

ATTENTION: City Clerk  
Richmond City Hall

<b>To Public Hearing</b>
Date: <u>April 19, 2004</u>
Item # <u>12</u>
Re: <u>Bylaws 7686 + 7671</u>
<u>Heather + Ash</u>
<u>(Polygon<sup>43</sup>Ltd.)</u>

April 16, 2004

**RE: Zoning Amendment Bylaws 7686 and 7671 (RZ 03-254676)**

I am affected by and object to the above proposed rezoning.

I have lived on Ash Street most of my life. I love this neighbourhood and intend to continue living here. I realize that change takes place and certainly in this moment that has accelerated. The neighbourhood is transforming quickly but I had assumed with good stewardship.

Richmond has a good urban planning department that consults with stakeholders in neighbourhoods and includes their visions in the planning process. (When I say stakeholders I mean those that actually live and want to continue to live in a neighbourhood, not those individuals that profit from development but live elsewhere.) So was there such a process in this area. People who live here were consulted and invited to be part of the planning process and in that way help to create a new neighbourhood, one that sprang from the community: a neighbourhood with heart, a neighbourhood that balanced being inclusive with retaining what is special about the area.

Why then is this rezoning proposal even being entertained? Over and over the people in this area were polled and over and over they said - lesser density - than what was originally proposed by the planning department. Now residents of one area of the neighbourhood (my parents live on the same street but they didn't receive this notice, so I am assuming it was not widely distributed) get a notice with a very short response time. Most residents of the area have no chance to respond even though all are affected by significant changes in the character of our neighbourhood.

I support the concept of a mix of housing styles, retaining the character of the neighbourhood instead of eradicating it. The plan for this area, utilizing a consultative process, does include a good mix of housing styles. It's what the residents wanted. If a plan is made, especially one that is created through resident participants, why then does that plan not count for anything? My greatest fear is that this area will become another Saint Albans. Wall to wall townhouses do not make for a great neighbourhood.

I understand that a developer has bought up a large block of properties, clearly with the intention that rezoning will take place. It does make a good case to have so many pieces of land assembled, but I assert that making the proposed rezoning change is not the right thing to do. I feel that if a consultative process is used and a plan is created based on that, then that plan should be respected.

Respectively submitted by:

Sharon MacGougan  
7411 Ash Street

