



## **St. Augustine community calls on City Council to preserve neighbourhood input on 12 storey buildings!**

St. Augustine school and parish community are expressing concern about a Vancouver City Council motion that will eliminate the need for rezoning and public hearings for construction of non-market, social, and co-op housing up to a height of 12 storeys.

This motion is being advanced at the same time St. Augustine's and the neighbourhood are engaged in a consultation process regarding a BC Housing 12-storey supportive housing proposal at 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Arbutus streets, directly across from the school.

St. Augustine community is a long-time advocate of supportive housing and is associated with nearby Sancta Maria House which has assisted nearly 200 women recover from alcohol and drug use over the past 18 years. Both the church and school are active in their recovery process.

"Based on our direct supportive housing experience and knowledge of our neighbourhood, we believe in a model of care that is less institutional, smaller in size, with proper supports for people who are coming out of homeless situations than what is proposed by BC Housing," said Michael Yaptinchay, principal of St. Augustine School.

"We cannot support any building that does not fit into the neighbourhood. If Council passes this motion, it could eliminate the need for a rezoning application and any subsequent public hearings or neighbourhood input," said Yaptinchay.

At the same time, St. Augustine's is directly impacted by the proposed subway station and bus loop at Arbutus and Broadway. The school's playground for over 400 children is located about 25 metres from the station and bus loop.

St. Augustine's proposed a comprehensive set of low-cost, practical mitigations to reduce the risks of the impact of the station and bus loop. Despite our efforts, there has not been any progress in addressing these major public health and safety challenges.

St. Augustine School, located in the heart of Kitsilano, was founded in 1911 and has over 350 elementary-aged students and will grow to 450 in a few years. In addition, a Montessori program of 50 preschool-aged children also operates out of the same school building. The school is part of St. Augustine's Parish which has over 1,000-member families.

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