



COALITION OF VANCOUVER NEIGHBOURHOODS

<http://coalitionvan.org> email: coalitionvan@shaw.ca

January 23, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

West End Zoning Amendments - Public Hearing January 23, 2014

The Coalition of Vancouver Neighbourhoods today wrote to the Mayor and City Council stating that the Coalition “is opposed to the zoning amendments for the West End as currently proposed. We have major concerns that the zoning amendments have been brought forward for approval without acceptable community input based on the West End Community Plan which has been flawed in the same ways that City Council has recognized in three other current planning processes.”

West End Neighbours, one of our member residents associations, has provided many examples of problems with the current zoning amendments, including the following:

- The West End Community Plan **was not the product of a meaningful public engagement exercise.**
- Residents **have not had a fair chance** to digest the many and complex proposals - and the City has not done an adequate job of educating residents, or even of answering questions following the release of the Plan.
- **Insufficient rationale was provided** for the West End needing to absorb 10,000 more residents.
- The City **failed to adequately explore or evaluate** with our community the variety of options for housing these theoretical future residents.
- The **Plan is imposing what the vast majority of residents did NOT want.** Most residents surveyed by the City indicated they did not want new buildings exceeding 11 storeys in height. But the Plan, and the proposed zoning changes, propose that almost all new dwelling units be provided in buildings exceeding 11 storeys.

The objective of the Coalition of Vancouver Communities is to create a new development and planning paradigm that will stress community involvement and local influence in land-use and zoning decisions. We have major concerns about the current planning processes and is observing with interest how the City addresses the concerns of the West End.

About the Coalition of Vancouver Neighbourhoods

The Coalition of Vancouver Neighbourhoods comprises twenty-three community residents' associations who share a common interest in collaborating with the City of Vancouver.

Arbutus Ridge Community Association
Cedar Cottage Area Neighbours
Citygate Intertower Group
Community Association of New Yaletown
Crosstown Residents Association
Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood Council
Dunbar Residents Association
False Creek Residents Association
Grandview Woodland Area Council
Kits Point Residents Association
Marpole Residents Coalition
Norquay Residents

Oakridge Langara Area Residents
Residents Association Mount Pleasant
Riley Park/South Cambie Visions
Shaughnessy Heights Property Owners
Strathcona Residents Association
Upper Kitsilano Residents Association
Vancouver Heights Ad-Hoc Committee
VGH Neighbours Association
West End Neighbours
West Kitsilano Residents Association
West Point Grey Residents Association

We encourage residents to join and become involved with their local associations, and we invite all such associations to join us in this Coalition.

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