

2. CD-1 Rezoning 1015 East Hastings Street - SUPPORT

Date Received	Time Created	Subject	Position	Content	Name	Organization	Contact Info	Neighbourhood	Attachment
02/08/2021	09:27	PH2 - 2. CD-1 Rezoning 1015 East Hastings Street	Support	I am writing on behalf of Brightside Community Homes Foundation to voice our full and wholehearted support for Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society's and BC Housing's development proposal for 1015 East Hastings Street. This project will both provide much-needed affordable housing for renters in Vancouver, and will help fill a gap in efforts toward the mitigation of homelessness. Personally, I also live six blocks from this proposed development and believe it will add significant value to the neighbourhood. Please see attached letter.	William Azaroff	Brightside Community Homes Foundation	s. 22(1) Personal and Confidential	Strathcona	Appendix A



February 5, 2021

Re. Support for 1015 East Hastings Street Redevelopment Proposal

I am writing on behalf of Brightside Community Homes Foundation to voice our full and wholehearted support for Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society's and BC Housing's development proposal for 1015 East Hastings Street. This project will both provide much-needed affordable housing for renters in Vancouver, and will help fill a gap in efforts toward the mitigation of homelessness.

Brightside is one of Vancouver's largest and longest-standing non-profit providers of affordable housing. With 26 buildings throughout Vancouver rented almost exclusively at rent-g geared-to-income rates, we have decades of experience with social housing and have an intimate understanding of the need for additional affordable, secured rental housing. We also place strong emphasis on the importance of a vibrant and healthy community.

This proposal is an innovative and inspiring approach to community housing, and represents an informed and fluid approach to housing that spans the housing continuum. The incorporation of shelter-beds for homelessness prevention, along with the stepped inclusion of transitional housing and subsidized rental homes ensures the city's most vulnerable and at-risk residents are able to become and remain housed in the long term and transition away from homelessness, supported by a culturally safe environment and community. The fact that the shelter beds are provided on a 90-day term is of particular significance – this will not only increase the number of shelter beds available in the city, but promises to improve shelter tenants' quality of life and introduce a greater degree of housing stability as tenants move toward more independent living. The market rental units are also an important factor in building a mixed-income community, and combined with the social enterprise space, help innovate the financial feasibility and sustainability of the project.

On a personal note, I live in Strathcona, six blocks from this proposed development. I see the need for housing like this firsthand and welcome it to my neighbourhood.

At a time when vacancy rates for truly affordable rental homes are at record lows and with homelessness on the rise, the influx of additional affordable rental homes, the shelter-beds, and transitional housing that this proposal represents would have a significant positive impact on the community and on efforts to



increase Vancouver's stock of affordable homes. Brightside supports this proposal and encourages Vancouver City Council to do so as well.

Sincerely,

s. 22(1) Personal and Confidential

A grey rectangular box redacting the signature of William Azaroff.

William Azaroff
Chief Executive Officer
BRIGHTSIDE COMMUNITY HOMES FOUNDATION