

Michelle Dobie
#311 - 1025 Linden Avenue (resident for 14 years)

April 26, 2018

Good evening Mayor and City Council Members,

- Hello, my name is Michelle Dobie and I live at 1025 Linden Avenue. My apartment is at the back of the building and my balcony is 10 feet from the property line at 1201 Fort Street (the back or South end of 1201 Fort Street). I have lived in my apartment for 14 years.
- I am **against** this development and the proposed changes to 1201 Fort Street and 1050 Pentrelew Place (1201 Fort Street) and the amendment to the Official Community Plan (OCP). The consideration to amend the OCP Bylaw for 1201 Fort Street would be a tragedy for this beautiful property, not to mention the damage it would cause to this unique Rockland neighbourhood. With this development proposal there is no consideration for the residents, the wildlife, greenspace or unique Traditional Residential setting.
- I am **against** the amendment to allow the construction of a six-storey multi-unit residential building and nine townhomes. 1201 Fort Street is far too small to properly accommodate buildings of this size and proportion. Also, how much will these condos and townhomes cost? Will the average person living in Victoria be able to afford these units? Victoria desperately needs affordable housing, not more high-end luxury condos that the average Victorian cannot afford.
- I am **against** the amendment to the rezoning application for the site which would designate the Traditional Residential portions of the site as Urban Residential to build a four-storey unit in the South end of the property. I know the South end of the property very well as I have enjoyed this beautiful green space for 14 years. This beautiful green space has old growth trees, flowering shrubs and is a wildlife habitat for Great Horned and Barred Owls, Hawks, deer, racoons, squirrels and song birds. Also, the garden at the back has human remains (urns and ashes) buried and scattered throughout this greenspace for many decades. This space should be preserved and protected.

... /2

- I also want to talk about communities. It is very important to plan a city by creating healthy communities. The Truth Centre built a substantial community in the Rockland Neighbourhood. The Truth Centre speaks for itself as a place for spiritual practice and community support. The building on Pentrelew (across from my apartment) was a place of arts and culture. For many years, I had the pleasure of listening to students practice ballet, opera and numerous musical instruments. Another building provided daycare. The garden at the back, provided many years of wonderful enjoyment to the residents of Rockland and place to bury loved ones from the Truth Centre. All of this community is now gone. I would like to see the developer build a community centre or a park to replace the loss of the community build by the Truth Centre.
- Personally, I have enjoyed the garden across from my apartment for many years with my seven year old nephew and 12 year old niece. Both are aware of this development and keep asking why they have to cut down all the trees? Why can't they build around them? My niece and nephew are the future of Victoria and they already understand the importance of green space. I promised I would mention their opinions today. After all, we are all here for the future of Victoria.
- This brings me to my closing, a development of this size and a complete change in character for the Rockland Neighbourhood is setting a dangerous precedent. If this development is approved then the City of Victoria is at complete risk of losing more greenspace and other unique neighbourhoods. It will be a tragedy if this development is approved. With respect, please consider the consequences of your decisions, I am trusting you will listen to the residents that actually live in the Rockland Neighbourhood. We should have a voice in what happens to our neighbourhood, our home.

I can only hope you make the right decision. I appreciate the amount of work and responsibility you have taken on with this development and protecting our city. Thank you.

Thank you for your time.

Michelle Dobie