

Vancouver Hospice Continues to Fight Townhouse Development

Since we first learned of a rezoning application to build a townhouse development at 4575 Granville St (directly next to our hospice at 4615 Granville St), VHS staff, volunteers and supporters have all been working hard to convince City Hall to reject the proposal.

If built, the direct proximity of this development to the hospice (see image) will severely disrupt the peace, privacy, and access to services for more than 150 individuals and their families who come to the hospice each year for end-of-life and bereavement care.

The application was submitted under the *Interim Rezoning Policy for Affordable Housing Choices*. While VHS supports the City's initiatives to increase affordable rental housing units in Vancouver, at approximately \$3800 for a 3-bedroom unit, this development is neither affordable to the average citizen, nor is this location functionally compatible with the essential elements required for operating a hospice.

The development will include 21 units; 63% of which will be 3 bedroom homes. The 32-spot underground parking will require shared laneway access, causing a dramatic increase in traffic in the narrow one-car lane. This will block the ONLY access for ambulances, hearses, service vehicles, and families coming to the hospice. This will cause an overall increase in neighbourhood traffic, and a marked reduction in available street parking.

The peaceful view for patients and families from the entire north side of the hospice will be completely obstructed. As well, the anticipated 2-year construction phase will severely disrupt patients and families, and may lead to a complete closure of the hospice, forcing patients to rely on emergency services and acute care admissions at local hospitals.

The transport of bodies from the back lane - an intensely private and emotional experience for loved ones saying their final goodbyes - may be exposed to additional onlookers.

Since the October civic election, we have completed a comprehensive report outlining our objections to the proposed development. This report has been sent to the new Mayor and all Vancouver City Councillors (the majority of whom have either toured the hospice, or are personally aware of our situation). The report not only outlines our key issues, but also emphasizes the strong and widespread community support we have received from hospice patients and bereaved family members, volunteers, the Seniors' Advisory Committee, Vancouver Coastal Health, local media, and thousands of concerned citizens of Vancouver.

The Vancouver Hospice Society would especially like to thank our wonderful Shaughnessy community for the incredible support we've received through your calls, letters, petition signatures, and in-person support provided at the protest we organized at the Shaughnessy Heights United Church last April! We are grateful and proud to call this Shaughnessy neighbourhood our home.

With gratitude,
VHS staff, volunteers & Board of Directors

NOTE: Should the application go to a Public Hearing, we plan to re-strategize (which will likely include ramping up our PR campaign to increase public support). To send an opposition letter to the Mayor and Vancouver City Councillors go to: <https://vancouver.ca/your-government/city-councillors.aspx>

***Use the subject line: re. 4575 Granville St rezoning application**

To sign our online petition, go to:

<https://www.change.org/p/gregor-stop-townhouse-development-next-door-to-hospice>



HOSPICE