



Councillors sued over Heather Place vote

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Two Vancouver councillors are being accused of conflict of interest in a case involving the rezoning of a Metro Vancouver housing project.

On Tuesday a group of 11 Vancouver residents announced they had launched a lawsuit against councillors Geoff Meggs and Kerry Jang alleging they should have recused themselves from voting on a redevelopment of Heather Place, a public-housing project. Both Jang and Meggs are city representatives on the Greater Vancouver Housing Corporation, a Metro-owned subsidiary that operates a number of public housing projects across the region.

In April, Metro applied to Vancouver to rezone an aging 86-unit complex on Heather Street and replace it with 230 mixed-income units in three buildings. Council passed the rezoning, with Jang and Meggs voting in favour.

Erik Whiteway, president of the Vancouver General Hospital Neighbourhood Association and one of the 11 petitioners, said the Vancouver Charter makes it clear that the councillors should not have voted on the project.

"You are in conflict of interest when you have duties that are in conflict, and being on the board of a corporation that is applying for zoning variances and changes puts you in conflict with being the person who decides if those zoning variances are appropriate," Whiteway said. " jefflee@vancouver.sun.com [Twitter.com/sunciviclee](https://twitter.com/sunciviclee) Blog: vancouver.sun.com/jefflee

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