

North Park Neighbourhood Association PO Box 661, #185-911 Yates Street, Victoria, BC, V8V 4Y9



Re: North Park Neighbourhood Association – Letter of Support for 940 Caledonia Avenue Temporary Use Permit Renewal

July 6th, 2022

We acknowledge with gratitude that we are living, working, and collaborating on the homelands of the Lekwungen Peoples, known today as the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations.

The North Park Neighbourhood Association (<u>NPNA</u>) board of directors and land use committee wish to express our support for the renewal of the Temporary Use Permit (TUP) for the Tiny Home Community at 940 Caledonia Avenue until March 2023. The NPNA has not received any significant complaints or ongoing concerns to warrant opposing the TUP extension.

Since March 18, 2021, when the original TUP was approved, the Tiny Homes community has integrated well into the neighbourhood. Our Place, as the operators, has collaborated effectively with the City, onsite Paladin security, the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), Bylaw, Police, neighbouring businesses and residents, and on-site service providers to provide a well-managed supportive housing community. Tiny Homes has provided valuable resources and essential housing for Victoria's most vulnerable community. This supportive housing project has been integrated successfully within the North Park neighbourhood, providing the necessary resources for individuals experiencing homelessness. We understand the dire need for housing and hope that the current tenants are being prioritized for permanent housing as soon as it is available. This transitional housing model has proven to be a successful pilot and demonstrates a low-impact, replicable model that we hope is adopted in municipalities across the CRD.

However, while we support the TUP extension, the NPNA does have concerns. We want to acknowledge a newly established encampment that has been developing outside the Tiny Homes community since June 21, 2022. We understand that this encampment began as a protest by several current Tiny Homes community members in response to the no-visitor policy at Tiny Homes and all Our Place sites. It has grown more prominent in the past few days. Neither the NPNA nor the residents, businesses, and visitors in North Park wish to see a return of encampments. We expect Our Place, as the operators, to collaborate effectively with the City, Paladin security, the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), Bylaw, Police, and on-site service providers to work collaboratively with the individuals in the encampment to resolve and end this encampment respectfully and peacefully.



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We understand that the housing needed for the current residents of the Tiny Homes community to move into is not yet ready. The NPNA would appreciate further clarification that Tiny Homes will not be used to retain new tenants once the current tenants are permanently housed and the TUP is expired. We hope to see the City, in collaboration with Our Place, resolve the encampment surrounding the Tiny Homes to get resolved as soon as possible. For this reason, we would support a TUP of up to one year (September 2023) if BC Housing and/or the operator felt it was necessary and would improve outcomes and stability for the residents.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors North Park Neighbourhood Association board@npna.ca **Courtenay Miller** Land Use Planning Advisor landuse@npna.ca Sarah Murray Executive Director executivedirector@npna.ca