

1785 think that it's so essential to acknowledge the harm, displacement, and violence that occurs when affected communities are not consulted in the decision-making process that determine those changes to the built environment.

As I said before, I'm here to voice my support for the regulation changes and share why I think these considerations will have a positive impact at the community level in the long run.

1790 I'm going to talk about the heat island effect. I don't know if that's already been brought up, but I mean it has to be brought up.

1795 There is plenty of research available examining the causes and effects of the urban heat island effect. Impervious surfaces hold heat and cause the surrounding areas' temperature to increase, which is potentially a dangerous feature of a neighbourhood that is home to our older citizens and at-risk neighbors.

1800 And I say this to illustrate the fact that, should more high-rise condos be presented to the area, it will only exacerbate the heat island effect and demand more energy to maintain livable temperatures for the residents. It's fans, it's AC, it's too much. Let's just not.

1805 And some of the literature I've come across... Biodiversity is offered as both a measure of and a solution to the effects of the urban heat island effect. I want to apply that concept of variety of life in an ecosystem is how I'm defining biodiversity, and I think that that concept applies very nicely to the built environment as well.

We all know that variety is the spice of life or I'm telling you that's the spice of my life. And I think it really fits like a glove when it comes to urban environments.

1810 I guess what I want to say is like the fabric of the community is stronger when there is a variety of income levels, of land use and building types, this kind of thing. And when I say land use, I mean parks, I mean parking lots, I mean things that serve the community in different ways.

Not necessarily, like, "Oh, there's no birds."

1815 So, business as usual has a way of homogenizing neighbourhoods by design, especially when the neighbourhood is home to minorities and marginalized communities.

1820 What do I mean when I say this? I mean that development, in this day and age, has a way of dulling cultural reference points in favour of mass appeal. Economies of scale, they really neglect any kind of nuance and... into uniqueness of culture, in favour of "We'll just make a lot of it, it won't cost us that much, and we'll make more money by doing it big."

1825 I'd just like to acknowledge that Chinatown came from a need. Immigrants arrived from China, immigrants arrived from Western Canada, maybe after finishing building the railway. It's a place to come home to and really build a life. And it has been that for many people for many years before, and I think that that really deserves recognition and support in the resources available to new immigrants, generational immigrants.

1830 How do I finish this? It's just important to maintain the need and not ignore the need in favour of condos that might, if history serves, condos might very likely displace the people that helped create what we know as Chinatown.

And with that I finish.

1835 **LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Thank you. Merci. Une petite question d'abord : est-ce que vous êtes une résidente du Chinatown?

1840 **M. RACHAEL THOMAS :**

Je suis une étudiante du Chinatown.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

1845 Vous parlez beaucoup de la vie, du *fabric*... Ma question, en fait, c'est, si vous avez donc vécu les dernières années... De votre expérience personnelle, quel a été l'impact de la construction des nouvelles bâtisses sur la vie du quartier?

M. RACHAEL THOMAS :

1850 À mon avis, ce que j'ai vu, c'est comme les... comment je dis ça...

LE PRÉSIDENT :

1855 You can say it in English.

M. RACHAEL THOMAS :

1860 So kind, thank you so much. I'm going to say that the businesses that served the people and the daily life that was happening, that is happening still, are going to have a harder time... I guess businesses are being displaced, is what I'm really noticing, in favour of chains, so there's that mass appeal.

1865 And you know, if we get more condos, there's the suggestion that there are more homeowners, and so the needs of homeowners versus the needs of renters or people that rely on the services of the neighbourhood, like the street populations.

1870 If the demographic shifts, and as we watch the demographic shift, the resources for the people that are here now become redundant. And I say that knowing that they're definitely necessary, but they're... The people with more economic power have a louder volume and so, their needs are met before something like a laundromat. I imagine condo owners have laundry

facilities. We're not going to need laundromats, and laundromats provide support and business opportunity for folks that live here already.

1875 **LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Merci, thank you. Danielle?

1880 **Mme DANIELLE SAUVAGE :**

Est-ce que vous voyez quand même de la place pour des logements abordables, du logement social dans le Quartier chinois?

1885 **M. RACHAEL THOMAS :**

Do I see what?

1890 **Mme DANIELLE SAUVAGE :**

Do you see room for affordable...

1895 **M. RACHAEL THOMAS :**

Do I see room for that? Okay. I think... I have a lot of theoretical responses for that, and the reason why we're all here is to answer the question of what we are actually going to do about it. I think the concept of affordable housing is relative and subjective, I think affordable housing isn't something that needs to be created. I think we need to think about ways of accommodating housing with what we have.

1900 So, basically what I want to say is, I don't think the answer to affordable housing is building more housing when there are people here that live here and by kicking them out that's creating the

1905 need for affordable housing, but elsewhere and we're already here. Let's make it work with what we have. That's socially... that's through policy, that's through maybe rezoning, and like I said, variety is the spice of life. There's space for condos, I said it, and it really needs to be discussed with the community and it needs to be according to the needs that folks on the ground see as important.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

1910 Merci. Bruno-Serge?

M. BRUNO-SERGE BOUCHER :

1915 Moi, ça va aller, merci. Merci pour votre présentation.

M. RACHAEL THOMAS :

Okay, thank you.

1920 _____
M. DAVID POURREUX

LE PRÉSIDENT :

1925 Alors prochain et dernier intervenant, monsieur David Pourreux.

1930 Notre prochain et dernier intervenant des auditions des opinions... S'il vous plaît, s'il vous plaît. Merci. Donc, nous allons reprendre avec Monsieur David Pourreux. Monsieur Pourreux, bonsoir. Vous avez 10 minutes pour votre présentation. On vous écoute.