

February 12, 2019

Vancouver City Council
453 West 12th Ave
Vancouver, BC
V5Y 1V4

**Downtown BIA support for Clark and 1st Development
Proposal (1636 Clark Drive & 1321-1395 East 1st Avenue)**

The proposed project at Clark Drive and First Avenue will provide much needed affordable rental housing and lifesaving recovery support. The housing and withdrawal support services at this site will benefit individuals and families from throughout Vancouver, including the downtown core.

The Downtown Vancouver BIA encourages the development of new projects that improve public health and housing affordability, both in downtown and other areas of the City. We recognize that citywide issues need citywide supports, and every neighbourhood can be a part of the solution. In the downtown district we recently welcomed a new overdose prevention site at St. Paul's Hospital which opened in 2018.

Housing affordability and addictions are two critical issues that require immediate and ongoing investments in the City of Vancouver. Vancouver Coastal Health and BC Housing are the leading organizations with the ability to deliver new developments and services to address these issues, thus their partnership on this proposed project is a natural fit.

Sincerely,



Charles Gauthier, MCP
President and CEO

Please note that the DV BIA Board of Directors approved a policy to support development proposals outside of the DV BIA district when certain project criteria are met. Decisions to support individual projects are made by the DV BIA executive, not the board of directors. Gary Pooni, whose firm is involved in this project, was not involved in the DV BIA decision to support this proposal.

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