

Dragnea, Irina

From: Tracey Maynard s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2018 4:30 PM
To: Public Hearing; Robertson, Gregor; Louie, Raymond; Jang, Kerry; Affleck, George; Ball, Elizabeth; Carr, Adriane; Bremner, Hector; Reimer, Andrea; Deal, Heather; Stevenson, Tim; De Genova, Melissa; Kelley, Gil; Robertson, Chris; Hoikka, Hayley; McGuire, Michelle
Subject: RE: Temporary Sales Offices in Chinatown

Mayor and Council:

This letter is concerning the addition of Temporary Sales Offices as a permitted use in the Chinatown HA-1 and HA-1A District Schedule. I previously lived in the Chinatown neighbourhood. I live in Vancouver close by to Chinatown. Chinatown is an important part of my Vancouver. I have lived in Vancouver all my life and spent several years of that time living in Chinatown. This neighbourhood holds a special place in my heart because of the relationships I have built with the people who live there. My neighbours were Chinese elders who taught their kids to garden in the backyard and worried about the businesses they relied upon disappearing and being replaced by restaurants, bars and condo offices that didn't fit the budgets of the neighbourhood. Chinatown is a unique and special neighbourhood that is necessary for a thriving Vancouver and an important part of the heritage of this city. It is important to remember that Chinese Canadians built this city and this population has been impacted time and time again by racist policies. Chinatown is a way for us to remember this history so not to repeat it. I am not Chinese, but I appreciate and want to protect Chinatown and the cultural legacy that benefits us all.

I strongly recommend that Council and staff do not pass the amendment because of the reasons below.

- Condo sales offices are deadspace
- Condo sales offices exclude to locals and tourists.
- They do not add any intangible cultural value to the cultural area.
- Temporary sales offices does not contribute anything to Chinatown's status as a national historic site. It instead takes away from it.
- Temporary sales offices have no place in a historic area that is working towards a UNESCO world heritage site designation.
- Do not align with council-adopted Chinatown policies for a vibrant Chinatown with local-serving retail.

Sincerely yours,
Tracey Maynard

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Dragnea, Irina

From: Dana Mah s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2018 4:48 PM
To: Public Hearing; Robertson, Gregor; Louie, Raymond; Jang, Kerry; Affleck, George; Ball, Elizabeth; Carr, Adriane; Bremner, Hector; Reimer, Andrea; Deal, Heather; Stevenson, Tim; De Genova, Melissa; Kelley, Gil; Hoikka, Hayley; Robertson, Chris; McGuire, Michelle
Subject: Opposed to temporary sales offices in Chinatown

Dear Mayor and Council,

This email is concerning the Temporary Sales Offices as a use in Chinatown. Chinatown is an important part of my Vancouver to which I am connected to via Community Involvement through my affiliation with a local Family Association.

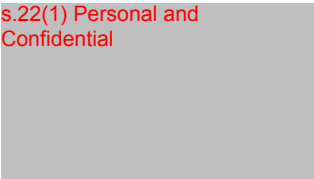
I am strongly opposed to the amendment for the following reasons:

- Condo sales offices do not create any street activity.
- Condo sales offices exclude to locals and tourists.
- They do not contribute to the intangible heritage of the historic cultural area.
- Condo sales offices do not support Chinatown as a national historic site.
- Permitting condo sales offices will be a step backwards for the work to make Chinatown a UNESCO heritage site.
- Temporary sales offices do not serve the neighbourhood. It contravenes council-adopted policies for vibrant local-serving businesses.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,
Dana Mah

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Dana

Dragnea, Irina

From: John Szeto s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2018 4:46 PM
To: Public Hearing; Robertson, Gregor; Louie, Raymond; Jang, Kerry; Affleck, George; Ball, Elizabeth; Carr, Adriane; Bremner, Hector; Reimer, Andrea; Deal, Heather; Stevenson, Tim; De Genova, Melissa; Kelley, Gil; Robertson, Chris; Hoikka, Hayley; McGuire, Michelle
Subject: Reject condo sales offices in Chinatown HA-1A HA-1

To Vancouver City Council:

I have concerns about the Temporary Sales Offices as a use in Chinatown. In the past, I lived in Chinatown. The historic area has special significance to my upbringing. Living in Vancouver with a Chinatown is a great part of my experience. Our Surnames, clan membership / benevolent association are still active in the community helping out those at risk and youth in preserving our heritage. Opening contracts to these sales offices will put them in direct risk of gentrification, that will destroy the cultural heritage for our children and children's children. Do Not forget what happened at Hogan's Alley / Georgia Viaduct, Because We Won't.

In anyway I'm opposed to the amendment for the reasons below.
Condo sales offices are an unsightly dead space, that attracts the wrong business thereafter. Please reconsider your approval of these type of offices on permanent structures.

Best Regards,

Burt John Szeto
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Dragnea, Irina

From: Janice Wong s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2018 5:05 PM
To: Public Hearing; Robertson, Gregor; Louie, Raymond; Jang, Kerry; Affleck, George; Ball, Elizabeth; Carr, Adriane; Bremner, Hector; Reimer, Andrea; Deal, Heather; Stevenson, Tim; De Genova, Melissa; Kelley, Gil; Robertson, Chris; Hoikka, Hayley; McGuire, Michelle
Subject: RE: Public hearing Item 1 Temporary Sales Offices in Chinatown

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to oppose the proposal to allow Temporary Sales Offices as an Outright Approval Use in HA-1 and HA-1A, Chinatown.

I'm aware that other communities, such as the heritage neighbourhood of Gastown, do not allow Outright Use for these Temporary Sales Offices, and I also want to point to Chinatown's current status as a National Historic Site and it's present bid for UNESCO World Heritage Site status. Council has publicly stated its support for the UNESCO bid and I believe, in order for that bid to be successful, the City needs to act in every way possible as Stewards for the community. And, one step towards this is to reject this Outright Approval Use.

To quote Mayor Robertson's speech at the recent Apology to the Chinese Community: "The City will also strive to strengthen relations with the Chinese-Canadian community through legacy actions, including...conserving, commemorating and enhancing the living heritage and cultural assets of the community, with a specific focus on Chinatown through pursuing a UNESCO designation of World Heritage Site for Chinatown, creating a Chinatown Living Heritage and Cultural Assets Management Plan to support the UNESCO process..."

And, to quote a few of the tributes the City has made towards Chinatown and the Chinese-Canadian community in the past year: "The City wants to see the kind of development that makes Chinatown so special and unique to many of us...Involve the community more in the review of new developments...Chinatown is a vibrant community rich with culture and history...It's importance to our city's identity reaches far beyond its physical boundaries...Chinatown's contributions to the history of Canada were recognized in 2011 with its designation as a National Historic Site...a vibrant Chinatown...working together to achieve our vision...protecting heritage and growing culture...working with the community...and, most recently, "empowering locals to proactively protect and manage cultural resources for long-term social economic sustainability...along with words like "inherit, inspire, intangibles..."

All of these tributes are nudging close to an actual vision or mission statement for the community. And, my understanding is, when vision statements are in place, they act as guiding principles and nothing that runs counter to them, compromises or undermines them, is taken up by the user of that statement. Basically, you don't do anything that doesn't reflect back in support of that vision statement.

And, I believe that opening up Chinatown to Outright Approval Use for Temporary Sales Offices does not support these public statements about the importance of heritage, history and community. It does not respect Chinatown's current National Historic Site status and it's current status on Heritage Vancouver's endangered list. They do not help Chinatown work towards becoming a UNESCO World heritage site as directed by Council.

The Temporary Sales Offices do not help to activate the streetscape in a way that contributes to community, they do not provide a retail service for the community, they do not contribute to the intangible heritage of the historic, cultural area. For all of these reasons, I reject the proposal for Outright Approval Use for Temporary Sales Offices in Chinatown.

Today, it's come to my understanding that Temporary Sales Offices fall under the umbrella of General Office Use, which I'm told, already has Outright Approval Status in Chinatown, as opposed to its heritage neighbourhood of Gastown. I believe that office use of storefronts in Chinatown is ill-suited for all of the

aforementioned reasons and I hope that Council and Staff will seek to open a conversation around viable and appropriate uses for street level spaces in Chinatown.

Yours truly,

Janice Wong

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Dragnea, Irina

From: janice s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2018 5:07 PM
To: Public Hearing; Robertson, Gregor; Louie, Raymond; Jang, Kerry; Affleck, George; Ball, Elizabeth; Carr, Adriane; Bremner, Hector; Reimer, Andrea; Deal, Heather; Stevenson, Tim; De Genova, Melissa; Kelley, Gil; Robertson, Chris; Hoikka, Hayley; McGuire, Michelle
Subject: No to temporary sales offices in Chinatown

To Mayor and Council:

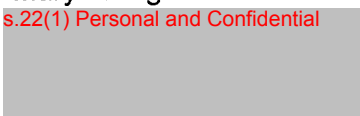
I'm writing because I don't support the condo sales offices use addition to Chinatown. In the past, I lived in Chinatown. I grew up in Vancouver going to Chinatown as a child. This historic area is very important to me. I lived in Chinatown as a child and care deeply about the community, history and heritage.

I do not support the addition for the following reasons:

- Temporary Sales Offices do not activate the streetfront.
- Only caters to condo owners. Does not help with tourism economy of Chinatown.
- Temporary Sales Offices is not intangible heritage of Chinatown.
- Condo sales offices do not support Chinatown as a national historic site.
- Permitting condo sales offices will be a step backwards for the work to make Chinatown a UNESCO heritage site.
- Condo sales offices are not local-serving retail, which council wants to enhance in the DTES plan.

Your sincerely,
Mary Wong

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Dragnea, Irina

From: Amy Robinson s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2018 5:24 PM
To: Public Hearing; Robertson, Gregor; Louie, Raymond; Jang, Kerry; Affleck, George; Ball, Elizabeth; Carr, Adriane; Bremner, Hector; Reimer, Andrea; Deal, Heather; Stevenson, Tim; De Genova, Melissa; Kelley, Gil; Hoikka, Hayley; Robertson, Chris; McGuire, Michelle
Subject: Please support a vibrant local economy in Chinatown

Honourable City Councillors:

I'm concerned about the potential for vacant retail spaces in Chinatown to be used as commercial office spaces. The City of Vancouver has recently completed a project to assess the intangible heritage represented by businesses in street level retail spaces in Chinatown and other neighbourhoods of the City. The City is interested in the role it can potentially play in protecting the very businesses that give our neighbourhoods a sense of history, a sense of place, and a sense of belonging for residents, visitors and tourists. I believe strongly that Vancouver has succeeded in creating a city of neighbourhoods with strong identities, but that recent events, including the retail shift, increased taxes and skyrocketing rents, have left those neighbourhoods at risk of homogenization. One of the spaces proposed for a condo sales office is formerly the site of what I consider a "heritage" business, and local food asset recently lost by the neighbourhood. Although there are many factors that contribute to the closing of such businesses, it's crucial that retail spaces continue to add to the area's intangible heritage, it's sense of Chinatown as a distinct place. There are examples of how new businesses can help contribute to Chinatown's sense of place. The new Chinatown BBQ restaurant kept the recipes from the Dynasty Restaurant and hired back former staff. Klaus's Koffeehaus is a coffee shop with Chinese and Austrian owners with Chinese furniture and Austrian food.

It's a tough job you have ahead of you at the moment. I understand the City's role in the past has mostly not included the types of businesses that contribute to the streetscape. However, our neighbourhoods and our small business community is in crisis, and I urge you to take a more proactive role in determining the best use for empty storefronts. Moving the space from retail stock is more likely to drive up the cost of local leases, if retailers are now competing with development offices along with other retailers as potential tenants. I believe that Chinatown's vacant storefronts should be filled if there is a need. However, there are other retail needs - for pop-up shops, community kitchens, co-retailing spaces, and other uses - that could support the incubation of small businesses, while also contributing to the community and sense of place. More community economic development work is needed to bring landlords and potential tenants together to fill empty spaces with the best tenants for the area. In the Danforth East area of Toronto, with a foundation grant, community groups managed to reduce the vacancy rate from 17% to 6% by doing just that. This is emerging work that calls for a strong vision. To continue to have a diverse local economy in the future, to protect a sense of place and our small business community, I hope you will be bold enough to put some resources towards the best outcomes for the communities of Vancouver.

Very Best,
Amy Robinson

Dragnea, Irina

From: Rita Wong s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2018 5:46 PM
To: Public Hearing; Robertson, Gregor; Louie, Raymond; Jang, Kerry; Affleck, George; Ball, Elizabeth; Carr, Adriane; Bremner, Hector; Reimer, Andrea; Deal, Heather; Stevenson, Tim; De Genova, Melissa; Kelley, Gil; Robertson, Chris; Hoikka, Hayley; McGuire, Michelle
Subject: Reject condo sales offices in Chinatown HA-1A HA-1

Dear city council

I am writing this email to express my concerns about the addition of Temporary Sales Offices as a permitted use in the Chinatown HA-1 and HA-1A District Schedule. I live in Vancouver near Chinatown. I spend time in Chinatown and frequent the businesses there. It's important to me as a cultural centre, a place that recognizes the history, present, and future of the Chinese Canadian community.

I urge you to not approve the addition because of the following reasons:

- Condo sales offices do not create any street activity.
- Condo sales offices do not support Chinatown as a national historic site.
- Permitting condo sales offices will be a step backwards for the work to make Chinatown a UNESCO heritage site.
- This does not align with council-adopted Chinatown policies for a vibrant Chinatown with local-serving retail.

Regards,
Rita Wong

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