

November 1, 2021

Mayor Kennedy Stewart and Council
City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Dear Mayor and Council:

Re: Streamlining Rental Around Local Shopping Areas

The Urban Development Institute (UDI) is supportive of the By-law amendments being proposed through the *Streamlining Rental Around Local Shopping Areas* initiative. These changes are the result of several years of policy development, and extensive public and stakeholder engagement. These modest, but important changes build on the work of the 2019 *Secured Rental Policy*, and will be another positive step towards the creation of more diverse housing options in neighbourhoods across Vancouver. For this reason, we urge City Council to approve the recommendations in the staff Report.

UDI has previously written to Council regarding our strong support for amending the C-2 district schedules to allow six-storey rental projects, as well as improving the rezoning policy/process for some of the low-density areas of the City. The approval of these changes in C-2 zones is an opportunity for the City to make it simpler and faster for builders to deliver rental close to local shopping areas.

At the same time, the changes to the Rezoning Policy for parts of the RS/RT zones will allow lower density rental homes to be built in more areas of Vancouver that are close to transit, shopping and other amenities. Neighbourhoods where rental was not supported previously will have new opportunities to become more vibrant, diverse and walkable communities with a mix of housing types through a simplified approval process.

Although these changes are modest, they represent an important step towards Vancouver's goal of delivering more rental homes. We hope that Council will recognize the importance of these amendments, and approve the By-law changes.

Yours sincerely,



Anne McMullin
President & CEO, UDI