

From: [Karyn Austin](#)
To: [External-Dev Feedback](#); [External-Clerks](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Homeless Shelter on 502 Columbia Street
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Karyn Austin November 12, 2021
- 668 Columbia Street
New Westminster
British Columbia
V3M 1A9

To Whom it May Concern,

Please do **NOT** proceed with the planned temporary homeless shelter on **502 Columbia Street** in New Westminster.

My husband and I have recently moved into the Trapp & Holbrook condo building on 668 Columbia Street. It has been a dream of ours to relocate to British Columbia from London, Ontario, for over two decades. We have both worked incredibly hard for over the last 20 plus years to financially get to a point where a cross country move could be our reality.

Prior to choosing New Westminster as our new home, we did the research. We read about the various areas in BC and we were drawn to New West for many reasons, one of which was the safety factor. Another was that New West was described as a place consisting of young families, young professionals and retirees....a place that seemed to have such an inviting energy to it.

It was our goal to make New Westminster our retirement place....our new community in which we would spend our twilight years here together, enjoying the mountains, waterfront, supporting the small businesses, etc.

When I first read the notice of the proposed plan for the temporary shelter in our condo elevator, my heart dropped. The realization that our dream to live in a beautiful and safe area was in danger of not coming to fruition. All the hard work my husband and I did to get here. All the money we saved. Our home value and our nestegg would be taking such a financial hit.

We walk our dog everyday along Columbia street and our dog has been cut by shards of broken glass from the garbage that these people who are experiencing homelessness leave everywhere. It's an everyday occurrence to dodge trash, human waste, and occasionally drug paraphernalia. I have been shouted at numerous times by these individuals. Simply put, it is not safe. And to think that having a shelter here will fix those problems is asinine.

If it indeed is the desire of New West's "higher ups" to upgrade this city...to make it actually be the place it advertises it as being, please do better. DO NOT proceed with this shelter.

A Very Concerned Resident,

Karyn Austin