

Crowd to gather at City Hall on Tuesday before hearing on massive rezonings

For immediate release, Vancouver, July 25, 2011

CityHallWatch declares that the Vancouver system of planning and rezoning is broken and needs fixing. Working with Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver (NSV) and Shannon Mews Neighbours' Association (SMNA), CityHallWatch has called Vancouver residents to gather in front of City Hall on the evening of 26 July 2011 at 6:00 pm, just ahead of major public hearings on 488 units at 105-167 West 2nd Avenue, and 735 units at 7101-7201 Granville (Shannon Mews).

What: Neighbourhoods' Gathering at City Hall

Topic: "Vancouver's Planning/Rezoning Process is Broken. Let's start Fixing it" (Speakers on broken system, Shannon Mews and other cases, community planning, discussion about how to fix it)

Where/When: South entrance, City Hall, July 26, 2011. (6 pm gather, 6:20 start, 7:10 end, then go to Chambers)

This event connects straight back to the broken promises made by newly-elected Mayor Gregor Robertson, flanked by many on his Council, speaking to hundreds of neighbourhood representatives at an NSV forum at Heritage Hall on 10 December 2008. [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VdpOAPgGHmQ>]

In the video, the Mayor credits local communities for the strong pushback against EcoDensity that helped Vision Vancouver get its near sweep of City Hall in the 2008 election. Ever since, he and his Vision councillors have used their majority vote repeatedly against community input. The Mayor's words that day about a "great opportunity right now with the big shift in the political winds to do things differently at City Hall" have cynically translated into the new Council handing even more over to developers than before. Just one example is the STIR program's huge giveaways to developers.

But now tower and high density developments opposed by local neighbourhoods are being forced onto unhappy residents all over the city – Norquay, Arbutus, Mount Pleasant, Marpole, Cambie Corridor, Little Mountain, False Creek, Chinatown, the Downtown East Side, and Shannon Mews, to name a few. Among their many problems, outsized developments eat away at the ability for Vancouverites to look up at their cherished mountains.

"Little did Vancouverites know that Vision Vancouver would take EcoDensity and put it on steroids. Or that when in 2008 the new Mayor invited the community to City Hall, it meant that time after time citizens would have to drag themselves out there speak before City Council, to fight unwanted policies, plans, and rezonings." – Randy Helten, coordinator of CityHallWatch.



In 2008, newly-elected Mayor lambasts EcoDensity, wants to respect communities. His record shows the opposite.

CityHallWatch.ca is new website to help Vancouver residents better understand, discuss, and address City Council on major issues of the city, especially rezonings and decisions on land use.

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