

Downtown Victoria Business Association 20 Centennial Square Victoria, BC V8W 1P7 (250) 386-2238 info@downtownvictoria.ca

February 10, 2023

Victoria Mayor & Council 1 Centennial Square Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

Re: Support for Rezoning Application for the Roundhouse Development at Bayview Place

## REZ00729 #251 - # 259 Esquimalt Road, 45 Saghalie Road, 355 Catherine Street, and # 200 - # 210 Kimta Road

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express support on behalf of the Downtown Victoria Business Association for this rezoning amendment and development proposal. Although it is outside of our operating boundaries, Roundhouse is planned to add considerable housing density and other public benefits near the edge of Downtown, and the residents will certainly be welcome visitors to downtown. The current proposal includes 1,750 market-rental apartments and an affordable-housing site with an additional 150-180 affordable homes.

The revised proposal also strongly supports multi-modal transport, with connections to the regional bike and pedestrian trails (E&N Urban Trail, and Kimta Road AAA bicycle route). There will be additional bike and vehicle parking, including EV charging stations and underground parking. The Roundhouse Development also provides a railway easement to keep the existing E&N Rail Corridor and to allow for potential future light rail connection to Downtown Victoria.

Housing, particularly for 'middle income' individuals and families, is a significant issue in Victoria, and this project seeks to address that need. It will help the city continue to grow and will provide a place for downtown workers to live near their workplaces. This will also provide new customers for downtown businesses which are struggling to recover from the pandemic's economic impact.

This project, with its mix of apartment types and its emphasis on community, will be a valuable addition to Victoria, and I strongly support Council approving it. The Roundhouse Development will benefit Downtown Victoria by adding many new near neighbours.

Yours sincerely,

Jeff Bray, Downtown Victoria Business Association CEO