

The Honourable Selina Robinson  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Aug 12, 2020

Dear Minister Robinson-

Yesterday the UEL's ADP panel heard from the applicant for Development Permit 8/18. As you know, this project envisages the conversion of two purpose-built rental buildings to unaffordable condos, and has generated concern and opposition in our community. The same developer previously converted another building (2225 Acadia) to condos, removing 16 units of rental from our community. This project would remove another 12 units.

**The full ADP panel, however, unanimously recommended to the Manager that he take into account the community's strong preference for rental housing rather than condos when considering this Permit.** This recommendation was a recognition by panel members that the housing needs of the community would be ignored if a conversion of the site to condos were allowed to happen again.

Given this recommendation to the Manager, we are asking you to act on your office's commitment on our last quarterly call to work with any developer to achieve better housing outcomes. We have managed to open the door to talks with the developer – **we ask you now to carry forward this momentum and approach the developer on ways to add dedicated rental units to this project.** Whether it is through segregating rentals and condos by floor or any other avenues you can devise, there is now an opportunity to add purpose-built rental to this project to the benefit of our community. There is no downside to reaching out to the developer, only potential upside for our community.

We have an opening here to avoid yet another textbook example of the kind of development that has given Vancouver the current housing crisis. This step forward has been hard won by the efforts of many Council and community members who have collected signatures and written letters of objection to the current project configuration. **Please seize this opportunity.**

**To be clear, in order of desirability,** the replacement of the two rental buildings at 5519-5549 Toronto Road and 5506-5536 Kings Road would:

- Result in a net addition to the purpose-built rental housing stock in Area D.
- Result in an equal number of purpose-built rental housing units.
- Result in a mix of an equal number of purpose-built rentals in addition to condo units.

In addition, any long-term tenants remaining in these buildings should benefit from the same Tenant Relocation and Protection support as available in the City of Vancouver.

Thank you for your interest in the welfare of UEL residents and we look forward to your contribution on this Development Permit application.

Regards,

UEL Community Advisory Committee

cc. Jonn Braman, UEL Manager; The Honourable David Eby, MLA Vancouver-Point Grey; Jen McCutcheon, Electoral Area A Representative