

Ludwig, Nicole

From: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2015 2:43 PM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: FW: 1335 Howe Street Amendments to the Zoning and Development By-law.

From: Roberto Palomino s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2015 12:03 PM
To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Subject: 1335 Howe Street Amendments to the Zoning and Development By-law.

Attention: Mr Mayor and council of the city of Vancouver.

Reference: 1335 Howe Street Amendments to the Zoning and Development By-law.

Our concern is the trend taken by the City of Vancouver on the zoning amendments in order to increase the urban density, specifically in the downtown core.

It is a known fact that Vancouver is one of North America's cities with the worst commuting situation, this is, obviously, aggravated by the higher density of the area, especially on the North side of False Creek.

Vancouver tries to give the image to the world of a green city, where the ecological and environmental responsibilities are top priorities to meet the challenges set by the Paris convention on climate change, all that seems to be proven by the attendance of our Mayor, Mr. Gregor Robertson, to such convention.

The increase of the density in the downtown area brings the fact that the flow of the traffic will increase dramatically as well as the parking facilities on the area. This will bring a slow traffic flow which will generate more unwanted obnoxious fumes and ozone to the atmosphere; in addition to that, the traffic congestion is making the drivers more edgy and unhappy, according to the latest polls. We can also see that the main arteries of the city and the limited availability of bridges are already very congested.

Just for your reference: The city of Berlin, in Germany, has three rivers and 1,600 bridges.

The proximity of high towers brings an impediment for the sun and limits the vital space to be enjoyed by the majority of residents. I am afraid that if we continue this trend we will lose one of the elements which make our city so beautiful and so desirable.

We understand that the city is trying to meet the demand for the increase of the number of people arriving and settling in our city; however the high rise buildings can and should be shared among the different neighborhoods of Vancouver, not just downtown. This will be more effective if the new towers are built south and east of False Creek that will ease the traffic on the three existing bridges over the False Creek. The planning could be such that the space in between buildings could be set to one tower every five to ten blocks thus allowing the residents to enjoy the sun, the vital space, parking availability etc., to be more to the service of the majority of Vancouverites and not just to benefit some developers or persons or groups with particular interest.

For the above reason we do ask Mr. Mayor and the City Council not to amend the Zoning and Development By-law on the 1335 Howe Street Project.

We thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Roberto and María Teresa Palomino

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