



February 13, 2018

Mayor and Council
City of Victoria

Re: the need for a level playing field

Dear Mayor and Council,

We would like to draw attention to an inequity that places neighbours at a disadvantage in presenting their land use concerns to Council.

The public is consistently reminded that their spoken and written comments must be in reference to a proposal, not the quality of a developer's work or his business reputation. Nevertheless, the same restrictions do not apply to comments that praise a developer.

For example, in the latest COW correspondence regarding 1201 Fort Street posted on the City website, several letters from writers associated with the developer included suspiciously similar phrases applauding him. At the very least, this amounts to free advertising. Attendees at the Oliphant public hearing also reported that many speakers were permitted to express admiration for that developer.

If it's inappropriate to criticize a developer, why is it acceptable to praise him?

In the interests of fairness, this inequity must be rectified without delay.

Sincerely,

Janet Simpson, President