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The Honourable Selina Robinson
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Sept 11, 2020

Dear Minister Robinson-

We are writing to appeal the Development Permit 4/17 for 2225 Acadia Road. The DP was initially expected to expire on February 26 of this year but appears to have been extended.

We have previously indicated our united opposition to the conversion of rental housing to condos under this or any other Development Permit application. The same developer (Westland) recently submitted a separate application to convert 12 rental units to condos on Kings Road, in addition to the 16 units that would be lost under this application. We note that Schedule 16 of the Bylaws recognizes **“the priority of rental accommodation over privately owned housing in the area”**. The intent of this schedule is clear and is not being respected under this DP as proposed.

Conversion from rental to condos also clearly runs contrary to the interests of the community and to the priorities of your Ministry, who has made security for renters one of the points in the “Homes for B.C.” plan. The replacement of the existing structure should include the same number of rental units at very least, and a net addition to the purpose-built rental housing stock in Area D at best.

We appeal this DP as a last resort. It was hoped that the developer would respond to the community’s clearly communicated opposition to the loss of rental with their second project (DP 8/18), but this sadly has not been the case. The developer has instead indicated that they believe they can remove rental housing because the Musqueam are adding rental within the Ieləṁ development. The arrogance of this view is breathtaking, given the years the Provincial Government, the UEL Office, the Musqueam First Nation and the UEL community dedicated to crafting a community plan that corresponds to the needs of the local population. The Musqueam did not forego upside from potential condo development in favour of rental housing simply so that Westland can take rental out of our community.

With this appeal, we are calling for the Minister’s direct involvement in this DP application in order to bring about a project that conforms to Schedule 16 and that is a better outcome for our community.

Regards,

UEL Community Advisory Council
cc: Jonn Braman, Manager, University Endowment Lands
The Honourable David Eby, MLA Vancouver Point Grey
Jen McCutcheon, Electoral Area A Director