

Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver

April 20, 2009

Mayor Robertson and City Councillors
City of Vancouver
453 West 12 Avenue
Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 1V4

Dear Mayor and Councillors:

Re: Rental Housing Round Table

The media reports that a round table on rental housing is scheduled for April 25. We understand that the motion passed by Council envisions the participation of community leaders and, consequently, we are writing to ensure that we are included in this important forum.

As you know, Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver (NSV) is strongly in support of increasing the supply of rental housing. In particular, we support the retention of existing affordable rental housing and appropriate incentives to encourage construction of purpose-built rentals in connection with new housing development.

As indicated in our letter dated February 19, 2009, however, we are concerned about current proposals that would provide major density bonuses for provision of temporary rental units that would revert to market housing after a period of only ten years. On the contrary, it is the view of NSV and affiliated neighbourhood organizations that creation of new purpose-built rentals should be rental for the life of the building to ensure the preservation and development of stable inclusive communities.

We are very concerned that the community is not being included in the initial stages of planning programs and that the first we hear of these things is when they are reported in the media. We look forward to participating in the upcoming round-table and to a full and constructive debate of these vitally important issues. Please let us know further details at your earliest convenience.

Regards,

Ned Jacobs
On behalf of the Steering Committee
Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver

Group contact email: nsvancouver@hotmail.com