



December 5, 2022

Mayor and Council
City of Vancouver

Support for Motion: Reducing Barriers and Deepening Affordability for Non-Profit, Co-op and Social Housing in Every Neighbourhood

The housing crisis in Vancouver is a top concern for businesses and residents alike. Downtown Van businesses are finding it increasingly difficult to hire and retain employees due to the lack of affordable housing in the city. Renters are being squeezed out and we are seeing the results of this in a declining work force.

Downtown Van represents over 7,000 businesses. We strongly support policies that will increase the supply of housing, because each segment of the housing continuum is necessary to maintain a healthy economy. Councillor Boyle's motion to reduce barriers for non-profit, co-op, and social housing in every neighbourhood seeks to create more housing the most vulnerable renters, including seniors, people with disabilities, single parents, youth, and indigenous communities.

A large portion of the city's social housing supply is located in and around the Downtown. There are parts of downtown with a functioning mix of housing types including social housing, purpose-built rentals, and condos. There are other parts of downtown and the downtown eastside where social housing is the predominant housing type. These areas are struggling, and the residents and businesses are dissatisfied. The distribution of social housing throughout Vancouver would alleviate pressure currently felt by these neighbourhoods. This motion will make it less complicated to create that functional mix of housing in other parts of the city.

Policy barriers and the re-zoning process add costs and delays to the development process, which in some cases make developments unfeasible. This change will streamline the approval process and create new opportunities for much needed housing developments.

Downtown Van supported the similar motion that was brought to Council in 2021. Our position has not changed, and we ask that you vote in favour of the motion.

Thank you,

Jane Talbot
Interim President and CEO