

Linda and Larry Donovan

2967 Irma Street

Victoria BC

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City of Victoria

1 Centennial Square,

Victoria BC

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Monday June 22, 2020

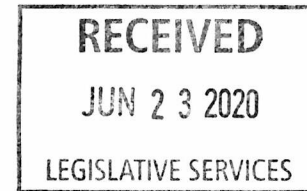
Application No. 00132 for 11 Chown Place

Re: Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment

As residents of 2967 Irma Street, we strongly oppose the application of a development permit with variances for the following reasons. First, we oppose the increase from 2 storeys to 4 storeys as this is a residential neighbourhood, and in keeping with residential neighbourhood expectations we do not support taller larger buildings in this area. These larger buildings are unsightly and run counter to the ecstastic's one would expect in a residential neighbourhood. They do not fit in with the neighbourhood and they cast shadows blocking the sun for the elderly residents who live in Chown Place. The surrounding residential buildings will be cast in shadows, creating a colder environment and perhaps more ice and snow on the sidewalks in the winter. A potentially dangerous situation for the seniors, as there will be no sun on their homes at all.

Second, Chown Place was originally created to house the seniors in our community. Mixing this population with families is not a good idea, however tempting it might be to view this otherwise. Many of the elderly residents require peace and quiet and rest during this time in their lives. A place to grow a garden and enjoy the golden years of their lives. The current pandemic has highlighted how poorly we as a society have treated our seniors and more than ever, we need to create beautiful places for people to enjoy the final years of their lives. Remember, our society will be judged on how we treated the elderly members of our communities. How are we doing so far?

Third, we only just heard about this potential development, and we do not feel the residents of this neighbourhood have been given enough time to process this application. This is particularly true as we are in a health emergency and many people are struggling to cope with the current situation and require more time to prepare a



response to such applications, specifically older people and people new to the area. Many people do not have the resources to properly respond to this request for input.

Fourth, we have heard rumours that the cul de sac at the end of our street (Irma) will be opened to give access for cars to enter Chown Place through this avenue. Clearly, this is an unreasonable and untenable option, as our neighbourhood does not have the infrastructure to support more traffic up our street. We are already struggling when trying to turn onto Gorge Road, travel either towards or away from the downtown, and such an access route would only exacerbate the situation. Exiting or entering Irma Street from Gorge Road is already dangerous and this would make the situation unliveable. Such a decision would make us continuously late for work and other appointments. Part of the reason we bought in this neighbourhood and specifically on Irma Street is because it was a quiet cul de sac and we have paid our taxes for years. We are extremely unhappy with the current treatment of our neighbourhood during this pandemic (the housing of so many of the city's homeless), to the point where we feel the city and the province is using this terrible health crisis as a way to further their own agenda (but this issue will be addressed more fully on a different day and in a different way). For now, I will remind the council of the moratorium which was decided in 2018 to not move any further projects which are targeted for the "hard to house" population in our neighbourhood. I will also add that these decisions are destroying our neighbourhood and the homes we have worked hard to improve over many years. Our issues are real, to the point where we will seek legal advice if things continue to move in this direction.

On a final note, in general, we feel it is a bad business decision to promote the province or any government, provincial, federal, or municipal for that matter, the converting of mass revenue generating properties for the city to zero revenue forever. Quite simply, you will never get any more tax revenue from these large properties in the future. We need more larger businesses to fund the needs of our growing city. We know Chown Place does not fall into this category, but this is another issue. The Mayor and Council needs to operate in a fiscally responsible manner operating within their mandate, keeping the Victoria taxpayers wants and needs front and center, rather than promote their own issues and agendas. Please ask other municipalities to do more on the homeless issue, as we have approaching 40% in our neighbourhood and 80% within Victoria, it is time for a more balanced approach with the other regions.

Respectfully,



Linda and Larry Donovan.