

Castro, Maria

From: Mayor and Council Correspondence
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:17 AM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: FW: Public Hearing re. 2106 - 2138 Main St.

From: Jill Goldberg "s.22(1) Personal and Confidential"
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2017 5:37 PM
To: Mayor and Council Correspondence
Subject: Public Hearing re. 2106 - 2138 Main St.

Dear Mr. Mayor and Council:

I write today regarding the proposed new condo development at 2106 - 2138 Main St.

I may be unable to attend the public hearing; however, wish for the following concerns to be addressed during your deliberations.

1) As a resident of East 5th Ave. "s.22(1) Personal and Confidential", I have observed an increase in traffic in this area, resulting in much needed changes in traffic signals. As you are likely aware, the intersection at Main St. and 5th Ave. is currently a pedestrian controlled intersection, and it is often difficult to cross Main St. when driving east or west on 5th, and it is even more challenging, sometimes even dangerous to make a left from 5th onto Main St. This is due to both the irregular changing of the light in favour of those on 5th: when I am driving, I frequently have to ask a pedestrian to press the button for me, and it is also because of the brevity of the pedestrian signal allowing pedestrians to cross Main St. The crossing signal lasts for six full seconds before the "do not cross" hand begins to flash. This barely allows for pedestrians to cross: in the past I have helped an elderly neighbour across this intersection and she could not make it in time. This also puts pressure on those drivers trying to make a left from 5th to move into the intersection while pedestrians are still crossing, and sometimes while traffic is still moving east/west. I have witnessed many near-misses because of these two factors of the infrequency of the signal change and the short amount of time given to cross Main or make a left onto Main from 5th.

I hope you will consider changing this intersection so that motorists do not have to rely on pedestrians to be able to cross Main St. or make a left, and I hope you will also elongate the amount of time allotted to the east west crossing signal.

2) The intersection at 5th and Scotia is a two-way stop (as are many in the neighbourhood). With the number of cars parked on the streets, it is frequently challenging to see into the intersection without creeping past the parked cars to properly view oncoming traffic. This, obviously, causes a dangerous situation. It has happened more than once that I have crept past the stop sign, craned my neck to see if there were oncoming cars, only to put myself and the motorist headed in my direction at risk of a collision.

I strongly recommend turning the two-way stops into four-way stops in the vicinity of this new building.

3) I also hope you will consider increasing the frequency of the Main St. bus service.

4) A broader issue is the matter of affordable housing in this neighbourhood. I currently rent in the neighbourhood, and enjoy the area, having created close community ties here. Were I to buy, I would be unlikely to be able to stay in this neighbourhood, in part due to the rapid influx of new developments whose prices are out of my range.

Community is not created, as developers suggest in their advertising, by buying into a condo development, but by making and maintaining connections to local people, institutions, and businesses. As Vancouver grows ever-less affordable, neighbourhoods like Mount Pleasant will be cleaned out, and left only for those with very high incomes (and I have a job with a very decent salary, but still can barely live in the city I serve through my work). This will ultimately contribute to the fragmentation of real community as those of us who cannot afford to stay let go our established networks and part ways, while those who can afford to, move in and smother an eclectic neighbourhood with socio-economic homogeneity.

5) The proposed building looks like some kind of neo-communist architectural monstrosity. Why must everything in Vancouver look so graceless and uninviting?

Thank you for taking the time to consider my comments.

Yours sincerely,

Jill Goldberg