

**Schedule 2 to the Minutes of
the Council Meeting for
Public Hearings held on
Tuesday, May 22, 2012.**

City of Richmond
Zoning Bylaw Amendment 8882
Affordable Housing Reserve Fund
Public Hearing
May 22, 2012

Submission from the Floor

Lynda Brummitt, Representative of Richmond Poverty Response Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight in this hearing regarding the Affordable Housing Reserve Fund. I am speaking in favour of the proposed bylaw which will give Council the flexibility to direct both capital and operating reserve funds to financially support City approved affordable housing development projects and initiatives.

Richmond Poverty Response Committee is currently engaged in a pilot project Richmond Rental Connect. This project will establish a housing registry for Richmond that will match landlord of secondary suites and affordable rents with Richmond residents in need of affordable housing.

We recently held a conversation circle with landlords and those who attended fell into different categories - some who are currently renting out a suite or contemplating opening a suite in their home or may have had a suite in the past that is now no longer in use. The purpose of the conversation circles was to get input on how a registry could work to best meet their needs. They suggested the following as actions that they felt would encourage themselves and others to develop secondary suites:

- Landlords would like to have more information about the permitting requirements for secondary suites so that they can make an assessment of the viability of a secondary suite in their home.
- They would like workshops/information to help them in their role as landlord in terms residential tenancy – suggested topics included rights and responsibilities, appropriate screening, conflict resolution
- Mentorship - the group that attended the session had a range of experience as landlords and the idea of mentorship where more experienced landlords could help those just starting out was highly supported

It was acknowledged that the monetary/financial benefit of a secondary suite was an important consideration – for some it provides the opportunity to get into the housing market, for others, preparing for retirement, a secondary suite might mean a resident can remain in Richmond instead of moving. But it was also seen as a way to give back to the community by providing an affordable place for a renter to live and work in Richmond.

Secondary suites are one of the ways identified under the affordable housing strategy for providing affordable housing; the supports outlined by the landlords at our conversation circle could easily be organized and would encourage new landlords as well as those who may have a suite not currently in use. More flexibility to use the Affordable Housing Operating Reserve Fund would allow council to support innovative approaches for a pressing community need for affordable housing.

A full report on the Landlord conversation circle can be viewed at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wfgKuRS9b5eHcfNXhXgg4LD7M_cSt1g5sB6riAaiHSY/edit#

A newsletter that explains the role of Rental Connect can be viewed at: <http://richmondprc.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/rprc-newsletter-march-for-disturbution.pdf>