

Schedule 9 to the Minutes of the
Public Hearing meeting of
Richmond City Council held on
Monday, January 17, 2022.

MayorandCouncillors

From: CityClerk
Sent: January 17, 2022 11:05 AM
To: MayorandCouncillors
Subject: FW: Talisman Park: Public Hearing Support
Attachments: Talisman - Chris Ho - Support.pdf

Categories: - TO: MAYOR & EACH COUNCILLOR / FROM: CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

From: R G <g2studio@hotmail.com>
Sent: January 15, 2022 9:15 PM
To: CityClerk <CityClerk@richmond.ca>
Subject: Talisman Park: Public Hearing Support

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Good Evening - Please find attached a letter of support for the Talisman Park project submitted on behalf of Richmond resident Chris Ho.

Sincerely,
Bernadette

January 15, 2022

Mayor Brodie and Council
City of Richmond
6911 No.3 Road
Richmond, BC
V6Y 2C1

Submissions to the City of Richmond

As a long-term resident of Richmond and a neighbor to the Talisman project, I like to voice my opinion towards this project.

Most people probably would not know why the project is named Talisman. I venture to guess that the developer is so proud of the development and intends to build a condo project that is a representation and also inspiring to others. Indeed, when a city like Richmond which is flooded with condo projects, Talisman project is a breath of fresh air! I moved to BC from Toronto, Ontario thirty years ago and I never looked back. I have been staying in Richmond since. My wife and I love Richmond and we bought our first house in Richmond, in the Odlin area, which interestingly enough is around the corner to the Talisman project. Since then, we have moved from house to house in Richmond until I retired and moved to the present condo on Hazelbridge Way recently which once again very close to the Talisman project.

I always recommend my friends to live in Richmond. The City of Richmond is a self-contained City with all the amenities you can ask for and yet it's 15 minutes to wherever you need to go to, at least it used to be. The City is growing leaps and bounds in its normal course. I witnessed the growing pain when the City toyed with the idea of the B-line along No. 3 Road and now a two car platform for the sky train. Nonetheless, the City is growing as it attracts many newcomers and the City is learning as it grows.

Richmond has lots of land although zoned as agricultural uses. The City is however doing its best in balancing different interests in the midst of the urgent housing need of all types! Looking at the percentage of affordable and rental homes combined to the total of the units built, I believe a project like Talisman serves this purpose.

Location:

Condo projects along Garden City Road is long overdue. One can only shake one's head and asks why did the City approve so many condo projects along No. 3 Road as if that road is not busy enough? I understand that it makes sense to have condos along the skytrain stations, but a five to ten minute walk to a sky train station is a luxury in any parts of the world! Garden City Road should be a major route for future condo developments in order to alleviate the traffic problems along No. 3 Road and I think Talisman sets an example for this!

Give and take:

I am sure that the City staff has bargained with the developer for the best options in the interests of the Richmond residents. A dedicated city park is almost a given. But looking at what is also offered by the developer, I am astounded by the negotiation skills of our City staff: Just to name a few, transit passes to be given to affordable homeowners and rental home tenants; EV charging stations for 100% of visitor parking spaces....

One has to realize that developers are not charities, in fact, they are instrumental in providing all kinds of employment to our Richmond community. Not to mention the property taxes to be collected by the City in the years to come.

Not only do I live in this neighborhood, I used to operate a small business (a staff of 15 employees) for over 15 years at the corner of Cambie Road and Sexsmith Road which again is only a block away from the Talisman project. I appreciate very much of why the City is very cautious about approving any kind of big scale condo project.

In my experience, a lot of my friends are retiring and are looking into switching from house to condo living. This will be a definite trend and condos also serve as an entry to homeownership for young couples who cannot afford a house.

I think each project should be determined by its own uniqueness. You will not be able to find one set of rules that can apply to all condo projects. As a matter of fact, it will be unfair and arbitrary to try to set in stone any sort of affordable and rental percentage rule to a condo project.

Each project should be as dynamic as it can be to fit the community.

Respectfully,
chris ho

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