

Heather McIntyre

From: Jim Mayer [REDACTED]
Sent: July 15, 2019 5:13 PM
To: Jamie Hubick; Jim Handy
Cc: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: 208 Wilson Street Rezoning Application (REZ00686)

Dear Mr. Hubick, Mayor, Council, and Staff,

I am writing in support of the rezoning application for 208 Wilson Street in Vic West. I live at 389 Tyee Rd, about 400 meters from the proposed development. I shop at the Market Garden on Catherine Street and the Bay Street Castle, so I walk past that location several times a week. I have read the plans closely, and am familiar with the Vic West Neighborhood Plan.

I have multiple reasons for supporting this project:

1. Victoria is in a housing crisis, and this is a textbook example of "missing middle" housing. It will provide homes for many more people than the current buildings can support. We need the housing badly.
2. The development is beautifully situated so that many future residents will be able to avoid the high cost of owning a car. This greatly improves the affordability of all of the units there. The development is right next to a SaveOn, a post office, a pharmacy, a bank, a hardware store and Castle. It is close to a park. It is a short walk to the Market Garden on Catherine and to Craigflower Village. It is a short walk or bike ride from downtown, is close to the Galloping Goose (which connects to Uptown Mall), and is convenient to frequent public transit. My wife and I live nearby and do not own a car, which saves us thousands of dollars a year. This is one of the best locations in the city for living "car light".
3. To my eye, the proposed development is attractive, in keeping with the character of the neighborhood, and in keeping with the Vic West Neighborhood plan. I particularly like that, between this and another project that is already nearing completion, that we will finally have a sidewalk on Alston connecting Wilson to Edward.
4. I love the small businesses in Vic West dearly. Places like Fry's bakery, the Spiral Cafe, the Market Garden, etc. are part of what makes Vic West a wonderful place to live. I'm always concerned, though, that the older, single family, sections of Vic West don't have enough people to really keep those businesses going. The most successful urban villages in Victoria, such as Cook Street Village, all have a significant number of small apartment buildings, row houses, and other "missing middle" forms. I think that the increased density this project will provide will give a much needed boost to our neighborhood.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jim Mayer
[REDACTED]

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