



March 12, 2020

Mayor and Council
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria BC V8W 1P6

Re: Development and Rezoning Application at 736 Princess St.

Dear Mayor Helps and Council,

I am writing to provide you with background and program information with respect to the John Howard Society of Victoria and the proposed development at 736 Princess St.

1.0 JHS Proposed Development

A proud member of the Burnside Gorge area for nearly 40 years, JHS Victoria first opened its community service doors in 1982, with a community office opening in 1988. Over this time, we have built a strong rapport with the local community. While demand for our services continues to increase, we are now at a pivotal point where we have outgrown our community offices, which will in due time become a barrier to those attempting to access our services. This has brought us to the development of a multipurpose building located in the Burnside Gorge Community.

Proposed Multi-Purpose Building

Being relevant with respect to evolving community needs is important. Our current infrastructure limits our ability to be innovative in program and service offerings. As such, underpinned by our values of inclusivity and innovation, we have proposed the development of a multi-purpose building that would amalgamate our community and administration offices, and expand supportive transitional housing. This amalgamation allows us to provide custom support services and programs to meet the best interest of each client. The custom support services and programs are enabled through the development of an innovative and dynamic building that provides the flexibility.

Furthermore, with all training programs and offices located in centrally, clients have easier access to programs that expand the options available to them. Individuals in the center will increase their employability through the employment training, life skills programming and wrap around supports so they will be work force ready. Tenants will be close to the downtown and greater Victoria area employment opportunities and other social needs. Daily projected use of programs and services is between 30 – 50 clients.