

From: [Dilys Huang](#)
To: [Marina Castillo](#)
Cc: [External-Legislative Services](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Development variance permit concerns
Date: Monday, June 24, 2024 3:48:09 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Hi Marina,

Thank you for your message below regarding the proposed Development Variance Permit (DVP), which has been passed on to us in Planning by our Legislative Services staff.

As a follow-up to your questions below, the proposed DVP that will be considered by Council tonight is specifically related to amending the City's Subdivision and Development Control Bylaw to allow the project to use a different form of security (i.e. a Letter of Indemnity in lieu of a Letter of Credit) for engineering off-site works and services. A copy of the earlier June 10th Council report, which includes further details on the proposed DVP, can be [accessed here](#).

In terms of public notification postcards, they were mailed out to residents of properties located within 100 metres of the subject site.

To provide more background on the supportive housing project itself, the review and consultation processes for the site's rezoning and Official Community Plan amendment were undertaken in 2021, with the bylaws adopted in February 2022 to facilitate a six-storey, 52-unit supportive housing building. These bylaws were considered together with the closely related city-wide crisis response bylaw amendments, which allow for more rapid response on projects meeting specific criteria and addressing an identified emergency or crisis in the community. Additional background information on these proposals is still available on our Be Heard New West project page: <https://www.beheardnewwest.ca/crisis-response-bylaws>

In terms of supportive housing locations, they are determined based on availability of property and proximity to services, amenities, and transit. Housing for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness needs to meet people where they are at, providing connection to the resources that they need to work toward living a healthy, stable, and more independent life. In dense, urban areas such as Downtown New Westminster, this can mean there are a variety other uses nearby to a supportive housing project. Staff would be on site 24 hours a day, seven days a week and all residents would sign an agreement in respect to expectations related to their residency.

Kind regards,

Dilys Huang, RPP, MCIP, LEED Green Assoc. | Development Planner II
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🏡 City of New Westminster

From: Marina Castillo
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 11:37 AM

To: External-Legislative Services <CorporateOfficer@newwestcity.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Development variance permit concerns

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.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Marina Castillo and I own an apartment at 525 Agnes with my partner. This email is in regards to the “development variance permit” we got in our mail. Since the content is quite cryptic and the absence of information on the plot or elsewhere, I would like to request for more information regarding the housing project planned for that plot on Agnes and 6th and express my discontent with the management of this project.

- Why isn't there any more clear information on the plot for everyone to read and consider?
- I consulted with several neighbours of my building but also with residents of 500 Royal and 410 Agnes and they have not received any notice in their mails.
- When are neighbours being consulted about the decision of building an assisted housing project?
- Why is a housing project considered to be built in front of a marihuana dispenser, 2 blocks away from an elementary school, 1 block away from a prestigious college and 2 blocks from Columbia Skytrain station?

There is an alarming lack of information and some kind of intentional abstruse release of information.

We moved to New Westminster for a more calm life. I used to live in the olympic village in Vancouver before and after the housing project was developed and the outskirts blocks became a center for drugs, theft and sadly an overdosed body at the entrance of a residential building.

Regards,

Marina Castillo