

# RICHMOND RESIDENTS & BUSINESSES OPPOSED TO CAMBIE PERMANENT HOUSING PROJECT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Wednesday, July 31, 2024**

## **Residents and Businesses Express Opposition to Cambie Permanent Housing (CPH) Proposal in the Heart of Richmond**

Richmond, BC: Sheldon Starrett and Kevin Lai were joined by a crowd of nearly one hundred concerned residents and business owners today at Aberdeen Neighbourhood Park. Strata Presidents Mahdi Torabi, of Avanti, and Eric Poon, of Fiorella, spoke on behalf of their respective strata councils and residents. The press conference was called to express serious concern over a proposed BC Housing project to build a six story, 90-unit permanent supportive housing facility in the neighborhood.

“We are parents, grandparents, and residents of Richmond who lose sleep fearing for the safety of our children. We are speaking up against governments treating us as second-class citizens. We want transparency and accountability from our politicians, we want common sense policies that keep our community safe. We want to help those in need, but not at the expense of being permissive of open drug use, drug deals, increased public disorder, and crime becoming more common. We reject that,” explained Mahdi Torabi, the Strata President for Avanti.

“We are extremely concerned with this supportive housing proposal in our neighbourhood. With a poor track record from other sites in Richmond, lack of integration and support systems in place, we are worried about the impact this will bring to our community. We cannot imagine what this will do to the local community and even the city as a whole. The City needs to work with the community to find an alternative solution to this,” stated Eric Poon, Strata President of Fiorella.

Kevin Lai added, “We must not be so easily fooled by the promises and lip service of BC Housing and the politicians imposing these projects upon neighbourhoods. Similar language was used when the Temporary Modular Homes (TMH) were proposed in Richmond, sugarcoating the years of documented increased in drugs and disorder that followed. It was only after they were installed did we see the end result. We categorically reject empty promises, poor track records, and failed policies. We do not want this in Richmond.”

Sheldon Starrett echoed the points made by Mr. Lai adding, “Last November many city councillors conceded that the negative impacts of the Alderbridge TMH were not mitigated. Proponents may call this NIMBYism, but given the existence of two sites already and the negative consequences they have had on surrounding

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neighbourhoods, this becomes a matter of serious public concern backed up by documented evidence and lived experience. Our local leaders need to go back to the drawing board, and come up with something that can earn the trust of local residents and businesses.”

A video is currently circulating, put together by Neighbours of Richmond. It has generated over 100,000 views within 24 hours, and has been shared over 4,000 times. Additionally, a petition launched by Kevin and Sheldon has garnered over 3,500 signatures. Kevin and Sheldon are encouraging concerned residents and business owners to watch and share the video, sign the petition, and visit the website at: [StopCPH.ca](http://StopCPH.ca)

Video Link: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/C-DTvV9Ja-Q>