



Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of July 13, 2017

Date: July 4, 2017

From: Councillor Ben Isitt

Subject: Options for Rental Housing in Strata Property

Recommendation:

That Council endorse the following resolution and request that the Mayor, on behalf of Council, write to the provincial Minister Responsible for Housing and Members of the Legislative Assembly representing constituencies in the Capital Region, forwarding a copy of the resolution and requesting favourable consideration:

Resolution: Options for Rental Housing in Strata Property

WHEREAS Many communities in British Columbia face acute housing affordability and housing availability challenges, with low vacancy rates and escalating housing prices contributing to economic insecurity for seniors, youth and people with low to moderate incomes who cannot afford safe, stable rental housing;

AND WHEREAS Provisions in the Strata Property Act have enabled strata councils to introduce bylaws that restrict rental housing as a permitted use, resulting in many dwelling units remaining vacant or underutilized rather than contributing toward the supply of rental housing in local communities;

AND WHEREAS more than 20 percent of property owners who responded to a recent City of Vancouver survey cited rental restrictions in strata bylaws as the reason why these units were unoccupied;

THEREFORE BE RESOLVED THAT the Province of British Columbia amend the Strata Property Act to prohibit bylaws restricting rental housing in strata-titled residential property, while retaining the authority of strata councils to introduce bylaws to restrict short-term vacation rentals.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ben Isitt", written over a light blue circular stamp.

Councillor Isitt