



January 18, 2024

Dear Mayor and Council,

Re: Downtown Van support for secured rental housing developments at public hearing

I am writing on behalf of the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (Downtown Van) to express our support for three rental housing development applications, as outlined on the agenda and supporting materials of the public hearing dated January 23, 2024, and as recommended by city staff.

Our association represents the interests of 8,000 businesses, and approximately 130,000 people visit our district to work each day. As such, we are deeply invested in the health, supply and affordability of our regional housing and rental housing market. We see developments with secured rental housing as beneficial for our district, as it helps attract and retain skilled employees. Moreover, it is crucial to have a diverse and abundant mix of housing options within convenient commuting distance of the downtown core.

We also see these transit-friendly developments as providing additional transportation and commuting options to Vancouver residents who wish to visit or participate in the cultural and social as well as economic opportunities found only in our city's central business district.

Downtown Van is in full support of the following developments:

- 3352-3386 Vanness Avenue and 4437 Clive Avenue
- 2015 Main Street and 190 East 4th Avenue
- 1055 Harwood Street

Together, these developments deliver 1158 units of secured rental housing, including 161 below-market units. Moreover, they are either adjacent to our district or located near rapid transit hubs. Downtown Van was also pleased to note that the development proposed for a site directly by Joyce Station (3352-3386 Vanness Avenue) includes a purpose-built childcare space – an essential amenity desperately needed for our region.

Delivering more rental housing stock in comfortable commuting proximity to our district plays a role in long-term vibrancy of our downtown area, and positively benefits the overall economic and social fabric of our city. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to a favourable outcome for these applications.

Sincerely,

Jane Talbot
President & CEO
Downtown Van