



WATT VICTORIA
#501, 740 Hillside Avenue
Victoria, BC V8T 1Z4
[Redacted]

City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

August 6, 2020

Dear Mayor and Council,

RE: Support for Rezoning Application no. 00664 & Heritage Alteration Permit Application no. 000180 for 2649-2659 Douglas Street & 735 Hillside Avenue

Watt Consulting Group is a tenant of the Burnside-Gorge neighbourhood and located directly across the street from the proposed development. We are writing to show our support for the mixed-use development that has been proposed by District Developments Corp. Our office is located at 740 Hillside Avenue. Before we go further, we would like to fully disclose that Watt was retained by District Developments Corp. to complete the parking variance letter for this application and as such, we will not comment on any transportation or parking aspects of the proposed development.

As a tenant of the neighbourhood, we are supportive of the proposed development for the following reasons. One, we believe the proposed development will enhance the urban design of the surrounding streets. In particular, it will better activate the frontage along Hillside Avenue with new pedestrian amenities and a furnishing zone that will improve walkability. Second, we support increasing housing in the neighbourhood. The proposed development is in a central location and can provide our staff with an option to live, work, and play in the neighbourhood. Third, the proposed development will provide the City with much needed rental housing in addition to securing an iconic heritage building that has been a landmark in our community for many years. Lastly, the proposed development will diversify the retail and commercial amenities in the area, providing our staff with more dining and shopping opportunities within walking distance of our office.

We look forward to this new addition to the neighbourhood.

Sincerely,

Watt Consulting Group
[Redacted]