



City of
Burnaby

Office of the City Clerk

D. Back, City Clerk
K. O'Connell, Deputy City Clerk

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE

DATE: 2016 JUNE 22

FROM: DEPUTY CITY CLERK

FILE: 02410-20

SUBJECT: **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**
NEW BUSINESS, COUNCIL 2016 JUNE 20

Burnaby City Council, at the Open Council meeting held on 2016 June 20, adopted the following motion:

1. **THAT** Item (G) of the Council Correspondence Package be **REFERRED** to the Planning and Development Committee for consideration and response.

Kate O'Connell
Deputy City Clerk

KO: nv

From: Admin, Web
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 2:00 PM
Subject: City Inquiries (response #2762)
City Inquiries (response #2762)

Survey Information

Site:	Burnaby
Page Title:	City Inquiries
URL:	http://www.burnaby.ca/City-Inquiries.html
Submission Time/Date:	6/15/2016 1:59:25 PM

Survey Response

In Regards To	<input type="text" value="Other Inquiries"/>
Name	Annie Liu
Email	
Phone	
Address & Postal Code Required for Mayor and Council inquiries	V5C 3V3 4653 Brentlawn Dr., Burnaby
<p>Comment</p> <p>To whom it may concern, As a Grate-10 student who lives in Burnaby, my daily life has been influenced by the price fluctuation in real estate market at a certain level. What affects me the most, is that my parents talk about houses too much: while eating, driving, jogging, resting...at anytime, any places. They would be cheered if house nearby be sold at an impressive price(which means our house increases in value as well), but at the same time, they might heave a sigh because the possibility for them to move to a better neighborhood would decrease. From their countless conversations about real estate market, I've learned that, in present times in Burnaby, housing prices are too high for most of the Canadians. Evidence to support this can be concluded from my Planning 10 project: according to my research, if a person completes school and gets a job that pays 20 dollars per hour(which is considered high), subtracts the tax, CPP, EI, and those daily living expenses, he/her could save 200 dollars per month the most. In order to afford a basic apartment, it might need one to work more than a hundred years, left alone houses. The research above emphasizes the importance of the issue. Furthermore, as more and more foreign investments and immigrants pour</p>	

into Canada, the housing rate gradually grows up. In a place like Canada, where gap between the rich and the poor is not big, as the price goes high, more and more local citizens could not be able to afford apartments or houses, which seemed impossible ten years earlier. In order to purchase a place to live, people have to lower their life quality. Moreover, as more and more houses be purchased as investments(especially in Burnaby), the house vacancy rate increases rapidly, which might influence the city management as more houses be purchased but without anyone living. In addition, this issue would also increase the tensions between local citizens and rich foreign immigrants. Their conflict would be deepened as those rich immigrants invested heavier in real estate market and successfully helped the price reach a higher point. According to the facts above, the issue of housing is becoming more and more important for everyone living in Burnaby, that's why government needs to value and improve it as soon as possible. In my opinion, there is one thing that government should keep in mind: even though Canada needs foreign investments and funds to maintain operation, government should always favor Canadians more than those investors. For the solutions, first, differentiated management might be a good choice for Burnaby. Government could provide some benefits for local citizens according to their income, such as housing subsidy or lowering their tax. For those who buy houses with the purpose of investing, government can increase their tax, such as setting multiple tax for people who have more than one house, and setting house vacancy tax for those who purchased in order to earn more, but not to live. In addition, government could also reduce the housing and land tax for people who purchased housing for the purpose of living. And the tax gained from the rich investors could be used in environment protections and communal facilities. This won't drive away the investors because they still can gain impressive benefits from their investments, just not that much as before. Second, government should develop transportation in Burnaby——more buses to places that are not fully developed yet, and more frequent skytrains for us——in order to attract the housing builders and shopping mall builders, and government should support them to build more housing like apartments instead of individual houses. Those are my solutions for solving the housing issue, as the price goes high every day, it becomes more and more severe. As a democratic country like Canada, shelter shouldn't be such a big issue for local citizens. However, what I want Burnaby to be, is a place where all groups of people can get on well with each other, and live happily together. That's why at the same time of welcoming foreign investments, government should also focus on the life of Canadians. By the way, I am looking forward to a timely response from you. Thanks for reading! Sincerely, Annie Liu

Respond to me by:

Email