



July 8, 2014

**RE: Letter of Support for South Street Development Proposal at 60<sup>th</sup> and Cambie St**

Dear Mayor and Council:

I am writing today to express EMBERS support for the proposed South Street Development Application to rezone 5129-5169 Cambie St as part of the plan develop the property for a rental housing complex at 60<sup>th</sup> and Cambie St.

EMBERS is a non-profit community economic development organization located in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. We support this project for a couple of reasons.

1. There is a critical need for new rental housing units in Vancouver as the high cost of purchasing and owning a home or condo in today's market is out reach for the majority of our City's population.
2. The City has created a world class rapid transit system over the last number of years. The nearby skytrain station will offer ease of access to public transportation for apartment dwellers that do not own or choose to drive cars. As the City develops new housing and more density to accommodate Vancouver's growing population, the best area for development is around the transportation hubs, decreasing dependence on automobiles and creating greater environmental sustainability for the region.
3. EMBERS operates a not-for-profit staffing agency specializing in construction. We see a bright opportunity to partner with the developer, South Street, during the construction phase of the project, and, in so doing, provide opportunities to dozens of low income residents living in Vancouver who are looking for work in construction trades. The housing development would offer opportunities for individuals to further their skills and training, and thereby advance their careers.

In conclusion, we feel the proposed development project will provide a positive contribution to creating a sustainable future from both an urban planning perspective and a socially responsible employment initiative.

Yours sincerely,

Marcia Nozick, CEO, EMBERS

Doug Aason, Director of Recruitment and Accounts, EMBERS Staffing Solutions