

ON TABLE ITEM

Schedule 12 to the Minutes of the Public Hearing meeting of Richmond City Council held on Monday, December 18, 2017.

Date: DEC 18, 2017
Meeting: Public Hearing
Item: #5 - Onni

MayorandCouncillors

From: Tasha Schermerhorn <tashaschermerhorn@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2017 09:23
To: MayorandCouncillors
Subject: Meeting tonight and Bylaw changes for the Onni Development

Categories: - DISTRIBUTED ON TABLE, - TO: MAYOR & EACH COUNCILLOR / FROM: CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Mayor and councillors

I am absolutely against the zoning bylaw changes proposed that will allow the Onni development in Steveston. I am a nearly 100% lifelong Metro Vancouver resident and six and a half year Richmond resident and Steveston remains one of the most beautiful places I can think of here.

I take every visitor I get to Steveston to stroll along the quaint neighbourhood streets where we stop in for a coffee at Davood's shop, or fish and chips at Pajo's. Everyone is delighted by all of the beautiful, privately-owned boutiques full of one-of-a-kind items with friendly owners and staff.

My favourite summertime activity is spending time at Garry Point Park followed by a walk on to the docks to grab fresh seafood and even some ice cream. I love coming to the farmer's market's in the summer and since I take the bus down and it stops right there I always stop in the thrift shop in the old church.

All these places lend a certain air, a certain charm to Steveston. It is small businesses in the existing buildings that make Steveston so wonderful. They've made it wonderful for the four decades I can remember it. I understand there is room for growth but it's so important to maintain the beauty and charm. Please, please, please don't let Onni continue its path of destruction.

Onni is nothing short of a horrible developer. How are things looking with the commercial space at Imperial Landing? I live in an Onni rental apartment. This year I went almost three months without mail. What sort of owner allows the lack of basic services like that? They also closed the pool and sauna with next to no excuse. The rent increases come in every year though. Did you know last winter one of their buildings in Burnaby had a boiler break down. That served for the central heating for the building. That building went for SIX WEEKS without heat in the middle of winter. The residents had to go to CTV News to publicize the issue to get it resolved. Did you know Onni built a tower in downtown Vancouver with rental suites starting at \$5,400 for a bachelor suite? I understand the commercial space at Imperial Landing stays so vacant because they have such high rental rates that no small business could possibly afford to move in.

Onni doesn't care about Steveston. Onni doesn't care about who or what occupies its buildings. Onni cares about money. That's it. Period. The people who live in Steveston, the people who own businesses and work in Steveston, and the people who visit Steveston care about its future. Onni does not. I care about Steveston. It is part of what I call home and I would hate to see another Onni development move in and continue to ruin one of my favourite places in Metro Vancouver. Please don't let this happen.

Tasha Schermerhorn
Richmond Resident.

