

MOTION

6. Transparency and Accountability at Little Mountain

At the Council meeting on February 11, 2020, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on February 12, 2020, in order to hear from speakers.

Moved by: Councillor Boyle

WHEREAS

1. Social housing was first built at Little Mountain in the 1950s.
2. Vancouver, British Columbia, and the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation (Canada) first signed an agreement in November 1950, which stipulated that all social housing on the Little Mountain site must be replaced should the original structures be demolished.
3. 224 units of social housing were built at Little Mountain and remained on the site until 2009.
4. Residents at Little Mountain began being encouraged to relocate to other social housing in March 2007. BC Housing assured residents that they would be able to return to their new homes on the site by the time of the Olympics in 2010.
5. Many residents resisted moving and were supported by thousands of their neighbours and other Vancouver residents.
6. The original residents recommended that the public land at Little Mountain not be privatized. Residents recommended that instead of simply replacing the demolished 224 units of social housing hundreds more social housing units should be built, and that any redevelopment should be done in phases so that residents could stay in their homes with the least amount of disruption.
7. All but 4 units on the site were demolished in November 2009.
8. As a result of the refusal of 4 residents to move, one building replacing only 53 units of the original 224 units of social housing was built, and today the rest of the Little Mountain site is a large, 15 acre vacant lot.
9. In the twelve years since 2007 Vancouver has suffered through an intensifying crisis of homelessness and unaffordable housing.
10. BC Housing entered into an agreement for the sale of the property with Holborn Development Company in 2008, though the sale was apparently not finalized until 2013, with two amendments to the 2013 contract since then.

11. The contract has not yet been made public. The original residents and other members of the community have been asking to see the agreement for sale and contract for twelve years. The City of Vancouver has previously requested to see the contract but was not able to.
12. It is in the interest of Vancouver residents and the City of Vancouver that there be transparency regarding the sale of this significant public asset. Disclosure of the contract would provide new and relevant information to the public that previously was unknown, serve the public's interest in sound financial management by government, and help determine whether the developer has dealt fairly with the public.
13. Details that have emerged from recent *Vancouver Sun* investigative reporting suggest that the terms of the sale favoured the purchaser in unusual ways, including payment for the land being structured to extend over decades.
14. The loss of the then existing social housing has created, among many Vancouver residents, cynicism and loss of confidence in the public process.
15. Application has been made through BC Freedom of Information Legislation for disclosure of the contract between BC Housing and Holborn Developments (OIPC File No.: F18-75849 & F18-76353 — Public Body File No.: 292-30- 3418) This FOI application will be adjudicated in the coming weeks.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in the interest of full transparency and providing information instructive to the City of Vancouver in future developments, Council express its support for the Freedom of Information application, and direct the Mayor to write a letter to the Riley Park South Cambie Visions Committee indicating support for full disclosure of the contract.

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