

September 18, 2017

Mayor Don Iveson

Councilor Ben Henderson

Linda Cochrane, City Manager

Carolyn Campbell, Deputy City Manager, Chief of Communications & Engagement

Leanne McCarthy, Deputy City Manager of Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development

Peter Ohm, Chief Planner

Kalen Anderson, Director of Planning Coordination

Cory Segin, Director of Public Engagement

RE: Postponement of the Public Hearing on the Holyrood Gardens Redevelopment opens window for effective public engagement

With the Public Hearing on the redevelopment of the Holyrood Gardens site now postponed until November 2017, a window of time for meaningful community engagement with the Holyrood community is available. The Holyrood Development Committee (HDC) sees opportunities to reframe this site in ways that are favourable to the community, the city and the developer.

Sixty-nine letters were written to the City Clerk opposing this development and the 29 speakers registered to speak in opposition to the proposal at the Public Hearing. The HDC believes this is strong evidence supporting the need to better engage Holyrood residents.

The HDC formally requests that meetings and community workshops be organized between the HDC and Regency Developments. We ask for these activities to be hosted by skilled independent facilitators capable of finding common ground as well as the presence of Councilor Ben Henderson.

Relationships between City staff, the developer and the community are strained because the public engagement processes used on this proposal were fast tracked and constrained. We are looking to move along the public engagement spectrum and ensure that the city collaborates with the community to ensure a holistic and sustainable development for Holyrood. Given the tension between the community and the planners assigned to this project, we ask that a new senior planner be assigned work with the community on this project. The HDC believes this will create a more supportive space for the exchange of information and exploration of ideas with the broader community.

The HDC envisions this process will identify and create a range of positive solutions beneficial to all stakeholders.

We thank you all in advance for your support and assistance with this matter.

Holyrood Development Committee