

From: [Jeff Maskell](#)
To: [External-Clerks](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Development proposal for 514 Carnarvon (Holy Trinity)
Date: Thursday, June 30, 2022 12:34:20 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of New Westminster's network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Côté and members of Council,

This letter is regarding the proposed development at 514 Carnarvon, which is up for discussion at tonight's public hearing.

I am a proud resident of New Westminster and I live a few blocks from the site. I am a strong supporter of increased density and walkable, transit-accessible neighbourhoods, but I cannot support this proposal as outlined. In fact, I am surprised this proposal made it to the final stage of a Public Hearing in that it does not align with two of Council's stated priorities: affordable housing and Reconciliation.

1. With zero affordable housing and only 14 market rental units in a 30-story tower, this is not the type of housing stock that is so desperately needed in New West. It is surprising to me that City staff and Council have allowed this proposal to move forward, given that the applicant was previously asked to incorporate some non-market housing and an earlier version of this proposal did include some non-market rentals (42 units) and double the number of market rentals than the current proposal. I support developing this site and maximizing its potential for housing, but I believe that without a significant non-market housing component this should not be approved.
2. The proposed "interpretive signage with Indigenous language and Indigenous art" falls far short of meaningful Reconciliation in my view. Especially considering the Anglican Church's role in residential schools in Canada, I would have hoped to see some evidence of collaboration in the plans for this site. Have there been any conversations with First Nations about what they would like to see on this site? What about the possibility of an Indigenous housing component? Have First Nations contractors been pursued? The future of this site is an opportunity to foster dialogue, relationship building, collaboration, partnership, healing, etc. As it stands, it is more of a "business as usual" approach with a token nod via signage and art.

I would prefer to see this project re-imagined through a truly collaborative process with First Nations and our urban Indigenous community members, and with a strong commitment to non-market housing. I understand this proposal has been in the works for many years, and there are suggested benefits in the restoration of the cathedral and the public plaza. However, I would suggest that affordable housing and Reconciliation are much more important goals than colonial heritage preservation and a small plaza.

I recognize that projects are rarely sent back at this stage, but I encourage Council to hold true to its values and ask this developer to come back with a different approach that aligns with the community's goals.

Sincerely,
J. Maskell
125 Columbia Street