

Ludwig, Nicole

From: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 9:27 AM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: FW: York Theatre West Coast Reduction sign

From: Michel Drouin s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Sent: Sunday, January 19, 2014 3:42 PM
To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Subject: York Theatre West Coast Reduction sign

January 19, 2014

To Mayor and Council,

Hello,

My name is Michel Drouin I am a resident at s.22(1) Personal and Confidential in East Vancouver with my wife Juliane. We have been in our home here since 1988.

I am writing to object to the potential of West Coast Reduction (WCR) having its name prominently displayed on the York Theatre on Commercial Drive.

Every summer since we moved in we have been assaulted by the stench of burning rotten flesh coming on the northwest wind from West Coast Reduction's rendering plant.

Repeated attempts by the community to have the company work harder to control its emissions have been sabotaged by the company through various means. The company seems more interested in public relations campaigns than spending money to upgrade emission controls.

The most recent event was in one 2008 when the neighbourhood opposed the conditions of WCR's air permit with Metro Vancouver as being too lenient and forced the company to undergo scrutiny by the B.C. Environmental Appeal board .

The neighbourhood had no funding and though the generosity of West Coast Environmental law retained the services of one lawyer who was able to put some time in working on a presentation to the appeal board.

WCR on the other hand was able to employ a top legal firm that appeared at the board with a team of lawyers and research material that then proceeded to dismantle the neighborhood's position with every trick in the book including personal attacks on members of the Stop the Stink committee.

Anyone openly objecting to the stench from the plant was labeled a member of a "small minority" or a "group of residents" or "newcomers."

After meetings in 2008, the Environmental Appeal Board took 18 months to reach a decision and in the end in March 2010 sided with the company, saying the complainants spoke for a small percentage of the population.

The stink from the plant has not been reduced.

In 2012 alone in one weekend 50 people called metro Vancouver to complain about the smell from West Coast Reduction. There were 469 complaints that year.

Is that a small percentage of the population?

I maintain that if even one family is inconvenienced, never mind 50 over two days, that is a significant impact on the enjoyment of one's home, particularly in the summer when we can't even have a backyard barbeque due to the nauseous stench.

Therefore I would say that WCR is a bad corporate neighbour and I strongly object to the company attempting to purchase good PR in the city by buying a slot for its name on the York Theatre.

I would suggest that if the company wishes to purchase goodwill in the community that it spend the money on emission reduction equipment.

Sincerely,

Michel Drouin