

Attachment #11

Applicant Letter Re Relocation of Community Services



15 October 2021

Mr Rupinder Basi, MCIP, RPP
Senior Planner
City of New Westminster
511 Royal Avenue
New Westminster BC V3L 1H9

Dear Mr Basi

Relocation of Worship and Community Services

I am writing to you in regards to the re-location of the worship and community services provided by the Cathedral congregation once we receive the necessary approvals and permits to commence the construction of the residential tower and the restoration of the Cathedral itself.

Our explorations for alternative venues for our worship services, offices and programming services will begin in earnest once we receive a clear indication of when we will be required to vacate our current premises. We seek a location in the downtown area so that we continue to witness to our commitment to be a place of help, hope and home as we have done since 1859.

We are committed to doing all that is possible to assist our current community partners in finding suitable locations for their activities during the construction and restoration phases of the project. We have told our partners that they will receive at least ninety-days' notice of their need to re-locate.

We are keenly aware of how the Parish Hall serves as a public amenity. In the downtown area non-profit community groups have few if any options for meeting space. We estimate that more than 75% of the usage of the Hall is by non-profit, non-religious community and service organizations. Given that we charge below-market rental rates, we, in effect, subsidize these groups in their activities.

We hope that most of our current community partners will be accommodated by one or more of the congregations associated with the New Westminster Ministerial Association. I continue to keep my colleagues informed of our progress, so that they may consider how they can take on additional community partners.

On behalf of our Parish I welcome any suggestions the City Staff might have as to possible locations for our community partners.

Once the construction and renovation project is complete, Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral and its new Parish Hall will be even more able to serve our community partners and organizations in a wider variety of ways. Expanded and improved kitchen facilities, the public plaza and new meeting spaces will make the Parish Hall even more a public amenity than it already is. The renovation of the Cathedral will make it more useful to the musical and cultural community. Our commitment to creating a welcoming space for Indigenous communities will provide a place for healing and reconciliation.

For one hundred and sixty-two years we have served New Westminster. Even during our enforced absence, we will continue to offer life-giving and community-building service to our neighbours.

With every good wish,

The Venerable Richard Geoffrey Leggett, Ph.D.
Vicar of Holy Trinity Cathedral and
Archdeacon of Westminster