

## Monica Dhawan

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**From:** Ellen Godfrey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 26, 2019 9:27 AM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Subject:** FW: Victoria council supports motel remake into 153 affordable housing units | Times Colonist

Hi Victoria Council members and friends.

<https://www.timescolonist.com/real-estate/victoria-council-supports-motel-remake-into-153-affordable-housing-units-1.23832417?fbclid=IwAR1wH3b7o5XwqucznEJS6jSE64HPN-tKysClv3RjKiUksFHVcYPFEwaGF6s>

Congratulations to Council for your continued effort to achieve affordable rental housing. This is key to the success of our city. But economics are not the only factor that will create the outcomes we all desire. Please consider the ‘community’ aspects, and please don’t repeat the mistakes made by others.

This is my first letter to members of council in 35 years, and I am writing to ask you to do better in regard to this excellent opportunity.

The picture of the proposed building in the TC is very distressing. It reminds me of the huge acres of ‘project’ buildings in Chicago and New York that have such a terrible history. I am sure you are familiar with the high hopes and idealism behind these buildings, and their history. Please don’t forget the effect aesthetics have on the sense of community, the behaviors of tenants, and the life around the buildings.

When our city is full of attractive new rental/condo buildings with varying frontages rather than huge blocks, (see the back side of the rentals on Menzies/Michigan or some of the other buildings in the core) and with large windows rather than prison-like apertures, why is the proponent offering something that looks so institutional and unfriendly? A huge, continuous block is so disheartening. When we know from the experience of cities worldwide that it is much better to vary the façade. Compare the Eaton Centre in Toronto with our Bay Centre. The faux effect of a row of stores was mocked, but it has stood the test of time and kept this block in the city alive, while around the Eaton Centre, the street life is dead.

(and, parenthetically, this is one of the few rental buildings in the city without balconies. Perhaps the proponents can’t afford them and provide affordable rental rates, but what is city life without a place to put a chair and a plant? New affordable rentals in chinatown have lovely tiny balconies and a green space to look out on.)

The design proposed is architecture unkind to those living within it and those walking around it. As for the plaza -- there are beautiful plazas being built elsewhere in the city, with trees, green spaces, water features and rocks, structures that will invite sitting and chatting. Yet here we get a plaza that looks like the failed ‘wind tunnel’ empty space plazas that we also have in this city, which people avoid. Places with no shade in summer and no green to rest the eye. It would be great if the architect’s sketch showed cafés at ground level, with outside seating. (and plans for coffee shops at ground level.) Let’s show trees or shrubs or something growing in this plaza. That doesn’t mean there will be no cars there. Centre plazas in most small European cities have cars right in the middle, and they still have trees and seating around the plaza.

Perhaps a building that looks like a prison block is cheaper than the alternatives. I suspect so. But don’t let it happen. There are lots of buildings in Victoria built for the rich that are boring, imitative and ugly. So be it. But a building built for folks struggling economically should be beautiful. Its architecture should adapt all that is

best in cities that have shown that certain styles of building create vibrant city life at street level and comfort and joy for those living within them.

Let's see a design that takes the best from our own city and other cities, not a frightening example of failed buildings meant for the poor that demean them and demean the city that approved them and seem to end up with crime in the elevators and halls, and plazas that dishearten everyone who has to walk across them.

Ellen

CC: Gene Miller, Pam Madoff

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Ellen Godfrey





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May 29, 2020

Mayor Helps and Council  
City of Victoria  
No.1 Centennial Square  
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

**Crosstown (584 Burnside Road East) Public Hearing**

Dear Mayor Helps and Council,

BC Housing would like to express support for the Crosstown mixed use development project at 584 Burnside Road East. This project will deliver 154 housing units, through a combination of the Building BC Supportive Housing Fund and Community Housing Fund, that will house working families, seniors and individuals.

Due to travel restrictions, BC Housing will not be available to attend the June 11<sup>th</sup> public hearing. We would, however, like to make ourselves available to answer questions from Mayor Helps and Council prior to the public hearing.

The Building BC: Supportive Housing Fund (SHF) represents an investment of \$1.2 billion over 10 years to deliver an additional 2,500 new homes with 24/7 support services for people who are experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness. This proposed development will include 54 SHF units, the majority of which will be occupied by the existing tenants at the 52-unit Tally Ho Motel.

The Building BC: Community Housing Fund (CHF) is an investment of close to \$1.9 billion over 10 years to develop 14,350 units of mixed-income, affordable rental housing for independent families and seniors. The 100 CHF units will serve a mix of individuals and families with rents ranging from the social assistance shelter allowance up to market rents.

We appreciate the partnership and good working relationship that we have with both Staff and Council. We would like to thank the City of Victoria staff for their efforts in reviewing this application and bringing it forward to Council. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Malcolm McNaughton, written in a cursive style.

Malcolm McNaughton

A blue ink signature of Nicola Sharp, written in a cursive style.

Nicola Sharp

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