

Schedule 27 to the Minutes of the Public Hearing meeting of Richmond City Council held on Monday, December 17, 2018.

ON TABLE ITEM

Date: December 17, 2018
Meeting: Public Hearing
Item: #4

MayorandCouncillors

From: Rupert Whiting <rupertwhiting@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, 16 December 2018 21:50
To: MayorandCouncillors
Subject: Affordable housing

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

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

Understanding the commercial and profit imperative that surrounds development activity I wanted to register my support for a greater degree of support for affordable housing in Richmond.

As you are evidently unable/unwilling to limit the sale of property to non-residents, your only lever to support real local workers that create a viable local economy appears to be to mandate that a greater portion of newly developed properties is ring-fenced for "market rate" rentals and to cap rental prices in more units as affordable housing.

I know that developers will squeal but that neither my problem, nor yours.

Such limitations on the free market value of a large portion of new housing stock will have the effect of driving up the value of the remaining units, going a long way to satisfy the developers profit needs. If they cannot make enough profit, let them sit on it for a while until there is enough local demand.

Furthermore, developers who advertise their development or allow it to be marketed abroad should be fined or blacklisted for future development permits. My city is not their piggy bank.

I'd like for you to push so hard that developers decide to avoid Richmond for a while. That's a more palatable price to pay over the next 10 years in my opinion than the constant hollowing out of the city that council's accommodating policies have created over the last 10.

Developers need to help you to build communities not just erect buildings. That may be news to them but it's your job to tell them. Let them build their empty boxes in other cities. Make them build homes here.

I look forward to hearing how you all vote this week.

Best regards.

Rupert Whiting
(604) 339-5369
Sent from my iPhone so please pardon the brevity and/or typos.

