

From: [Mark Shipway](#)
To: [External-Legislative Services](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Development Varince Permit for 602 Agnes Street
Date: Monday, June 24, 2024 4:18:18 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 Council,

I deeply concerned as to the nature of the planned construction project at 602 Agnes Street. What is the exact nature and purpose of this project? Is it part of the city's **Small Sites Affordable Housing Program**?

A lot of the information regarding this project appears to have been a deliberate lack of transparency in terms of the public and that in itself raises alarm bells. After further exploration, it appears this project is not part of the City of New Westminster's development plans but is earmarked by the province as part of BC's "supportive housing project".

Therefore my primary question. Is this simply part of an affordable housing program for low income earners OR is this part of the BC wide program of modular construction projects to provide housing for those who currently live on the streets?

Whilst I have no problem if it is the former, I do take issue with the latter. I do seriously believe many of these folks can live healthier and more fulfilling lives in permanent housing. I would pause at this point and make it known that two of my friends, one male and one female, had periods in their teenage lives where they were forced to live on the street, having been thrown out of their homes. One nearly died and had to be hospitalised, thankfully now a loving father of two and successful individual in the workplace. The other went on to become a highly successful entrepreneur in her own right. Therefore, I have some knowledge and empathy for the situations that some people can find themselves forced into.

The issue with people who have been living on the streets for a considerable period of time is the community they form whilst there, many of whom consist of hardened drug addicts, alcoholics and those with unfortunately severe mental health problems. The result is that when those who truly meet the criteria for "supportive housing" already have a sustained friendship with those who do not. When the "supportive housing" is located close to either a skytrain and / or a central area where the homeless congregate, it forms traffic to and from the place of housing by those still living on the street. This can take them into residential areas which hitherto might be considered safe and without sufficient security to prevent opportunistic theft or damage to property.

I have serious concern that the location of lot on Agnes St (currently a Dog Park), is not a suitable location for a "supportive housing development", being very close to two skytrain stations as well as one of New Westminster's hubs for the homeless and open drug use on the streets. I would suggest the seeking out an alternative lot for this project that is NOT in a Downtown location and thus acting as a deterrent for such traffic (or trafficking) from occurring.

On a final note I may also add that another friend of mine recently made a small and moving documentary that followed the positive impact on an individual who was placed in supportive housing on Hastings Street in Vancouver. So I am not against this in theory but the proposed location for this project is very far from optimum and the potential issues are extremely detrimental to the neighbourhood.

Yours faithfully,

A concerned and educated downtown resident.

Mark Shipway DipWSET, FWS Official Bourgogne Wines Ambassador CMS Advanced
Sommelier Director of Education & Training - Christopher Stewart 2016 Winner of the WSG
Top Program Provider Award 2009 Winner of the WSET Highly Commended Trophy Phone:
Redacted Email: **Redacted** Web: <http://www.cruconsultancy.com/>