

Castro, Maria

From: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Sent: Monday, September 19, 2016 1:31 PM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: FW: Proposed Joyce station rezoning.

From: Jennifer Ward "s.22(1) Personal and Confidential"
Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2016 2:52 AM
To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Subject: Proposed Joyce station rezoning.

To the mayor and council,

I'd like to express my support for the proposed rezoning around Joyce station. I think it's long overdue, and there's no reason a skytrain station should be surrounded by single family houses.

I used to rent a basement room in that neighbourhood. My landlord had renovated his house into a triplex. He had a separate unit on one side he rented to a couple, he and his family lived in the front unit, and in the back he had a 4 bedroom share house. In total 11 people lived in that house. I don't know if that was legal or not, but it was all I could afford. My roommates were not students, and neither was I. They were blue collar workers, I worked in the creative sector, and we were all in our late twenties. One had a kid who lived with him half the time.

That is the reality of living near Joyce station right now. Either you can build some decent apartments for people to live in, or landowners start divvying up their property, legally or not, and nobody under 30 gets to live in their own apartment anymore, never mind a house.

I eventually left Vancouver so that I could get an apartment with my boyfriend. We now share a studio in Burnaby. We simply cannot afford to rent an apartment in Vancouver (take a look at Craigslist, a 1br is about 1600/mo on average now), and we have a household income of 90k now! We've completely given up on trying to buy a condo here, obviously. Everyone our age is in the same situation, as I'm sure you're well aware. We have decided that if we get demovicted, as well may happen, we are going to leave the lower mainland entirely and head to Ottawa. We don't want to go, but we're out of options. There simply isn't anywhere to live in this city anymore.

The only solution to this problem is more density, especially around transit hubs like Joyce. I urge you to consider the future, to consider the young people who want to live there but cannot. Don't let the NIMBYs win. That's not a long-term plan.

Thanks,
Jennifer Ward