

From: kbasso@rcj.ca
To: [External-Clerks](#)
Cc: [Jonathan Cote](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TUP for 502 Columbia Street
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Thank you for the opportunity to address this important decision that will affect the future of the downtown area in New Westminster.

City council should be congratulated on the compassionate efforts to address and reduce homelessness in New Westminster as should the Purpose Society, however; we do not believe that this location is ideal.

We all witnessed the effects of last summer's heat wave and the tragic consequences. A plan or suggestion to make transit buses available for extreme weather events makes the most sense. Either as warming/cooling facilities or for transit to a more appropriate location (shelter).

The downtown area needs new development and to attract new businesses. This idea is the exact opposite of that. As it is Columbia Street is starting to resemble Vancouver's Hastings Street at night. Would City Hall entertain this idea if it were proposed for a vacancy at Royal City Centre or the Anvil Building?

Open drug use, car theft, and vandalism keep customers away from the little remaining downtown businesses; meanwhile the drug dealers that set up shop nightly on Deck B of the parkade are having a banner year. As reported in the Record Newspaper the New Westminster Police Department have made it clear that they do not want to respond to calls of open drug use, people using doorways as toilets and non-violent confrontations. You have dropped this problem on our laps and by allowing a TUP for this shelter will only increase the burden.

We are opposed to the proposed TUP at this location.

Respectfully,

Ken Basso
General Manager,
Royal City Jewellers & Loans Ltd.
rcj.ca