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SECTION 2
COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE
City Manager
Deputy City Manager
Dir. Planning & Building
Planning & Development Committee (Sept. 20)

July 22, 2016

Councillor Pietro Calendino
Councillor Anne Kang
Councillor Dan Johnson
Councillor Nick Volkow
Mayor Derek Corrigan

Councillor Colleen Jordan
Councillor Sav Dhalliwal
Councillor Johannes Schumann
Councillor James Wang
Councillor Paul McDonel

Demovictions around Metrotown

Dear Mayor and Councillors:

I'm writing to express my alarm with what has become a routine of tearing down affordable housing in favour of large, high-density, unaffordable housing. I've lived and worked in the Edmonds neighbourhood for 20 years and cycle regularly and as you well know, almost everywhere I look another low rise apartment being torn down to accommodate ever more high rises. The increase in population is becoming almost unbearable; there simply are not enough services in these neighbourhoods to accommodate the masses of people moving into the area. Have you ever tried to go for an early bird swim at Bonsor or Edmonds, or used the bike paths during rush hour?

Obviously you are all aware of the facts that have been compiled by your opponents, but I wasn't. The most shocking things I learned was that Central Park is included in the density calculations, and if it were not, than Metrotown is denser than downtown Vancouver, or that any guaranteed rental unit is considered 'affordable housing'. I didn't know that developers contributed over \$140k to the Mayor's re-election campaign in 2014, something I won't forget next time at the poles, and I didn't know but wasn't surprised to learn that about 20% of the families in the Maywood area are headed by single parents.

I'm a single parent – my daughter used to go to before and after school care with a mother who lived in an apartment that was torn down recently. What would I do with my daughter today? The people buying these condos wouldn't need the extra dollars that I was able to pay a woman to help this single mom out. That's what it is to live in a community.

Where are all of these people are supposed to live?? My mother was a single parent without the secure employment I've enjoyed and I remember the stress of looking for housing, especially when our apartment burned down. It's heartbreaking to think about the fear that the people in the last remaining apartments live in knowing that their homes are going to be ripped down sooner or later. Is it inevitable or can you stop this?

I also worry about the decreasing diversity in the area and I don't mean ethnic diversity – I'm referring to socio-economic diversity. Most people moving into the area seem to have money, these condos are expensive, the third most expensive apartments in the province. There appears to be a specific socio-economic demographic moving into these condos resulting in less and less of a mix of people..

This isn't benefiting the citizens of Burnaby, only the developers who are making barrels of money marketing and selling these units. I urge you to reconsider changing the zoning that is allowing such drastic changes in our neighbourhoods at such an alarming rate with no time to adjust to the changes. I urge you to preserve what is left of our communities.

Sincerely,



Tonia Jurbin, P. Eng.

CITY OF BURNABY
JUL 26 2016
CLERK'S OFFICE