

## Leanne Taylor

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**From:** Deanna Bhandar <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** June 7, 2018 9:03 AM  
**To:** Leanne Taylor  
**Subject:** 953 Balmoral  
**Attachments:** northpark\_959Balmoral\_17may2018.pdf

Hello Leanne,

It's just come to my attention that 953 Balmoral is on the CoW agenda today. As the new neighbour to this property, we would like to advise Council that we oppose this form of development and the impacts that it will have on the existing tenants of the affordable housing at 959 Balmoral. The proposed setbacks and height of the current proposal will all but eliminate natural light for 10 of the units on our property and it is concerning to us that no revisions to the current proposed plans were considered in relation to impacts on the neighbouring properties. As stated in the attached letter, our broader objective in purchasing 959 Balmoral was to preserve affordable housing in the downtown area and to seek out opportunities to further increase affordable housing there.

Thanks,  
Deanna

Deanna Bhandar MSc  
Director, Real Estate Development



Victoria Cool Aid Society  
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Victoria, BC V8W 1N9

[www.CoolAid.org](http://www.CoolAid.org)

*Together we will end homelessness.*

Victoria Cool Aid Society acknowledges the Lekwungen and WSÁNEĆ peoples of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, on whose traditional territories we build homes, lives, and community. HÍSWŨE.



May 17, 2018

North Park Neighbourhood Association  
PO Box 661  
#185-911 Yates Street  
Victoria, BC V8Y 4Y9

Dear North Park Neighbourhood Association Board,

We are writing to advise the North Park Neighbourhood Association that Victoria Cool Aid Society has purchased the rental building located at 959 Balmoral. Our interest in purchasing this building came about as we feel there is a strong need to preserve affordable rental housing within the downtown area.

Cool Aid is celebrating our 50th Anniversary this year, of providing housing, health and support programs for some of our most marginalized community members. Our organization began its operations in the North Park and Fernwood neighbourhoods. In fact, Cool Aid's very first youth hostel opened its doors at 953 Balmoral in 1968 – 50 years ago!

Cool Aid intends to continue operating this building with the existing tenants, and as vacancies arise we will continue to offer affordable rents to tenants on fixed incomes.

As Cool Aid continues to operate our Next Steps housing program in the North Park neighbourhood, we are pleased to expand our relationship with the community association and look for ways to work together on housing affordability and ending homelessness.

Should you have any questions or concerns about the operations at 959 Balmoral, please don't hesitate to contact Cool Aid's manager responsible for property management, Andrew McNamara:

[Redacted] or [Redacted]

Yours sincerely,

Kathy Stinson CPA, CMA, CIHCM  
Chief Executive Officer

Copy: Council Liaison, Jeremy Loveday [jloveday@victoria.ca](mailto:jloveday@victoria.ca)  
City of Victoria Downtown Coordinator – Michael Hill [mhill@victoria.ca](mailto:mhill@victoria.ca)

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