

**From:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Sent:** Friday, April 13, 2012 11:42 AM  
**To:** Darlene Browman  
**Subject:** RE: Rezoning Application Feedback: 1870 East 1st Avenue and 1723 Victoria Drive

Thank you for your comments.

All public comments submitted for the public hearing that are received not more than 15 minutes after the close of the speakers list for that public hearing will be distributed to members of Council for their consideration. The public comments must include the name of the writer.

In addition, comments will be posted on the City's website ([http://vancouver.ca/ctyclerk/councilmeetings/meeting\\_schedule.cfm](http://vancouver.ca/ctyclerk/councilmeetings/meeting_schedule.cfm)). Please note that your contact information will be removed from the comments, with the exception of the writer's name. Comments received after the start of the public hearing should not exceed 1500 words.

Public comments submitted for the public hearing that are received more than 15 minutes after the close of the speakers list, will not be distributed until after Council has made a decision regarding the public hearing application and the related bylaw is enacted, if applicable.

For more information regarding Public Hearings, please visit [vancouver.ca/publichearings](http://vancouver.ca/publichearings).

Thank you.

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**From:** Darlene Browman s. 22(1) Personal and Confidential  
**Sent:** Friday, April 13, 2012 11:03 AM  
**To:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Rezoning Application Feedback: 1870 East 1st Avenue and 1723 Victoria Drive

I would like to know what type of supportive housing it will be? Single mothers, homeless, etc... thanks for your time

To Mayor Gregor Robertson, Vancouver Council Members, Social Planning Department

From Gary Marcuse

s. 22(1) Personal and  
Confidential

Cc: Johanna Suttor-Doerksen

Community Housing Director

s. 22(1) Personal and Confidential

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Confidential

April 13, 2012

**Re: Rezoning application - 1870 East 1st Avenue and 1723 Victoria Drive  
Qualification of residents to be assisted in this facility, avoiding discrimination based on  
ethnicity culture, sexual orientation or faith.**

*Please circulate in conjunction with the public hearings on April 16 2012*

Dear Mayor Robertson, members of council and city staff

I am writing to request that the City of Vancouver, in considering this project, take steps to ensure that the "core residents" to be housed in this building will receive equal consideration without regard to ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation or faith.

Ordinarily, if this were an entirely private facility, requiring no concessions or support from the community, it might be suggested that the qualifications of the residents is a private matter. But given the current application, which requires zoning concessions and accommodation by neighbors and the Vancouver East community at large, the question of exclusivity should be addressed.

I am pleased to say that the applicants have taken the initiative – as indicated in the attached correspondence -- and have formulated an overall policy that supports non-discrimination on these grounds.

*The Salsbury Community Society embraces diversity and accepts all people as they are, whatever their ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation or faith.*

This is a laudable policy, but I understand from correspondence with the project's community housing director that this policy exists only as an internal guideline for the project and does not appear in the Operations and Management Plan for the project. That Plan, as written, outlines the overall qualifications of the tenants, based on need, but it does not specifically exclude discrimination based on ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation or faith.

I request that the Council direct staff to include language to this effect to any contract or management plan that will govern the rezoning of this property and require the same language to appear in any tenancy agreement that would be entered into by prospective residents. Tenants should be aware that it is their right to hold whatever cultural or religious views they please, and to not be discriminated against for their ethnicity or sexual orientation. The applicant and the city

can work together to avoid any semblance of coercion or discrimination which could otherwise arise.

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The possibility of a misunderstanding exists in part because the applicant's general guidelines for the project do provide for a faith-based qualification for the "anchor residents" who are assisting the core residents.

*While there is no expectation that the core residents of the Co:Here Housing Community will be or become Christian, the anchor residents will be made up of people of faith whose shared values and spirituality will help foster a unity of purpose as they walk alongside individuals who face diverse personal and social challenges.*

This is a reasonable policy, reflecting the values of the applicants, but it does increase the possibility that the core residents might feel that their continued occupancy might be determined, to some degree, by whether they share or come to share the values and beliefs of these "anchor residents." A clear statement of policy, in the Management Plan *and* in a tenancy agreement would make it clear that the beliefs, culture, background or sexual orientation of the tenants are not an issue.

This project is a useful and laudable initiative from an organization with a solid reputation for community work. Other similar applications from other faith groups have been made, or will be made in the future in Vancouver and elsewhere. Many of these applications, like this one, will be seeking public support through rezoning, or through project funding, grants and other means. It is therefore in the interest of the public, and in keeping with Vancouver social housing policy, to ensure in explicit terms that access to these facilities is non-discriminatory and that all parties are fully informed of these policies.

Attached is correspondence between myself and the project coordinator, Johanna Suttor-Doerksen.

Thank you.  
Yours very truly  
Gary  
Gary Marcuse

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On 2012-04-06 Gary Marcuse wrote:

Hi Johanna

We met at one of the advisory meetings. I had been promoting discussion about the design of the North facade of the building, which I now personally feel has been substantially addressed by the new design. I've been out of town since early March. Could you please tell me if the new design is now the official proposal from your team?

Would you also please let me know, regarding the selection of tenants, whether religious faith, and in particular participation in the church is considered relevant or required? I've read the general criteria in your operations plan, which makes no reference to this possibility but neither does it exclude it. Given the diverse nature of the neighborhood, and the concessions to the project to be made by the community at large, it would be comforting to know that anyone in

need, of whatever faith or persuasion, would be treated equally in the selection process.

Best regards  
Gary  
Gary Marcuse

s. 22(1) Personal  
and Confidential

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April 7 2012

Hi Gary,

Good to hear from you, and thanks for your feedback about the North facade of the building. Yes, the new design has been submitted as THE new design and is now part of the official proposal to the city. It would be great if you could let City Councillors know that you feel the new design substantially improves the North facade!

In regards to tenant selection, everyone that fulfills the tenant criteria (low income in accordance with CMHC, rooted in GW, living in inadequate housing or risk of homelessness, positive attitude toward living in community) for the core residents (18-20 units) regardless of their faith background or participation in the church will qualify for this housing. We have over the past 13 years provided housing for people of all walks of life and are committed to continuing this tradition.

The intentional community of support - the anchor residents (6-8 units) of the building will be made up of people of faith connected either to Grandview Baptist Church or another local church community.

**We did not include the following statement into our Operations and Management Plan yet, but it is one of the Guiding Principles for this project: *(emphasis added)***

The Salsbury Community Society embraces diversity and accepts all people as they are, whatever their ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation or faith. While there is no expectation that the core residents of the Co:Here Housing Community will be or become Christian, the anchor residents will be made up of people of faith whose shared values and spirituality will help foster a unity of purpose as they walk alongside individuals who face diverse personal and social challenges.

Let me know if you have any further questions.

Best,

Johanna Suttor-Doerksen

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