

# Fire Hall Number 5

Summary of Findings

July, 2014





# Questionnaire Overview

- A questionnaire was used to measure initial support for and gather feedback on the design proposal to rebuild Fire Hall No. 5 and have the property rezoned to provide housing for low-income women and their dependent families.
- The questionnaire ran from June 25 to July 9, 2014.
- A total of 72 respondents completed the questionnaire. The questionnaire was accessed in the following ways:
  - Direct invitation to Talk Vancouver specific panel members, who were targeted based on their home postal code (those with postal codes beginning with V5P, V5R or V5S). These postal codes were identified as the neighbourhoods surrounding Fire Hall No. 5.
  - Open invitation to non-members via the Fire Hall No. 5 project page on the City of Vancouver website.
  - A paper version of the questionnaire was made available at an open house event that took place at Fire Hall No. 5 on June 25, 2014.

## Who did we hear from?

- Most of the questionnaire respondents were residents (home owners or renters) in the immediate neighbourhood surrounding Fire Hall No. 5.
- Respondents tend to be slightly older, with more than half (56%) of respondents aged 30-59 and roughly one-third (32%) aged 60 or older.
- 43% of respondents have children in their household.



# Summary of Results

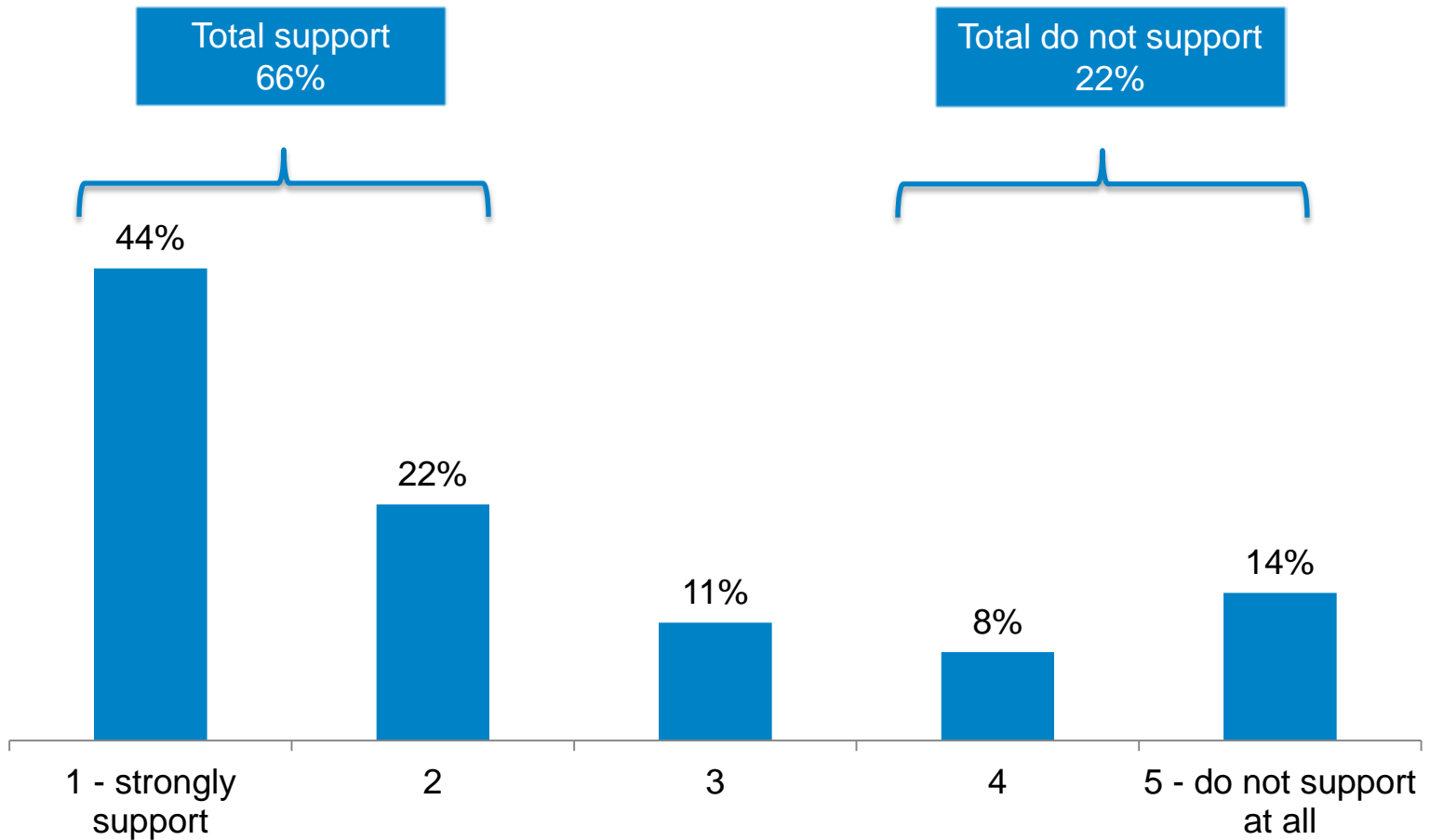


- 66% of respondents support the proposed Fire Hall No. 5 project.
- 67% of respondents found the design concept boards for the proposed project to be clear enough to understand the project.
- The most common connection that respondents have to Fire Hall No. 5 is that they own and live in the neighbourhood (60%), followed by rent in the neighbourhood (18%).
- One-third of respondents (33%) say they have made a 911 call to which the fire department has responded.





# Support for Fire Hall No. 5 Project



**Base: All respondents (n=72)**

***Based on the information provided, on a scale of one to five, are you generally in support of the project?***



# Disapproval of Fire Hall No. 5 Proposed Project

Sixteen out of the total 72 respondents (22%) did not approve of the Fire Hall No. 5 proposed project (a rating of four or five on the five-point scale). The reasons provided for this opposition include:

- 2 – concern with taxpayer’s tax burden/cost of project
- 2 – proposed building is too high
- 2 – security concern due to the assumed demographic of residents
- 3 – too dense
- 5 – do not like mix of uses
- 1 – unspecified concern – just a “bad idea”
- 1 – likes idea, said project looks good but linked it to parking concerns on 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue

On the subject of height:

Only four respondents (5%) mentioned a concern with the height of the proposed building. Two of these respondents gave an approval rating of five (did not approve at all) on the five-point scale and two of the respondents rated their approval of the project as a three (neutral).

On the subject of bulk:

Concern with bulk of the building is probably best represented by those concerned with density, usage mix and generalized “bad idea”. There were nine respondents who expressed concern about bulk (13%).

On the subject of usage mix:

The respondents who disapproved of the usage mix mostly expressed safety concerns or noise concerns for the proposed residents. If these concerns are genuine then it will be reasonable to demonstrate that these concerns can be addressed with the building design. If those concerns were written to mask other concerns, then it should be noted that these concerns represent a minority of total respondents (5 respondents or 7%).



# Reasons for Support/Opposition to Fire Hall No. 5 Proposed Project

The following are some of the comments received for the question “Please explain why you do or do not support this project.”

“Think that the area is dense enough with people already. As much as I think "social housing" is important, it should be built in areas with fewer people.”

“Affordable housing is always needed, publicly owned property should be put to best use but concerned about people living so close to fire hall.”

“The City of Vancouver, needs to reign its spending.”

“Would be nice to have some market housing mixed in with the non market housing.”

“The fire hall needs replaced, and housing of this size (2-3 bedroom) is also badly needed. Would like to see more hybrid projects like this.”

“Good to see innovative thinking on civic facilities to provide opportunities for affordable housing.”





# Feedback on Co-locating Another Building Use with the Fire Hall

The following are some of the comments received for the question “What do you think of co-locating another building use with the fire hall?”

“A great idea to share a building rather than a single-use fire hall.”

“As long as it fits with in the neighbourhood it is a good idea.”

“Excellent although I wonder what protections are in place to limit the operational noise from the residential units.”

“I think it is a very good idea. Housing is needed and if the space is available it should be used.”

“I am not for it! There is already too much densification happening in Vancouver! Especially in South East Vancouver!”

“I think it's great that the space can be shared with YWCA. I hope some consideration has been taken for sound proofing the residences.”





# Feedback on Co-locating Another Building Use with the Fire Hall

The following depicts the most common words that emerged from the open-ended question “What do you think of co-locating another building use with the fire hall?”





# Thoughts on Proposed Project Design for Fire Hall No. 5

The following are some of the comments received for the question “What are your general thoughts on the proposed project design for this site?”

“Obviously it will change the streetscape since the building is taller than its neighbors, but hopefully the change is not too jarring. I am interested to see how this turns out!”

“Looks fantastic and is appropriate for this neighbourhood. The families will benefit from adjacent amenities.”

“Certainly is a more efficient use of the land. Unsure about how well maintained the residence will be.”

“Concern on the potential increase of the crime rate in the hood.”

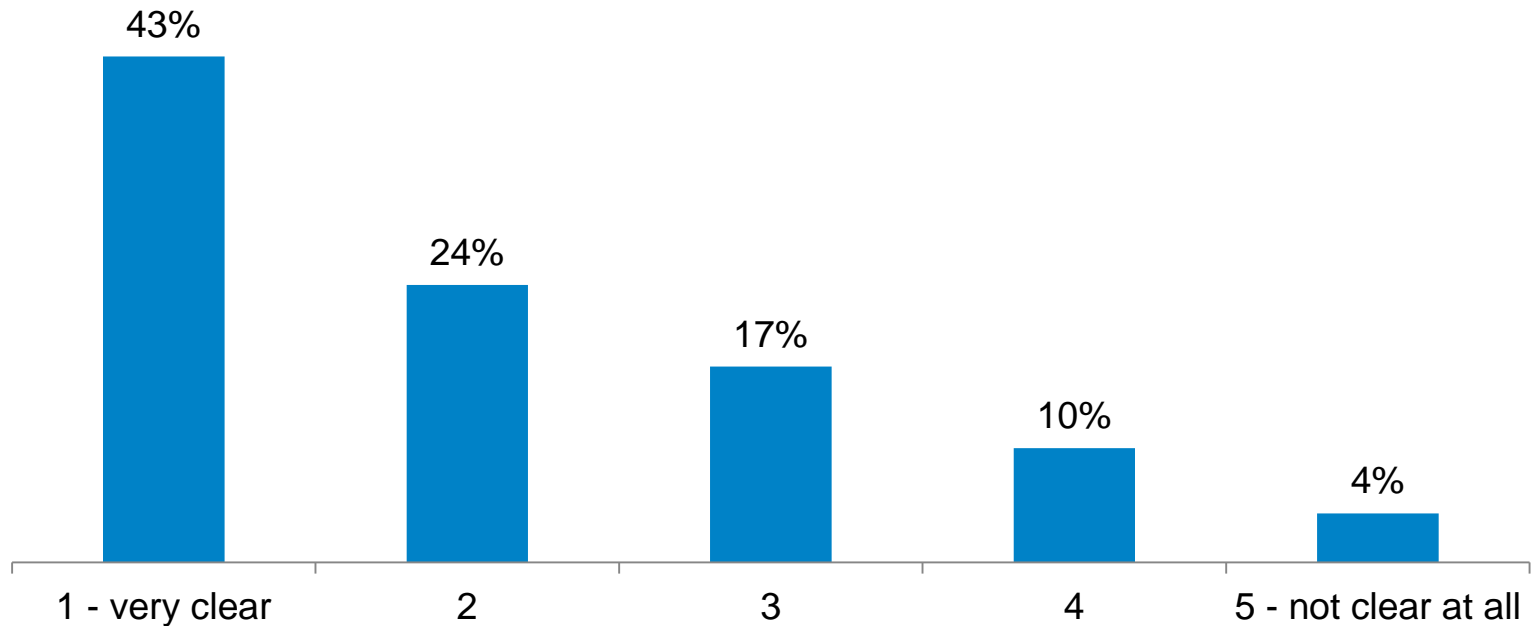
“Leave it as is. The area is congested without putting more people in the area.”

“Good idea. Pleased to see efficiency in land use. Lots of senior development adjacent - more children in neighborhood is welcome.”



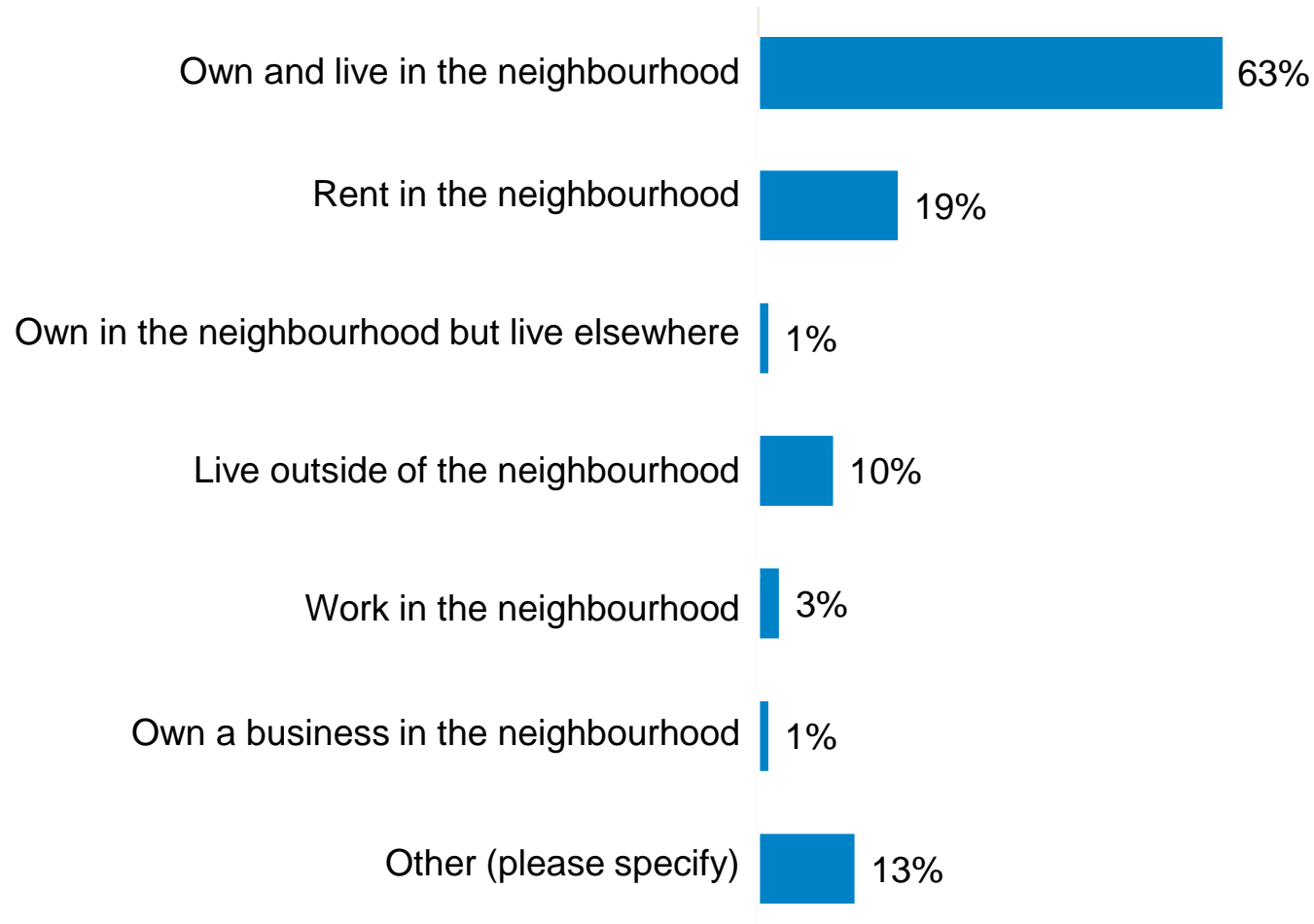


# Clarity of Design Boards for Fire Hall No. 5 Project



Base: All respondents (n=72)

*Was the information provided (design concept boards) clear enough to understand the project? Please use a scale of one to five, where one represents "very clear" and five represents "not clear at all"*

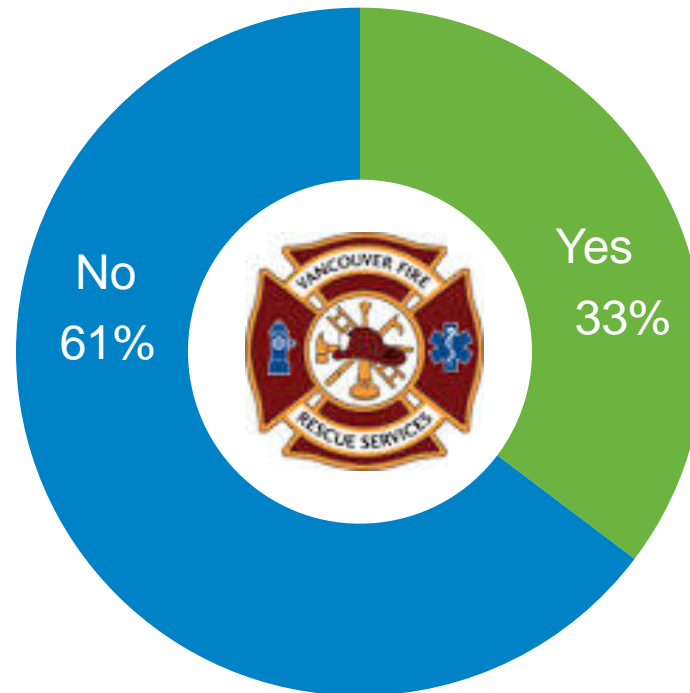


Base: All respondents (n=72)

*Was the information provided (design concept boards) clear enough to understand the project? Please use a scale of one to five, where one represents "very clear" and five represents "not clear at all"*



# Ever Made a 911 Call Where Fire Department Responded

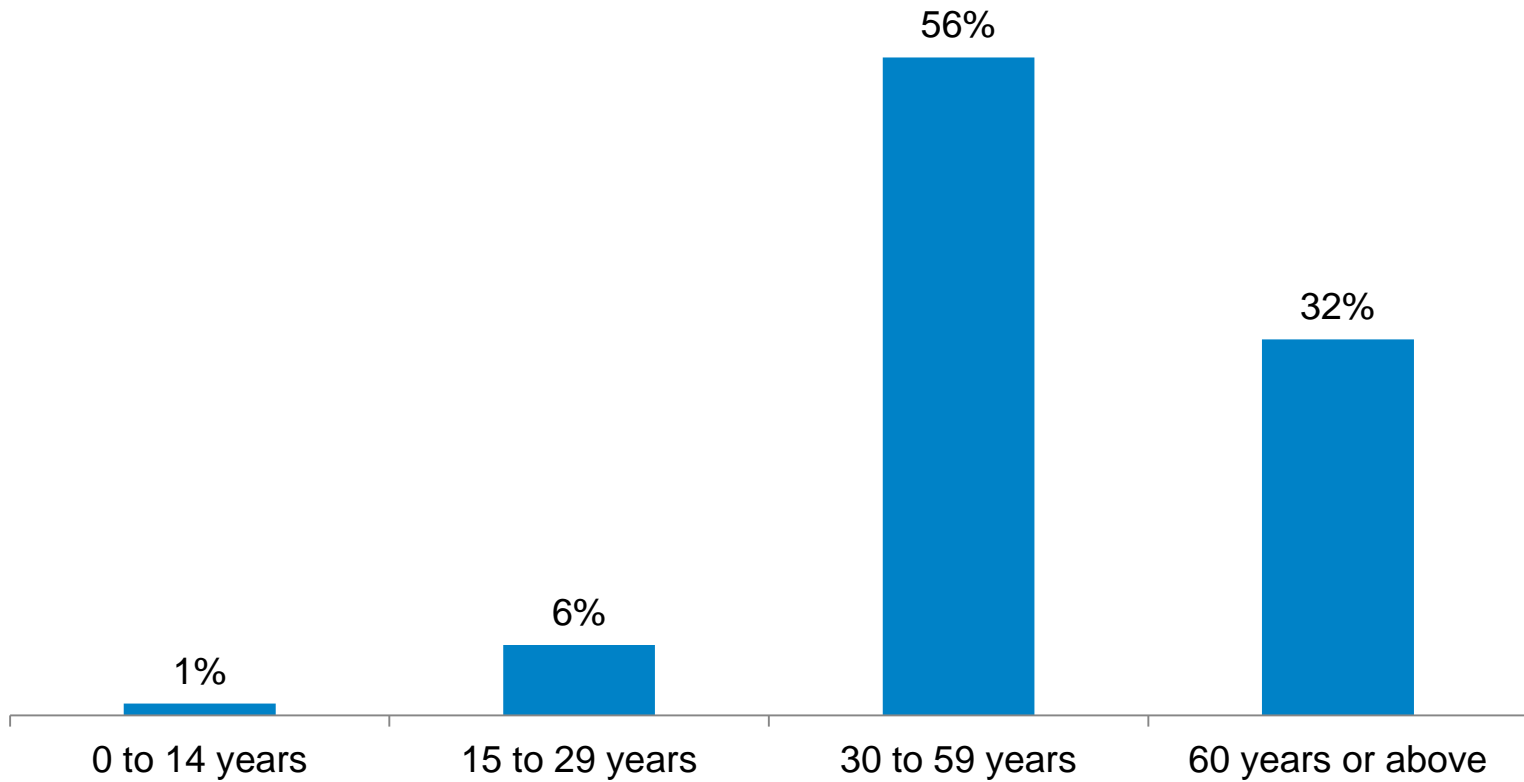


**Base: All respondents (n=72)**

*Have you ever made a 911 call to which the Fire Department has responded?*



# Age



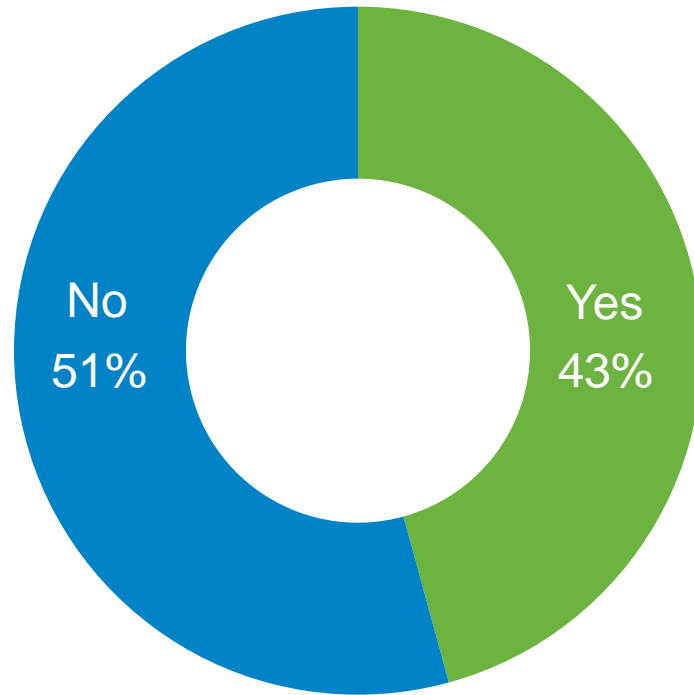
**Base: All respondents (n=72)\***

\*Note: 6% of respondents did not answer this question.

***Which of the following age groups do you belong to?***



# Children in Household



**Base: All respondents (n=72)\***

\*6% of respondents did not answer this question.

***Do you have children in your household?***