

Downtown Eastside Housing Implementation – Amendments to the FC 1 District in the Zoning and Development By-law and the Downtown Eastside/Oppenheimer District Official Development Plan (DEOD ODP) By-law to Accelerate SRO Replacement and Increase Social Housing - Oppose

Date Received	Time Created	Subject	Position	Content	Author Name	Neighborhood	Attachment
2025-12-16	12:33	Downtown Eastside Housing Implementation – Amendments to the FC 1 District in the Zoning and Development By-law and the Downtown Eastside/Oppenheimer District Official Development Plan (DEOD ODP) By-law to Accelerate SRO Replacement and Increase Social Housing	Oppose	<p>The slides are meant to be displayed during my presentation (I am speaker number 308). Unfortunately there's no slide format option, so I'm attaching it as a pdf--I hope that's ok!</p> <p>The "letter" is meant to be a supplemental written element, which council can refer to for their convenience.</p> <p>Please let me know if there are any formatting issues etc</p> <p>Thank you!</p>	Ezra Bloom		Attachment 1 Attachment 2

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2025-12-16	13:59	Downtown Eastside Housing Implementation – Amendments to the FC 1 District in the Zoning and Development By-law and the Downtown Eastside/Oppenheimer District Official Development Plan (DEOD ODP) By-law to Accelerate SRO Replacement and Increase Social Housing	Oppose	<p>Hello. My name is Sumarme Goble, and I am a member of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and member of the Metro Vancouver Alliance. I live in the UEL across the street from the University of British Columbia. I want to stand with low-income residents in the Downtown Eastside and Oppenheimer.</p> <p>I speak in opposition to the DTES Housing Implementation Plan proposal as it stands. I’m deeply concerned that the proposed rezoning will reduce the amount of social and shelter-rate housing the community urgently needs and accelerate gentrification. I urge Council to send this proposal back to staff and to work even more closely with DTES and Oppenheimer residents, advocacy groups, and senior government on a plan that strengthens—not weakens—existing community supports.</p> <p>As I looked at the City’s own engagement summary, it shows that the proposed changes would lower requirements for social housing and shelter-rate units. That is not a minor adjustment—it will create instability and trauma for thousands of vulnerable people already living on the edge.</p> <p>When I learned that Vancouver has 3,500 people unhoused and 6,500 SRO units in need of repair or replacement, I wondered where are they supposed to go? Reducing protected social housing makes matters worse.</p> <p>Council has an opportunity to support stability and dignity for one of Vancouver’s most vulnerable communities. Support might look like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not relying primarily on the private market, and instead partnering more closely with community groups, non-profits, co-ops, and land trusts • Working with senior government to replace aging SROs with true shelter-rate homes. • Financing affordable housing is a huge hurdle to overcome, but exploring the public purchase of private SROs so they remain affordable is vital. • Advocating for long-term funding models that support housing, health, and employment solutions. <p>I am probably saying things you already know, but I urge you to follow-through with these actions.</p> <p>Before a rezoning of this scale proceeds, the City should carry out an updated Social Impact Assessment or Housing Needs Assessment, just as was done for the 2014 DTES Local Area Plan. That plan is a 30-year strategy—11 years in—and while not perfect, it has helped protect social housing and prevent displacement in Vancouver’s most vulnerable neighbourhood. A sweeping rezoning would not safeguard the residents living there.</p> <p>I want to emphasize that asking you to return this plan to the staff for amendments is not about keeping higher-income residents out. It’s about fairness and ensuring that long-time DTES residents aren’t pushed out to make room for more affluent arrivals. Even with tenant-protection policies, many residents don’t know how to access support or where they would live during displacement.</p> <p>I stand with the DTES and Oppenheimer communities for more—not less—social housing. Please amend your plan. We know that when people have stable living conditions, they can better focus on family, overall health, work, and community. Their flourishing benefits all of Vancouver!</p>	Sumarme GOBLE	I do not live in Vancouver	