

Tuerlings, Leslie

From: Randal Helten s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Sent: Tuesday, July 08, 2014 6:04 PM
To: Public Hearing
Cc: Robertson, Gregor; Affleck, George; Ball, Elizabeth; Carr, Adriane; Tang, Tony; Jang, Kerry; Reimer, Andrea; Stevenson, Tim; Meggs, Geoff; Deal, Heather; Louie, Raymond
Subject: Public Hearing item 2, July 8, 2014: 5805 Wales Avenue, Avalonna Homes: Asymmetrical Info Disclosure

Mayor and Council,

I am writing to request that you rectify problems with asymmetrical information disclosure that favours developers at the expense of the citizens of Vancouver.

This is regarding agenda #2 for today's Public Hearing, the rezoning of 5085 Wales Avenue as a specific example. My comments are neither for nor against the application, but to illustrate a problem with asymmetrical information disclosure in City of Vancouver processes relating to rezoning and development applications.

I ask that you review the matter and rectify it, starting with this rezoning at this Public Hearing, by asking the agent to provide for City Council and the Public Hearing the actual names and spellings of the principal individuals who own the applicant's company. I also ask that you make this part of City policy in the future.

Asymmetrical Information Disclosure

At the most fundamental level, what our civic government is condoning is asymmetrical information disclosure, with the imbalance being in favour of the applicant, and to the disadvantage of the public. It is not fair. New rules introduced by the current City Council prevent a citizen from speaking at a public hearing on another person's behalf (unless that person is identified and IN the room). A citizen who writes to City Council for a Public Hearing -- whether in support, opposed, or "other" -- is required to provide the City one's personal name and address. The City website publishes online the name of every such individual. But meanwhile, City rules permit numbered or opaque companies to apply for multi-million dollar rezonings and development applications with significant impacts on citizens. In many cases, the name of the individuals involved are never disclosed. Architects or other agents are permitted to provide a veil of secrecy for the true applicants. The public deserves to know who is applying and benefiting from Council approvals of changes in land use that are typically very lucrative.

Sincerely,
Randy Helten

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