



## Heritage Vancouver

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City of Vancouver  
453 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

### **Re: Public Hearing: Gabriola Mansion Re-Development support— concern & clarification**

Dear Mayor and Council,

While we do generally support the proposal, as indicated in our [letter of July 26, 2017](#), one concern remains — the recommendation of the limitation of access to a minimum of “one calendar day per year” to the interior areas identified as public spaces, and that the “one day per year” is defined as being “liberal”.

This staff recommendation also does not reflect the Vancouver Heritage Commission’s recommendations, where the proposed one-day a year would be inadequate, and that the “standard” was inappropriate for this situation. On pages 6 and 7 of the report, on page 6 of Appendix B, there is reference to the desirability for public access to the interior protected areas.

Why has the recommendation for public access therefore been set at a minimum of one calendar day per year?

We would expect that liberal access therefore be defined and set at more than a minimum of one calendar day per year for public access into the defined areas.

In addition, to clarify City staff comments to our previous letter July 26, 2017 letter, in the City report dated October 3, 2017 “Policy report development and building”, in that we are not seeking a replica design for the infill structures.

We stated that the infill townhouses be tweaked to afford *\*greater visual congruency with the Mansion\**, while still maintaining visual separation between the old and new — which still follow The Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada.

We’re unsure where staff interpretation brought about the comments noted on page two of this letter.

For reference:

**Our prior comment in our July 26, 2017 letter:**

*“Therefore, Heritage Vancouver Society supports this re-zoning heritage project with the small provision that the design of the infill townhouses be tweaked to afford greater visual congruency with the Mansion.”*

**City staff comment:**

City report dated October 3, 2017, “Policy report development and building”

Comments of Concern and Suggestions for Improvement:

*Building Design: Several respondents, including the Heritage Vancouver Society, thought that the infill townhouse design is too contemporary and does not fit in with the historic architecture of the mansion.*

*Staff response: The contemporary aesthetic of the infill dwellings is utilized to contrast with the heritage style of the mansion. Compatibility is achieved between the new townhouses and the heritage mansion through the use of materials.*

Respectfully submitted,

Heritage Vancouver Society