

**DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER  
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**

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September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Dear Mayor Sim and Vancouver City Councillors:

I am writing on behalf of the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (Downtown Van) to express our steadfast support for Motion A.3, "Addressing the Hotel Supply Gap to Support Tourism Economy and Reduce Pressure on Local Housing," submitted by Councillor Kirby-Yung. This motion is a vital step toward addressing a pressing issue with significant economic, social, and cultural implications for our city. As this motion critically impacts the business and development community that the Downtown Vancouver BIA represents, we request that our organization be added to the list of key stakeholders.

Downtown Vancouver BIA recognizes the importance of a vibrant tourism sector for the overall well-being of our community. The tourism industry plays an instrumental role in sustaining Vancouver's economy, providing employment opportunities, and generating substantial tax revenue. However, we are at a critical juncture where the growing demand for hotel accommodations outweighs the available supply.

The key points outlined in Motion A.3 underscore the urgency of the situation. The statistics provided, including the potential economic losses, job loss, and tax revenue shortfalls, are alarming. They illustrate the dire consequences of not taking decisive action to bridge the gap between hotel room supply and demand in our city.

Critically, the shortage of hotel rooms in downtown Vancouver exacerbates the affordability crisis in the city, making it difficult for people to live and work in their own communities. With limited hotel options, including mid-market options, visitors often turn to short-term rentals, which can further reduce the availability of residential housing. Addressing this hotel supply gap is essential to support both the tourism industry and affordable housing options for residents.

The future prospects for our tourism industry are bright, with several major events and conventions on the horizon. However, Vancouver must be adequately prepared to welcome these visitors and capitalize on the economic opportunities they bring. Failure to do so would not only jeopardize our position as a premier tourist destination but also result in lost business and reduced global competitiveness.

Downtown Van endorses Motion A.3 and urges the City Council to adopt its recommendations. We believe that the successful implementation of this motion will not only stimulate our local economy but also alleviate the pressure on local housing and enhance the overall quality of life for Vancouver residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Talbot". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**JANE TALBOT**

President + CEO

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