

Pamela Martin

From: Forward Automotive [REDACTED] >
Sent: August 1, 2018 1:40 PM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: 1622-1628 store street Variance Application no 0068

To Whom it may concern Please do not grant the variance for change of hieght because the building is very very close to Mermaid Warf and will impack my quility of life of everyone at that side of our building . the other changes are ok with me. Yours S Evans + G bruce Mermaid Warf

Victoria City Council
Victoria City Hall
1 Centennial Square

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

RE: Development Permit with Variances Application No. 00068

I'm writing to encourage and support the City of Victoria approval of the Development Permit with Variances Application No. 66668.

I own the waterfront commercial unit (presently leased by Fishhook restaurant), as well as the adjacent live/work units on the ground floor of the Mermaid Wharf building (407 Swift Street). These units, including my personal residence, are located next door to 1628 Store Street.

I've been living in the unit next door to the proposed development site for almost ten years. It was only a few years ago that the private foreshore land, my front yard, was full of discarded needles, drugs, garbage, and graffiti. In the last couple of years, this area has been revitalized owing, in part, to the cleaning and landscaping of the private foreshore area, the opening of the vibrant Fishhook Waterfront restaurant, the relocation of Ocean River Sports and Harbour Ferries, including the pickup and drop off stop on the local wharf.

All of these factors have played a significant role in bringing life and vibrancy ... and increasing visitors, to our harbourfront and local community. I believe the proposed development will be another positive step towards enhancing the City of Victoria and our local harbourfront for the following reasons:

- **A more pedestrian-friendly community.** The current parking lot located on the proposed development property attracts all kinds of illicit activity. There are discarded needles, lots of graffiti and the area has for some time been a hangout for illegal transactions. Police are frequently called by residents and thankfully respond. I'm confident that the proposed development will positively impact the dynamics of this area. It invites new residents and a sense of shared ownership and community. There will be increased accessibility to the harbourfront with proposed entrances from the new building to the harbourfront walkway - and more commercial businesses will be introduced - adding to the tax base as well as to the vibrancy of the community.
- **Improved harbourfront access.** As a key component of the Official Community Plan, I understand that the developer has been asked to integrate construction of the harbourfront walkway joining the walkway fronting The Janion with the walkway fronting the Mermaid Wharf. In a city as beautiful as Victoria, we absolutely must showcase our waterfront. Our beautiful waterfront is well able to compete with many other waterfront cities around the world. The addition of the walkway along the

development project's waterfront will draw pedestrians along the Inner Harbour from the downtown to our charming city locale ... along a walk-friendly, bike-friendly path that builds on Victoria's reputation as an urban oasis.

- **Adding to the City's desperately needed housing supply.** We all are aware of the desperate need for more housing in Victoria ... period.
- **Augmenting the Victoria aesthetic.** I believe the proposed building plan by the developer's designer fuses modern with heritage and fits wonderfully within the parameters set out by the Official Community Plan. From what I can see in the plans, there is plenty of green space and adequate space between the proposed building and the Mermaid Wharf building. The developers have clearly taken into account maintaining good relations with their neighbours in their plan.

For these reasons, and I could list more, I believe that the proposed development will be a very positive addition to ongoing efforts to increase housing supply in our community and will add to the architectural vibrancy and cultural excitement of our city. I'm very much in favour of the City of Victoria approving the Development Permit with Variances Application No. 66668 ...and enthusiastically encourage Council to approve this application.

Sincerely,

Kal Suurkask
407 Swift Street