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Manager and Director of Social Planning. Referred to Medical Health  
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## Greater Vancouver Mental Health Service Society

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
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Vancouver, B.C. V6H 1E7  
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April 11, 1990

Mayor and Council,  
City of Vancouver,  
453 West 12th Ave.,  
Vancouver, B.C.,  
V5Y 1V4

As chair of the Greater Vancouver Mental Health Service Society,  
I would like to bring your attention to the allocation of units  
for development of new residential resources for individuals who  
have a mental illness.

Only 89 units have been allocated for mental health for the whole  
of B.C. Vancouver and Richmond have been allocated 39 units.  
The whole of the Fraser Valley/North Shore region has been  
allocated only 14 units.

These allocations are completely inadequate given the need for  
housing for individuals who have a mental illness.

It is a simple fact that we cannot provide care for our clients  
in the community unless they are adequately housed. Lack of  
housing means that people with a serious mental illness will be  
less likely to stay in treatment, they will experience the  
increased symptoms of illness and their ability to cope in the  
community will deteriorate.

Our organization and City Council will face increasing concern  
and diminishing public support for mentally ill people in the  
community who are not adequately housed and, as a consequence,  
not in treatment.

The inadequate allocation of units has made it impossible for us  
to proceed with the development of much needed facilities in the  
current year. Proposals that we currently have from interested  
organizations cover the whole range of essential housing options:

apartment units	114	units
hotel	30	units
specialized residential care facilities	60	units
emergency beds:		
Lookout	25	units
Triage replacement	28	units
TOTAL:	<u>257</u>	units

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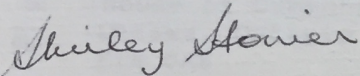
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Each of these proposals is both needed and appropriate.

I would like to request that City Council give consideration to making strong representation to the senior levels of government on the need for many more units for development of new housing.

I would also like to urge Council to continue to acquire building sites for projects like those listed above. While we may not be able to proceed with these projects this year, they remain a high priority and, if units are allocated will proceed next year.

Yours truly,



Shirley Stonier  
Chair  
Board of Directors

JR:sjg

cc: Friends of Schizophrenics