

**From:** MayorandCouncillors  
**Sent:** November 15, 2021 1:25 PM  
**To:** Somerville, Kim M; Hopkins, John; Spencer, Cody; Nikolic, Diana  
**Cc:** Reis, Joshua; Smith, Suzanne; Craig, Wayne; Jesson, Claudia; MayorandCouncillors  
**Subject:** FW: Affordable rental housing crisis in Richmond

Good Afternoon,

Please see below correspondence received for Item 2 of this evening's Public Hearing. The correspondence will not be distributed On Table, but it will be noted during the meeting.

Thank you,

**Matt O'Halloran** | Manager, Legislative Services  
City of Richmond | 6911 No.3 Road, Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1  
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**From:** Justin Reid <[reidjust@gmail.com](mailto:reidjust@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** November 4, 2021 3:15 PM  
**To:** MayorandCouncillors <[MayorandCouncillors@richmond.ca](mailto:MayorandCouncillors@richmond.ca)>  
**Subject:** Affordable rental housing crisis in Richmond

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Dear Richmond counsel,

As I am a renter and have been living in the Richmond community for over four years, let me tell you, it has been a nightmare to find affordable housing!

As my family has grown recently, and we are now three people, we are desperate to upgrade our current one bedroom apartment (530 square feet) to a two bedroom apartment. We have been on the lookout for about a year (since we found out I am pregnant), but have been unsuccessful in our pursuit.

We are on most of the co-ops waiting lists (as per their data up to 5 year wait). We have emailed most of the new developments going up in Richmond to inquire about low market rental units (which they are required to have) and only gotten notice that they do not have any.

We are on the BC housing registry (also a wait of a few years). We are in contact with Chimo Community Service (and they have also not been very helpful, as the reply email we got just stated that they cannot help with finding affordable housing, which is ironic, because on the City of Richmond website they say they can. Further, the affordable guideline page from the City of Richmond is outdated. Many emails and phone numbers are not connected with no response and some lead to developers that have no idea what we are talking about, if we ask them about affordable rental options.

This is especially frustrating, as the apartment next to us (two bedrooms) has been empty since we moved in almost three years ago. There are at least another five empty apartments you can spot in the nearby condo buildings that have been empty ever since we moved in. It is clear that these are investment properties and the owners never intend to rent them out or use them for themselves. But how can I be mad at them? They just do what works best for them and their investment strategy. If they are not forced to rent those places, why would they? I do, however, blame the policymakers (in this case you) for not being more bold with decision making and implementation of policies! If our elected politicians are afraid (or not interested) in making policies

that work for people living in the community, we will end up as an empty city, with only the rich living here! The Richmond council should consider what kind of people they would like to have living in their community. Do you want to help the middle class citizens to live a decent life, or do you want to make the rich even more rich?

I call on the Richmond council to be better at their job, to be bolder at their job and to be more innovative at their job! Change has to happen now! This does not mean celebrating an increase in LEMR units from 10% to 15% in new development condos.

Sincerely,

Justin Reid