Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I'm writing in support of the Temporary Use Permit for 502 Columbia Street being considered by Council on Monday, November 15th.

From my home, I can see the Columbia Street entrance to this building; it is a two-minute walk from the front of my building. Our neighbourhood needs additional social supports for the underhoused population living here and this site would be ideal, both in its location for users of the temporary shelter and for its ability to improve the neighborhood.

Ideally, all of my neighbours would have a roof over their head while they sleep, but this is not currently the case, and I urge our Council to take this step to help ensure a higher quality of life and better health outcomes for those who will benefit from this service. Further, I anticipate that a better quality of life, better access to social supports, and improved health outcomes for these neighbours will result in an improvement in the living experience for housed residents in the neighbourhood, as well.

During the three years (or six, on renewal) of this TUP, I urge Council to look for long-term options for both additional supportive housing and emergency shelter beds in the Downtown area.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sam Schechter XXX-328 Clarkson Street New Westminster