

June 20, 2019

Your Worship and Councilors,

Thank you for the opportunity to address you this evening about my concerns for the proposed development next door to VHS. My <sup>husband</sup> partner told me yesterday morning that a reporter was speaking to Stephen Quinn on CBC radio. My partner's impression from the report was that mostly a lot of "old elites" were speaking to you about this proposal. I may be old but I'm not elite.

My name is Pat Richardson and I am a palliative care RN. I have provided palliative care to people in Vancouver over the last decades in a variety of settings and roles including palliative care nurse on Consult teams at VGH and PHC, home care nurse in the community and in the past Clinical Lead at Marion Hospice which has subsequently moved out to SJH near UBC. At present I am officially retired, as of June 6, from Vancouver Hospice Society where I have been the Clinical Nurse Coordinator for a little over a year and a half.

My concerns for the development of the property next door are mostly practical.

1. Access – the lane way. We have traffic congestion now with delivery vehicles, recycling and garbage trucks, ambulances, hearses and people who live in the neighbourhood. At any given time, someone may be backing up to make way for someone else. The increased congestion will frustrate and disrupt clients trying to move into our hospice and family members trying to visit their loved ones. The arrival and departure of hearses will also be more challenging and time-consuming.
2. Closure – the hospice may have to close during construction. The closure could occur if the construction noise – from demolition of the existing building, pouring of concrete for a 32 car parkage, nailing wood frame etc- makes our hospice unlivable. This would mean Vancouver would lose about 25% of our hospice beds for possibly a year or more. I know this would greatly affect services for clients/patients throughout Vancouver.
3. Noise – Noise is a huge issue, not only during construction but also once the building opens. Twenty-one new households will inevitably result in much more activity and noise. Dying people have told me that they value peace, quiet and comfort. I'm here to present their wishes to you tonight as well.

Having some degree of quiet is a quality of life issue – particularly for those who are dying.

I'm aware that you have been provided with data, but I would like to provide you with a snapshot of the people and families that we have served for the first three months of this year.

STATS Length of Stay (average LOS)

January – 24.25 days

February – 17 days

March – 18 days

The vast majority of those we serve come from all over Vancouver. Also, at any given time we generally have 2 – 4/8 people who have no English or minimal English. There may be a myth that this is a private west side hospice – but I can assure you that this is not the case.

One of our best assets is that we are located centrally and on a bus line that can be accessed readily by families. This is especially important as we also offer bereavement counseling and provide grief support to those who live throughout Vancouver. I do not have the statistics for this, but I am aware of the increasing number of people we serve.

Regarding our children population. It was kind of the developer to offer the use of the proposed playground, but we actually have few children visiting and those who do are usually immersed in the world of their loved one and want to spend intimate moments with those they love. Most of our clients/patients are not able to get out of bed. We do have a play area in our basement.

Thank you your Worship and Councilors for your time and attention. I hope you will consider these thoughts on values, risk and benefit and dignity for a healthy city.

Sincerely,

Pat Richardson RN