

Schedule 9 to the Minutes of the  
Public Hearing meeting of  
Richmond City Council held on  
Tuesday, May 21, 2024.

May 21, 2024

RE: Letter of Support for Rezoning at Duck Island

Dear Mayor and Council,

On behalf of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our support for the proposed rezoning of Duck Island. While we typically advocate for the protection of industrial land in Richmond, the Duck Island redevelopment project, which aligns with the 2041 Official Community Plan, appears to offer substantial benefits to the community and local economy. The applicant's commitment to collaborating with the Richmond Night Market is commendable, preserving an important local tradition.

The project proposal, which includes over 1.3 million sqft of retail and entertainment space, over 1.2 million sqft of hotel space, and over 1.2 million sqft of office space, including large floorplate office space which might be suitable to high-tech companies and the educational sector, will attract workers and visitors to our region.

The location of the project, adjacent to the Bridgeport Canada Line station and bus terminal should allow workers (with estimates of 15,000 FTE) and visitors to easily access the new hub. Partnership with the Musqueam First Nation to develop the site will help to facilitate the process of economic reconciliation.

Tourism benefits extend beyond jobs and tax revenues. Local restaurants, historical sites, and various businesses, from local artisans to major shopping centers, will thrive from increased visitor spending. In 2017, the visitor economy generated \$1.78 billion in economic output for Richmond, accounting for 12% of all jobs.

With significant upcoming events (including the World Cup and Taylor Swift concerts) putting our region in a global spotlight once again, forward-thinking development is necessary to help us meet this growing visitor demand, helping Richmond welcome travellers, attract quality employment, and develop our scenic waterfront.

Thank you for your consideration,



Shaena Furlong  
President & CEO  
Richmond Chamber of Commerce

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