

Clerks

From: Wong, Elaine
Sent: March-01-17 7:45 AM
To: Clerks
Subject: FW: Letter in Support of Metrotown Residents

SECTION 2 COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE (2017.03.02) Planning and Development Committee (2017.03.28) City Manager Deputy City Manager Dir. Planning
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From: Melissa McGregor, GSS DER [mailto:external@sfugradsociety.ca]
Sent: February-28-17 4:36 PM
To: Mayor
Subject: Letter in Support of Metrotown Residents

Dear Mayor and Councilors:

I write to you on behalf of the Graduate Student Society of Simon Fraser University. Many of the students I represent live in Burnaby's Metrotown neighbourhood, and are deeply concerned about the effects of re-development in that area. While the City of Burnaby Metrotown Development Plan declares a commitment to an "inclusive and sustainable downtown" with a "variety of housing choices," the rezoning process that is currently underway is causing the displacement of over a thousand low-income community members. The GSS recognizes and applauds the city's efforts to involve multiple stakeholders in the planning process, and we understand that rezoning will have to occur if the city is to accommodate the 125,000 new residents it anticipates before 2041. However, the public must have faith that consultation is a meaningful dialogue orientated toward *communities*, and not developers.

With the housing crisis ongoing in the province, it is absolutely critical to protect purpose-built rental housing. We urge Burnaby City Council to include a more specific commitment about the retention of purpose-built rental housing in its Metrotown Development Plan, ideally one that includes the number of units of this type of housing that will be available. On behalf of four thousand graduate students who will soon enter a competitive job market in one of the most expensive places in the world, I implore you to take this concern seriously. Let's ensure a diverse and equitable future for the city of Burnaby.

Sincerely,
Melissa McGregor

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