

**From:** Anne Wicks <annepatricia53@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** September 4, 2023 2:17 PM  
**To:** CityClerk  
**Cc:** Anne Wicks  
**Subject:** Submission for Sept. 5th Public Hearing - 4831 Steveston Highway

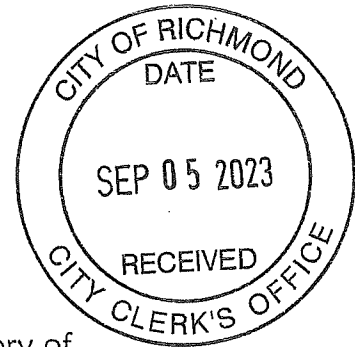
**City of Richmond Security Warning:** This email was sent from an external source outside the City. Please do not click or open attachments unless you recognize the source of this email and the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

I intend to speak at the public hearing tomorrow, and I also wish to send you a written record of what I will say ... below:

**Public Hearing – City of Richmond – Sept. 5, 2023**

**Re: Proposed Affordable Housing project at Railway & Steveston**



My name is Anne Wicks.

I acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional and unceded Territory of the Hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓ speaking people of the xwməθkwəy̓əm [Musqueam] Nation.

My municipal address of residence is 10171 Hollymount Drive in Richmond.

Our home is located 700 metres from the proposed housing development, in the subdivision east of Railway Ave.

We have lived here since 1980 and have raised our children here.

Today, I speak in favour of the proposed affordable housing project, and I urge City Council to move forward in providing much needed housing for women and children, amidst this extremely challenging housing market.

And I am grateful to the team of collaborators who have brought this housing project forward for approval by the city.

We know that women and children of limited financial means need stable and affordable housing to allow them to access essential supports, to find education and employment, to thrive, and to develop healthy and meaningful relationships with welcoming neighbours.

My experience of Richmond over the past 40+ years is that we are a welcoming community – we as a family have witnessed neighbours welcoming and supporting one another over these many years.

Having myself grown up in a family nurtured by a single mother, I understand from experience how important it is to have stable housing, and to have easy access to schools, transit, and green space, all in a safe stable neighbourhood. It is essential for the health and the thriving of all members of the family. I understand from experience how essential the welcome and friendship of neighbours is in day-to-day life growing up.

I am also a member of the Railway Community Garden, located north of the proposed housing development. I rent a 200 sq. ft. plot near Hollymount Gate. I hope that the new tenants in this housing development – mothers, and their children – will feel welcome to wander through the gardens, and to learn from our neighbour gardeners how their food is grown. This has the potential for mutually meaningful relationships to develop between the residents and the gardeners.

I would like to briefly respond to some of the objections which have previously been raised about this housing development:

1. *The noise of recycling and garbage trucks* – don't we all have recycling and garbage trucks coming by our homes once every one or two weeks? This is a necessary service for city dwellers.
2. *Loss of view* – I find this objection puzzling – what is the view that is being lost? The parking availability at O'Hare's Pub? The traffic at Steveston and Railway, a busy urban intersection?
3. *It's a three-storey building* – spoken by people who live in a three-storey townhouse nearby? This also, in my view, is a puzzling objection.
4. *Concerns have been voiced about who the residents in the new housing will be* – I have lived and worked with people who struggle daily with various challenges – mental, physical, or otherwise – these women are real people, seeking to make a meaningful and flourishing life for themselves and their children – they are entitled to our understanding and compassion, not our judgement.

In conclusion, I urge our City Council to move forward with this project. I welcome these new community members to our neighbourhood, and I hope that my fellow neighbours will do the same.

Thank you.

Anne Wicks

**\*\* We acknowledge that we live and work on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the *Hənq̓minəm* speaking people of the *xwməθkwəy̓əm* [Musqueam] Nation. \*\***

"More than anything, the legacy of colonialism is about two things: lack of *acceptance* and lack of *care*... The effect of this has been to reinforce a distance between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples... Reconciliation - true reconciliation - is about closing that distance. Through *acceptance* and *care*... **Learn, Understand, Act**... We must do all of these - with intention, consistency, and focus - if we want to be forces of true reconciliation."

~ **Jody Wilson-Raybould**, We Wai Kai Nation, "True Reconciliation", 2022

"There is a longing among people and creatures to have a sense of purpose and worth. To satisfy that common longing in all of us, we must respect each other."

~ **Geswanouth Slabhoot** (Chief Dan George), *Tsleil-Waututh, Coast Salish*

"Everyone has the right to feel good about who they are."

~ Anishinaabe Elder **Onaubinasay** (Jim Dumont)

Anne Wicks

Spiritual Accompaniment - Toward Awakening to Love

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