Mayor and Councillors

My name is David Webb and I'm here to speak in opposition to the Red Door Society's rezoning application at 870 East 8th Avenue.

I am greatly affected by the proposed 'Mia Casa' redevelopment.

870 East 8th Avenue, 5.22(1) Personal and Confidential which has been my home for 18 years. I consider myself fortunate to live where I do.

I myself am a low-income renter - I'm not opposed to low income housing. I am, however, opposed to this rezoning because it represents an unwelcome and irrevocable change to my neighbourhood's character. I also think that rezoning should not be entered into lightly and certainly not at a developer's behest.

While I sympathise with the Red Door Society's financial woes regarding repairs and remediation, it does not follow that 870's current tenants and the surrounding community should bear the brunt of their mistakes. Such a massive repair bill points to the original building having been constructed by a shoddy contractor and to Red Door's own failure to effect repairs in a timely manner.

Can any landlord now allow a building to fall into disrepair and then use the cost of remediation as a case for rezoning? Vancouverites are all too familiar with landlords using repairs or renovations to evict current tenants, subsequently re-renting at far higher rents. In other words, "renovictions."

Fundamentally, Red Door's application amounts to the same thing - there will be LESS low-income suites in the new building, serving fewer tenants, including families, and many suites with much higher rents. Currently, 2 bedroom units rent for \$627 - \$1020; projected rents are \$1055 - \$1775. Current 3 bedroom rents are between \$670 and \$1200; projected rents are \$1160 - \$2546. Most of the designated social housing in the new building is comprised of 1 bedroom apartments - only four 2 bedroom and three 3 bedroom units are included. This represents a reduction in the number of tenants covered - down from 61 - 83 in the current building to 29 - 36 in the new building. Unforeseen expenses during demolition and construction are likely to drive up the percentages of market rent charged in the remaining units and possibly diminish the number of designated low-income suites.

'Mia Casa' would be an existential threat to this working-class neighbourhood - it would function as a Trojan Horse, the first entry into an area of low-rises currently catering to low to middle income earners. It would set a precedent. The ramifications would extend far beyond this block - north from Broadway to Great Northern Way, east from Main street to Clark Drive. If one seven story building is allowed, it surely won't be long before developers and the area's landlords want to take advantage of the potential to earn a great deal more money. I anticipate considerable pressure on City Hall to further relax zoning. One by one the existing apartment buildings will be demolished as the area becomes a sort of east-side West End or Metrotown. I believe this may already be happening - I spoke to real estate agent Tyler Hartling regarding property for sale at the west end of my block. He told me that it is currently zoned RM, but that he anticipates more 'favourable' zoning.

Even if the city is somehow able to forestall or prevent further over-height redevelopment, 'Mia Casa' itself will forever alter the streetscape and character of the neighbourhood.

I urge you to reject this rezoning application.

Thank you.

I Oppose the Proposed Redevelopment at 870 East 8th Avenue ('Mia Casa')

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I Oppose the Proposed Redevelopment at 870 East 8th Avenue ('Mia Casa')

Name	Address		phone# or email
Liga Neilson	s.22(1) Personal and Confidential		
MARK POWER			
Julie POWEK			
FREDA WARNES			
HUGO BREUT			
MARY CALLAGHER			
Maria Racz			
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Isfeld, Lori

From:

Kathryn Hallisey s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Sent:

Tuesday, July 11, 2017 4:15 PM

To:

Public Hearing

Subject:

OPPOSED:: REVISED Rezoning Application - 870 East 8th Avenue (Mi Casa)

Attachments:

Rezoning of 870 E 8th Petition.pdf

Attached petition with 20 local resident signatures who are opposed to the project

I am a concerned resident of the 800 block of East 8th Avenue where the Revised Rezoning Application for 870 East 8th Avenue is up for approval. As a long-time resident of Vancouver, and a voting taxpayer, I am strongly opposed to approval of the application for the following reasons.

- 1. The rezoning of 870 East 8th contradicts current existing zoning guidelines and will compromise the integrity and quality of our historic Mount Pleasant neighbourhood (see attached).
- The overall environmental impact of the project.
- 3. It will ultimately compromise affordability for current residents in other lower rent buildings by encouraging their redevelopment for profit, not for improving affordable housing conditions in the neighbourhood.

Integrity and quality of our Historic Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood

Many of my neighbours and I emailed you regarding the original application and we also submitted the attached petition. Since the new information notice was not sent with much response time, we thought it appropriate to resend our original document since our concerns are all still relevant to the new proposal. The main concerns the residents of 808 East 8th Ave. had with the original proposal was the height and size of the building and these aspects have not really been changed.

The revised proposal does not do enough to address the issues sure to arise in our neighbourhood as a result council approving this rezoning application. The staggering of the roofline does not change the fact that the end result is a building that does not match with the current aesthetics of the avenue and it is still 7 stories which is more than twice as high as neighbouring buildings.

The new rendering on the notice we received this week fails to incorporate any surrounding buildings. If it was a more honest illustration of our block it would visually demonstrate just how much the new building will disrupt the current look of the neighbourhood. If the developer actually believed the building was a good fit as is, I believe they would have already provided a more accurate portrayal.

More importantly, approving rezoning on this quiet, low-rise, residential block does not adhere to the principals and guidelines previously agreed to and created by local government for the RM-4 area as outlined in http://guidelines.vancouver.ca/M007.pdf

I recognize that the Mount Pleasant RM-4 and RM-4N Guidelines have not been amended in quite some time, but at the very least, if the current city council wants to approve rezoning applications that contradict the spirit of these guidelines, a new amendment should be completed before any rezoning is permitted on low-rise residential streets.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

K. Hallisey s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Resident of Vancouver for over 27 years

Please

Rezoning of 870 East 8th Avenue

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