

February 9, 2024

Mayor Sim and Councillors
City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 1V4

RE: Rezoning Application for the former Safeway Site: Revitalizing West Point Grey Village and Providing More Housing Supply

Dear Vancouver Mayor and Council members,

As a federal Member of Parliament, I have the responsibility to serve citizens and residents in the Vancouver Quadra constituency. From time to time, I advocate for meaningful public engagement on important local matters affecting them.

This letter concerns a major development proposal on the former Safeway site in Point Grey Village that rightly offers the opportunity to add density and affordable housing supply on Vancouver's west side. Personally, it has been both sad and inconvenient for me as a resident living nearby to see the village lose its economic prosperity and its vitality as a neighbourhood meeting place. This decline has been particularly rapid after the closing of Safeway in 2018.

Many constituents have approached me about the future of the Safeway site, clearly a pivotal site for the future of the village. They have suggested creative ideas on how the development can be enhanced. I have heard their support for market and below market housing and have also heard their excitement and interest in adding missing community services such as a childcare, a heart to the village through good urban design, livable density, and place-making. They also have practical suggestions on traffic management and calming 10th Avenue, all which would add to the attractiveness and future prosperity of the village.

I know many residents have already given considerable volunteer time trying to work with the developer and City staff over the past two years. So far, they say that they have little to show for their neighbourhood commitment and dedication.

I understand that the application is now at the rezoning stage and for the first time in the process City staff are asking residents and businesses for their views. A member of my staff attended the City's Open House on February 8th and let me know that it was very well attended. Unfortunately, I could not attend myself since I was flying home from Ottawa at the time.

This volunteer neighbourhood collaboration is a valuable resource and a pillar of sustainable communities. I sincerely hope that in this stage of consultation, the City will create opportunities for everyone to work together and for all voices to be heard. This collaboration need not delay the approval process and can pay lasting dividends to both the developer and the Point Grey community.

Best Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "jmu".

Hon. Joyce Murray, P.C., M.P.
Vancouver Quadra