

Castro, Maria

---

**From:** Emily Briggs [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 07, 2017 12:29 PM  
**To:** Public Hearing  
**Subject:** 8615 Laurel Street

Dear Mayor & Council,

I have come across the proposal for **8615 Laurel Street** and want to **express my support** for the project. This City desperately needs more rental suites—a concern which came to my attention this past May when on the hunt for a 1 bedroom rental suite with my partner. The move was necessary, as the two of us were living in a 400 square foot studio downtown priced at \$1400.

During our search, we were determined to remain in the city; we wanted to stay close to our work, friends, and family. Finding something took *a ton* of work. We had to incessantly scan Craigslist, as well as offer cash to take suites right away (a lot of cash to carry around with you). Note that we had to take time off work to even get to these viewings, as many were during the day. We went so far as to make a "**rental resume**" just to get the attention of landlords.

After over a month and a half of battling other renters at various viewings (e.g. we would show to a viewing and approx. 15 couples would be there, ~10 minutes early...), we finally found something—**seven weeks later**. Our 1 bedroom unit is in East Vancouver and rents for \$1800 a month. No in-suite laundry, dishwasher or parking available. And better yet, *no shower*. The previous tenant was satisfied with a bath during her 13 year stay, which arguably shows that when people find something to rent in Vancouver, they never want to leave. After the viewing, the landlord said we had to decide *that morning* because "at least 10 other couples have already applied".

These points are all to show that we ended up in a desperate position and the renting game in this City is **nearly impossible**. If you're considering moving in above a pizza shop into an attic for \$1700 a month (another available option, with over 10 people at the viewing), you know you have a crisis. More and more projects providing rental, like this one at 8615 Laurel, are necessary; they need to be approved in this City. Future tenants looking for somewhere to live should not have to go through this extensive & competitive process.

Thank you,  
Emily

Emily Briggs  
Marketing Strategist, Western Canada

[REDACTED]