

# Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver

February 24, 2008

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

Dear Mayor and Councillors:

## **Re: Draft EcoDensity Charter and Initial Actions – Report to Council dated Nov. 20, 2007**

Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver is a citywide ad hoc organization of 30 groups that includes residents associations, CityPlan committees, ratepayers associations, civic groups and coalitions. Please accept for your information and consideration, the attached group summary statement dated February 19, 2008 and the detailed letter dated December 19, 2007 (with updated list of groups represented).

We understand that the proposed recommendation to Council from staff is for "...Council (to) instruct the Director of Planning to report back with revisions to the draft Charter and draft Initial Actions, in response to public input received." Concerns remain that the revised documents will not reflect the fundamental changes required.

In order for staff to do their job, they must be also directed by Council to change it from a density charter where density is the number one tool, to one based on a holistic approach to sustainability where density is one of many means but not the goal. Density must not take priority over affordability and livability.

We request that Council do the following:

1. withdraw the charter and initial actions;
2. engage communities in an open, democratic, and extended process to devise effective strategies for managing growth;
3. create a comprehensive and balanced plan for Vancouver founded on a holistic approach to environmental, economic, social, and cultural sustainability, where density does not take priority over affordability or livability.

Regards,

Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver  
(See page 2 for a list of the supporting groups.)

Cc: Brent Toderian, Director of Planning  
Ronda Howard, Assistant Director of Planning – City-Wide and Regional Planning  
Kent Munro, Assistant Director of Planning – Community Planning Division  
Rob Jenkins, Assistant Director, Current Planning Initiatives Branch  
Thor Kuhlmann, Planner, City-Wide Regional Planning

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Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver

*Supporting Group names:*

- Arbutus Ridge Concerned Citizens Association
- Arbutus Ridge/Kerrisdale/Shaugnessy CityPlan Vision Implementation Committee
- Britannia Neighbours in Action
- Building Better Neighbourhoods
- Burrardview Community Association
- Citywide Housing Coalition
- Douglas Park Residents Association
- Dunbar CityPlan Vision Implementation Committee
- Dunbar Residents' Association
- East Fraser Lands Committee – Sharon Saunders \*\*
- Friends of Southlands Society
- Grandview Woodlands Area Council
- Hastings Sunrise CityPlan Vision Implementation Committee \*
- Kensington Cedar Cottage CityPlan Vision Implementation Committee
- Kitsilano Arbutus Residents' Association
- Kitsilano Point Residents' Association
- Marpole Oakridge Area Council Society
- Norquay Neighbours – Joe Jones \*\*
- North West Point Grey Home Owners' Association
- Reinstate Third Party Appeals
- Riley Park / South Cambie CityPlan Vision Implementation Committee
- Shaughnessy Heights Property Owners Association
- South Hill Initiative for Neighbourhood Engagement (SHINE)
- Southwest Marine Drive Ratepayers' Association
- Upper Kitsilano Residents Association
- Victoria Fraserview Killarney CityPlan Committee – Andrea Rolls \*\*
- Victoria Park Group – Gail Mountain \*\*
- West End Residents Association (WERA)
- West Kitsilano Residents Association
- West Point Grey CityPlan Vision Community Liaison Group \*

\* Members of the group indicate support for the letter, but have not voted on it yet due to timelines.

\*\* Signed as an individual member