

Attention: Mayor and Council, October 23, 2017

“You break it, you buy it” - A phrase made even more famous by former Secretary of State, Colin Powell.

According to Councilor Pam Madoff, in twenty years, Victoria will be home to the wealthy and disenfranchised. According to Mayor Helps, you are currently ‘batting cleanup’ which I imagine is the explanation for errors made by the previous Mayor’s and council.

Rental Vacancy Rates (in October) 2013 - 2.8% 2014 - 1.5% 2015 - 0.6% 2016 - 0.5%

In 2014, average rents for a 1 bedroom was \$849 and \$1,095 for a two bedroom. In 2014, Condo average rents for 2 bedrooms were 18% higher than purpose built rentals. I would imagine the condo rental rates of 2016 are even higher and we all should know how insane current rental rates are. Mayor Helps response is that we’re building more purpose built rental. However, the purpose-built rentals are targeting the higher end user. For example, (Renx) Hudson Walk 2 lists a One-bedroom rent as \$1,480, 2-bedroom rents as \$1,945 - **an increase of 74% for an average one bedroom.**

Congratulations, you own this problem that you created. “Victoria is place where affluent Canadians go to retire”.

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| Lisa Helps – on council since 2011 | Geoff Young – on council since 2005 |
| Ben Isitt – on council since 2011 | Charlayne Thornton-Joe – on council since 2002 (or ?) |
| Jeremy Loveday – elected 2014 | Chris Coleman - on council since 2002 (or ?) |
| Margaret Lucas – elected 2014 | Pam Madoff – on council since 2002 (or ?) |
| Marianne Alto – on council since 2010 by-election | |

Under your watch, you have:

- increased rental vacancy rates by 82% since 2013
- approved higher end purpose built rentals which push up rental rates across Victoria
- approved condo projects of primarily bachelors and 1 bedrooms units which push up real estate prices and condo rental rates
- eliminated green space and allowed demolishes of historical architecture

Sadly, the data does exist with regards to what has been done to our tree cover, parks or urban forests as those aren’t priorities for the City of Victoria. I imagine they have also declined rather than increased.

As someone who is not wealthy, affluent, or a child of a wealthy, affluent Victoria resident, I am extremely disappointed in you, my elected officials. There is a disregard for community concerns, community engagement and increased attitude of ‘Mayor & council know best’. You were elected to meet the needs of the residents of Victoria, not the desires developers who are building luxury homes/condos who are moving here to retire.

I ask you, once again, to say No to 1201 Fort St and other developers who disregard the needs of residents of Victoria.

Kam Lidder - Resident of Victoria since Nov 2008