

SENIORS HOUSING – KIWANIS PROJECT PRESENTATION TO RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL – JULY 16, 2012

When considering the merits of the Zoning Amendment to Bylaw 8914 for 6251 Minoru Blvd. I urge you to take into consideration the following as this project is a creative proposal that addresses a significant shortage in affordable housing for Richmond seniors.

Access to safe, secure, and affordable housing is recognized as a human right in Canada.

At the Richmond Seniors Network Seniors Forum on June 6, which was well attended by Richmond Seniors, housing along with transportation and health care was identified by the seniors attending as the top un-met needs for seniors in our City.

The percentage of seniors on fixed income at risk of becoming homeless is increasing as the gap between their income and cost of housing widens.

Affordable housing, let alone suitable affordable housing, is difficult for seniors to find and security of staying in rental accommodation is tenuous as rents increase but income does not.

The demand for seniors housing on BC Housing's Application Registry is annually increasing at a rate that is greater than supply can address.

To keep seniors independent and prevent isolation, marginalization, and vulnerability seniors' housing must be located strategically within the City which means among other things it must:

- Be close to services which includes:
 - o health care
 - o shopping
 - o Means of socialization
 - Recreation
 - Library services
 - Park and accessible public spaces
 - Community programs & services
- Be easily accessible to public transportation
- Be easily accessible to seniors' support services
- Be easily accessible to, other than English, services & programs as according to the 2006 Canada Senses figures over 52% of Richmond's senior population come from visible minority groups which we know in 2012 is now a higher percentage and language barriers are a significant factor

Schedule 23 to the Minutes of the Council Meeting for Public Hearings held on Monday, July 16, 2012.

Unfortunately there has to be sacrifices for the better good of all of us, but in this case affordable housing for our seniors should be a top priority of everyone and decisions made that will allow it to happen.

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