

**From:** Jana Abramson [mailto:janaa649@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** October-27-15 8:16 PM  
**To:** Clerks  
**Subject:** Affordable Housing in Burnaby

SECTION 2 COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE  
City Manager  
Deputy City Managers (2)  
Dir. Planning & Building  
Planning & Development Committee

October 27, 2015

Dear Mayor Corrigan and Council,

Before the Federal election, Mayor Corrigan left a message on our answering machine encouraging us to vote for Kennedy Stewart. We did so and are satisfied that he will continue as our MP.

Now we have a request of you, Mayor Corrigan.

We are long time residents of south Burnaby and enjoy living here. However, not far from us on McKay, Silver, Telford and Sussex Avenues there are many low-rise apartment buildings which are slated for demolition or have already been demolished.

Over the years we have witnessed waves of new immigrants with families who have been able to rent in these buildings because they are affordable and close to public transport. Once these immigrants 'get on their feet' they tend to move to another area of Metro Vancouver. Some residents have made this part of Burnaby their permanent home for the above reasons.

There is a small Maywood Park in the middle of this area on McKay Avenue. Again, over the years we have witnessed families from all corners of the world watching their children play in the park and connecting with their neighbours.

According to the new Burnaby City plan these buildings are to be demolished and sold to developers for unaffordable condo towers. Gone will be the friendly multicultural immigrant neighbourhood. Instead there will only be car traffic (there already is) coming and going in and out of the glass towers' parking lots.

We heard the complaint that the low rise apartments are now old and no longer suited for living. We live in a bungalow the same age as those buildings - it is still very comfortable because it is cared for. The same applies to these rental buildings.

We are very disappointed with you and your council because you appear to have lost your way. Where is the NDP compassion for people without means? Burnaby has become a very rich city but its soul is fast disappearing. Your position of not building a shelter for the homeless in Burnaby also seems callous. (We just got rid of Stephen Harper who displayed similar characteristics.) Please reconsider demolition of these buildings and encourage and help their landlords to keep them up.

It is preferable to us and countless others to create affordable housing to a larger Art Gallery or an Event Centre. Please stop the demolitions until a plan for more affordable housing in our city is in place.

Sincerely,

Jana and Ken Abramson  
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Burnaby, BC V5J 3R2

**NOTE:** Staff will provide the correspondent with information on City plans and programs on affordable housing. A copy of *Burnaby Housing Profile - 2015* will also be provided.