hotmail.com>
Sent: April 9, 2020 9:11 PM
To: MayorandCouncillors <MayorandCouncillors@richmond.ca>; CityClerk <CityClerk@richmond.ca>
Subject: Public Hearing April 20, 2020 re: Headwater Rental Housing Development 5500 No. 3 Road Richmond

Greetings Mayor & Councillors and City Clerk:

Please see below and attached, a letter from the Richmond PRC regarding the above noted market rental development. I believe the public hearing is scheduled for April 20, 2020.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

De Whalen
Chair, Richmond PRC

April 9, 2020

City of Richmond
4911 No. 3 Road,
Richmond BC

Sent by email

Dear Mayor and Councillors:

**Re: Headwater Rental Housing Development
5500 No. 3 Road Richmond**

This is a letter on behalf of the Richmond Poverty Response Committee (PRC) to confirm its support of the above-noted proposal for a market rental development.

In noting the city's vacancy rate is 0.7%, it is obvious that Richmond has a dearth of rental accommodation. Although the proposal is not necessarily affordable rental it will take some of the pressure off the rental market as a whole and help to increase supply of rental housing in the community.



The Richmond PRC has long advocated for purpose-built rental housing. It is our view that City Council must prioritize the building of rental housing units that meet the needs of the people of Richmond. Purpose-built rentals also provide ongoing stability for renters, whereas the current supply of private individual condo rentals does not.

We are satisfied that the proposal provides for 40% family-friendly units and all units will incorporate universal design in common areas. An improvement on this would be some purpose-built fully accessible units.

We understand the developer is working with the BC Housing *HousingHub Provincial Rental Supply Program* to facilitate the development and ensure rental rates and income restrictions are imposed in order to increase the supply of rentals in the province. We need more developers in Richmond to take advantage of this provincial program.

However, please let it be on record that the Richmond PRC primarily supports **below-market rental housing**. We urge the City to establish a fast-track approval process to give developers an incentive to build more below-market rental housing.

For your interest, members of the Richmond PRC include the Richmond Food Bank Society, Richmond Women's Resource Centre, Richmond Food Security Society, Richmond Family Place, Richmond Centre for Disability, Chimo Community Services, Richmond Health Services, Family Services of Greater Vancouver, Turning Point Rehabilitation Society, Richmond Mental Health Consumer & Friends Society, Kehila Society, KAIROS, ISS of BC and representatives of various Faith Groups, among others.

Respectfully submitted,

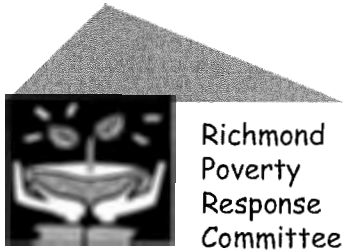
De Whalen
Chair, Richmond PRC

cc. PRC Executive Committee

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.



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Respectfully submitted,



De Whalen
Chair, Richmond PRC

cc. PRC Executive Committee