

17 May 2016

RE: 420 HAWKS AVENUE SOCIAL HOUSING PROPOSAL – PUBLIC HEARING, May 17, 2016

Dear Mayor and Councillors:

It is my pleasure to write this strong and enthusiastic letter of support for the 420 Hawks social housing proposal.

I have lived and worked in Strathcona since 1975. This is my home. And this is the extraordinary community – which embraces and accepts people from all walks of life - where my partner Savannah Walling and I founded and lead Vancouver Moving Theatre (City of Vancouver Cultural Harmony Award/Mayor's Award- Community-engaged Art), and produce the annual community-building Downtown Eastside Heart of the City Festival.

Our lives and work are dedicated to supporting our community and to building bridges between the diverse people and communities of the Downtown Eastside (Strathcona, Chinatown, Main and Hastings, Oppenheimer and Gastown).

I am very excited and enthusiastic about the innovative 420 Hawks social housing project. As the President of the Strathcona Community Centre Association recently stated at the recent thank you party for Strathcona Community Centre employee Ron Suzuki: *"Strathcona is an inclusive community that accepts people from all walks of life."* People look out for each other here. This is a great community for families and kids. Kids excel in this community, as they have access to great parks, schools, libraries and community centres, programs and cultural amenities.

Strathcona and the Downtown Eastside desperately needs more social housing at welfare rates. Social Housing saves lives. As a beneficiary of living at the Mau Dan Housing Co-operative in Strathcona, I can speak personally of the importance, value and impact that affordable, decent home has had for my family. Without this support Savannah and I would not have been able to live and work in this community, nor would we have been able to do the community building work we do with our community.

In the last number of years Savannah and I have worked closely with the native community of the Downtown Eastside and Strathcona. This housing development, and its values of providing safe and affordable housing for mostly native mom's with children is in alignment with the City's declaration as a City of Reconciliation. To build inclusive, sustainable and healing communities, we are all needed.

"Community is care, care for one another, care for those least able to care for themselves, care for all, care in action."
Bud Osborn, Downtown Eastside poet and activist

This proposal is innovative: it builds connections between the generations, will provide safe, affordable and stable homes, it will be a place of healing and community-led recovery, and will provide access to the extensive healthy community amenities Strathcona has to offer.

I strongly urge to you support this innovative and greatly needed proposal.

Your sincerely,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Terry Hunter

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Vancouver BC

"Can we re-imagine the city and public space as a wholeness, inclusion, healing, integrating art and life, freedom and justice?" Gallery Gachet, Mad Pride Exhibit

Tuerlings, Leslie

From: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2016 5:25 PM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: FW: 420 Hawks rezoning

From: the_squareone s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2016 4:55 PM
To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Subject: 420 Hawks rezoning

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing in support of the proposed rezoning of 420 Hawkes to provide much needed social housing units.

The proposal is consistent with the building form approved in the DTES Local Area Plan, for the sub-area Hastings East. Further, the proposed height and density are less than what is allowed under the current zoning, M-1, so in terms of building massing, has less of an impact that what might otherwise be built without providing the benefit of supportive housing.

Finally, I have had a chance to tour the other container housing development on Alexander St and was very impressed with the quality and liveability of the units and with the well thought out common spaces. The development had a real sense of home and community about it. I believe the proposal on Hawkes will also create housing that will provide a safe and comfortable place for the residents to call home.

Please vote to approve the rezoning.

sincerely,

Nicky Hood

Tuerlings, Leslie

From: Kathy Shimizu s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2016 7:17 PM
To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Subject: 420 Hawks Avenue Rezoning Application

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to ask you to approve the 420 Hawks Avenue Rezoning Application.

As someone who volunteered for 2 years on the DTES LAPP Committee, the success of this project is critical to the implemetation of the DTES Local Area Plan because:

- we need more social housing in the DTES – we said 2 years ago that we needed 5000 units and I can only imagine how many more are needed now, since we've lost so many units since then
- this social housing is for women and children, which is at the top of the housing priority list
- the project includes 2 bedroom units, a rarity anywhere in this city
- it is a 100% social housing project
- it does NOT include large number of market condos attached, which would normally negate the benefit of the project due to the negative impacts of the resulting gentrification and resultant loss of social housing units in the surrounding area
- the re-use of shipping containers to build the units will help the City of Vancouver reach its goal to be the greenest city by 2020

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Kathy Shimizu
Vancouver

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