

June 10, 2019 Richmond City Council Meeting

My name is Deirdre Whalen and I am a long-time resident of Richmond and the chair of the Richmond Poverty Response Committee. I would like to speak on the Affordable Housing Strategy update. In my presentation I will refer to data from the Metro Vancouver Housing Data Bank. This information is easily accessed via Google and is a link on the City's own website. The data gives rise to a number of questions. I hope Council of city staff can assist with answers.

Renter households:

Richmond has 19,000 renter households

However, 37% of renter households (7000) have a household income of \$35,000 or less

So affordable rent these renter households is (30% of \$35,000) or \$875 per month

- Where are the affordable units for low income individuals and families?
- In 2017, the Richmond PRC presented to City Council on the affordability gap between rents and ability to pay and recommended rent supplements be added to the A.H. Strategy. Where is this item?

Purpose-built rental:

In 2018 Richmond 'secured' 135 purpose-built rentals

In 2017 the number was 97

- How many of these units are actually tenanted?

Social housing rental starts:

2015 was 129 (The Storeys)

2016 none

2017 none

2018 none

- Rental rates in The Storeys are around \$900 per mo. This is the recorded median market rent in Metro Vancouver in 2019 for a studio apartment. Why then is the Storeys noted in the strategy as "affordable" or "social" housing?

Demolitions:

2015 - were 450 demos

2016 - 509

2017 - 388

5 year average was 340 demos per year

- In 2018 the Richmond PRC presented a delegation with recommendations to include in the AHS, rental units in houses lost to demolition. Where are these numbers reflected?

Thank you

De Whalen

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