

From: ["Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)

Date: 10/12/2021 5:46:41 PM

Subject: [Proposed Supportive Social Housing in Vancouver - W 8th & Arbutus](#)

Attachments: [ACCS - GM - Briefing \(Council\) - Proposed Supportive Social Housing in Vancouver - W 8th & Arbutus \(2021-10-12\).pdf](#)

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Dear Mayor and Council,

We would like to advise you that the City has formally received a rezoning application for the City-owned site at 2086-2098 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and 2091 West 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue (West 8<sup>th</sup> & Arbutus), for a social housing proposal. The application will be published on the City's Shape Your City website page tomorrow, October 13.

As some community members have previously raised questions to Council about this project, staff wanted to ensure you were aware of the timing of the application. BC Housing will be reconnecting with the community to inform them of the application submission and where the application will be available to them online. The City-hosted Virtual Open House will take place from November 1st – 21st. In addition, BC Housing and City staff will be reaching out to offer key stakeholders identified in the pre-application an additional opportunity to meet should there be any questions upon reviewing the application package.

In order to avoid any potential allegation of bias or that any Councillor did not have an open mind when considering this project following a public hearing, Council should refrain from expressing opinions on a rezoning application prior to the Public Hearing. Should Council receive questions or comments from the public, we would encourage Councillors to remain neutral in offering any feedback.

Should you have any questions, or should you receive correspondents/comments from the public on this application, please do not hesitate to share those directly with Theresa O'Donnell ([theresa.o'donnell@vancouver.ca](mailto:theresa.o'donnell@vancouver.ca)).

**Please find attached a summary of the proposed application which is for internal use only.**

Best,  
Paul

**Paul Mochrie** (he/him)  
City Manager  
City of Vancouver  
[paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](mailto:paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca)



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

**For internal use: not for distribution**

**BRIEFING NOTE**

October 12, 2021

TO: Mayor & Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager  
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager  
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office  
Maria Pontikis, Director, Civic Engagement and Communications  
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk  
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office  
Theresa O'Donnell, General Manager, Planning, Urban Design & Sustainability

FROM: Sandra Singh, General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services

SUBJECT: Proposed Supportive Social Housing in Vancouver - West 8th Avenue at Arbutus Street

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**Project details**

- A rezoning application has been received for a proposed social housing building at 2086-2098 W 7<sup>th</sup> and 2091 W 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue (West 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue at Arbutus Street) which could provide approximately 140 affordable studio homes with support services and indoor and outdoor amenity spaces for people experiencing or at-risk of experiencing homelessness.
- This project is part of the MOU between the City, BC Housing and the federal government to build approximately 350 supportive housing units over the next few years.
- More information is available on the BC Housing website [here](#) and the City's rezoning application where community members can learn more and share their feedback will be available [here](#) from Wednesday, October 13.

**Key messages**

- Vancouver is facing a housing crisis and people experiencing homelessness continue to be disproportionately impacted, especially during COVID-19. Creating new homes with supports help create safe, inclusive communities for everyone.

- The homelessness crisis requires a city-wide response because there are people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in all parts of the city. The City's Housing Vancouver strategy and community plans call for housing affordability and accessibility for all people in all communities.
- To address this crisis, a rezoning application for social housing at West 8<sup>th</sup> at Arbutus St. was submitted by VAHA on behalf of BC Housing on Monday, October 4, 2021. Community members can find out information and share their feedback during the virtual open house period. It will take place from November 1 until November 21, 2021 on the City's Shape Your City site: <https://shapeyourcity.ca/>. Following this period, there will be a public hearing for Vancouver City Council to hear directly from community members.
- Working together to build supportive housing is an important part of the collective action the federal government, the Province, and the City are taking to address the critical needs of people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness in Vancouver.
- Building supportive housing ensures people in need have access to good quality, safe, affordable homes and are supported to stay in their homes and meet their personal goals.
- Studies have shown that the supportive housing model has been successful in communities across North America.
  - Example: [BC Housing Community Benefits of supportive housing, At Home/Chez Soi](#)
- This project is not a shelter or a Single Room Occupancy Hotel. Supportive housing provides residents with a studio apartment with private bathrooms and kitchenettes where residents make a choice to live there and pay rent. There are also outdoor and indoor amenity spaces for the residents including, a terrace, a dining area, program space, and laundry.
- Through a competitive process, BC Housing has selected MPA, an experienced non-profit housing provider with other housing and services in the local community, as the future operator of the proposed building.
- If the project is successful, MPA's staff will provide 24/7 staffing to support residents in their new homes, offer life skills training, meals, education, training and employment opportunities, and connect them to medical, health and wellness services, as needed.

## FAQs

### Q: What have you done to engage the community so far?

- Local residents and businesses were notified early in the process via fact sheet and personal door-to-door postcard deliveries inviting interested neighbours to attend Virtual Neighbourhood Dialogue Sessions.
- Four evenings of virtual Neighbourhood Dialogue Sessions were held with project partners in the pre-application phase to introduce the project, collect feedback and answer questions.
- Residents were also able visit [Let's Talk Housing](#) to view the housing proposal and submit their questions and comments to the project team.



- A dedicated Community Liaison continues to be available throughout the development process to answer questions about the project and, if approved, will continue to be available through the construction phase. The Community Liaison can be reached [communityliaison@bchousing.org](mailto:communityliaison@bchousing.org) or by calling 604-829-9321.

**Q. What is supportive housing?**

- This deeply affordable social housing with the addition of on-site supports that enable people to live as independently as possible. Supportive housing can help people stabilize and improve their lives, help them stay housed and reconnect to communities. In supportive housing, residents make a choice to live there and pay rent.

**Q: How is supportive housing different than a shelter or an SRO?**

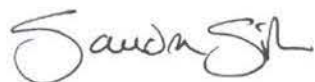
- A shelter offers emergency and/or temporary place to sleep, not a permanent place to call home. This site is permanent social housing that provides customized supports and services for each resident to help them maintain their housing stability.

**Q: How can the public find out more / share their feedback about the rezoning application?**

- Community members can find out information and share their feedback by visiting the proposal's Shape Your City site during the rezoning application review phase: <https://shapeyourcity.ca/>. Furthermore, a City-hosted virtual open house will take place from November 1 until November 21, 2021 on the City's Shape Your City site, during which the public will have an opportunity to ask questions, and have responses posted publicly on the site. After the rezoning application review period, there will be a public hearing in order for Mayor and Council to hear directly from community members prior to making a decision on the rezoning application.
- For general questions about the project, a dedicated Community Liaison continues to be available through the development process and, if approved, will continue to be available through the construction phase. The Community Liaison can be reached at [communityliaison@bchousing.org](mailto:communityliaison@bchousing.org) or by calling 604-829-9321.

**FINAL REMARKS**

If Council has any further questions or needs additional information, please feel free to contact Sandra Singh directly at [sandra.singh@vancouver.ca](mailto:sandra.singh@vancouver.ca).



Sandra Singh, General Manager  
Arts, Culture, and Community Services

[sandra.singh@vancouver.ca](mailto:sandra.singh@vancouver.ca)