

Report to Committee

To:

Planning Committee

Date:

February 16, 2004

From:

Re:

Holger Burke, MCIP

File:

RZ 03-238768

Acting Manager, Development Applications

APPLICATION BY W. T. LEUNG ARCHITECTS INC. FOR REZONING 6311 AND

6331 COONEY ROAD FROM TOWNHOUSE DISTRICT (R2) TO DOWNTOWN

COMMERCIAL DISTRICT (C7)

Staff Recommendation

That Bylaw No. 7670, for the rezoning of 6311 and 6331 Cooney Road from "Townhouse District (R2)" to "Downtown Commercial District (C7)", be introduced and given first reading.

Holger Burke, MCIP

Acting Manager, Development Applications

HB:ef Att. 3

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY

CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER

Staff Report

- 2 -

Origin

W.T. Leung Architects Inc.has applied to the City of Richmond for permission to rezone 6311 and 6331 Cooney Road (Attachment 1) from Townhouse District (R2) to Downtown Commercial District (C7) in order to permit the construction of a twelve-storey high-rise building with approximately 34 dwelling units at a floor area ratio of 2.65. (Attachment 2)

There has been a previous application for rezoning 6311, 6331, 6351, and 6371 Cooney Road (RZ 95-000110), which included both the subject site and the two lots to the south. The proposal was for the development of a 16 storey residential tower. The staff report recommended that the application be denied. The major concerns were the density, bulkiness of the building, and relationship to the public realm and neighbouring development. Staff recommended that the proposal be modified to achieve a slimmer tower profile and a reduction in the floor area ratio to no more than 2.0, in order to achieve development parameters. At the Council Meeting of December 9, 1996, Council referred the application to staff for further review. No further progress was made on the application and the file was closed in April 1999.

Findings of Fact

ltem	Existing	Proposed			
Owner	Algear Properties Ltd.	No change			
Applicant	W. T.	Leung Architects Inc.			
Site Size	1,642 m ² (17,674 ft ²)	1,637.5 m ² (17,626.5 ft ²)			
		Reduction for 0.11 m road dedication (approximately) along east property line			
Land Uses	Two Single-family Homes	12-storey multiple-family residential building containing 34 dwelling units			
OCP Designation	Neighbourhood Residential	No change			
Area Plan:	Residential	No change			
City Centre					
Zoning	Townhouse District (R2) The intent of this zoning district is to accommodate townhouses.	Downtown Commercial District (C7) The intent of this zoning district is to provide for the downtown shopping, personal service, business, entertainment and residential demands of the City. To a maximum 3.0 FAR. Proposed: 2.65 FAR			
Parking Required	1.5 :	spaces/unit x 34 = 51			
• For C7	0.2 spaces/unit x 34 = 7				
	1.7 spaces/unit x 34 = 58				
Parking Proposed	1.5 spaces/unit x 34 = 49				
• For C7		spaces/unit x 34 = 7			
		spaces/unit x 34 = 56			
		of parking for multiple-family development in the development of a transit oriented neighbourhood.			

Staff Comments

Context

The site is located in the Cook Neighbourhood within the Downtown Local Area of the City Centre District. The site consists of two of the four remaining single-family residential lots on the west side of Cooney Road. To the north is a recently developed high-rise residential building, zoned C7. To the west on large lots extending to Buswell Street are existing large floor plate four-storey apartment buildings, zoned R3. To the south, on Cooney Road and extending to Cook Road, are R2 zoned townhouses.

Policy Planning

Staff have met with the applicant on several occasions prior to the rezoning application submittal. The owner has been unable to buy the lots to the south, so he has not been able to assemble all four single-family lots, which was his goal. This application is proposing to rezone from townhouse to a high rise zone. The City Centre Plan for this sub-area promotes a mix of multi-family housing forms, including high-rise, in an urban setting. The proposed density would support the City objective of increasing housing capacity to meet future housing needs.

The Downtown Commercial District (C7), which provides for a full range of commercial, business and residential uses, is proposed by staff for this site in order to provide continuity with the adjacent zoning for the residential tower site to the north. However, as the City Centre Plan designates the subject site as Residential, a covenant will be required to restrict non-residential uses on the site.

High-density, high-rise development is appropriate for this location, within the heart of the emerging City Centre residential neighbourhood. The challenge has been to provide an acceptable form of development for this small site, and to minimize impacts on the neighbours. The proposal has been revised from its initial proposal to respond to the concerns of the neighbours, and has produced a generally successful urban form and massing.

Issues which have been addressed in the revised submission include (Attachment 2):

- The applicant has redesigned the townhouses in the podium to direct more living spaces facing the street;
- Improvements to the livability of the townhouses, which have been raised to improve their privacy and usefulness;
- Slimming of the proposed tower to achieve the Development Permit Guideline minimum required spacing of 24 m (78.7 ft.) between towers, for both the existing tower to the north and possible future residential towers on the south and west;
- The Development Permit Guideline requires a tower setback from the podium. Staff support the proposed variance in this case, as the portion of tower which extends to the podium frontage is a relatively small proportion of the overall street-wall, which provides an appropriate continuous two-storey residential frontage with a setback at the third storey;
- A reduction in driveways from Cooney Road;
- The parking access will now be located at the south edge of the property and will be designed as a lane (open to the sky). The parking entry will be at the back of the property and the

- development will provide access to a future north-south lane to Cook Road. The applicant will provide a Public Rights-of-Passage Right-of-Way as a public benefit contribution.
- There is a sewer Right-of-Way at the west property line. The applicant has addressed it by providing a 1.5 m (5 ft) building setback from the property line. The Right-of-Way is to be registered as a Public Rights of Passage should it be needed for a future north-south lane for a future development on the deep site to the west, which would contribute the remaining lane width to either 6 m or 9 m, as required.
- The applicant has agreed that the building podium will be set back from the north and west property lines to allow for landscaping. The landscaping should be designed to mitigate the blank walls of the parking podium. The sewer Right-of-Way may preclude trees from being planted in the landscaping setback.

Transportation

- To discourage loading or stopping on Cooney Road, the developer is to provide physical measures such as dense planting of shrubs along the length of the frontage on the boulevard.
- There will be no stopping permitted on Cooney Road in the future.
- Applicant is providing a 6 m Public Rights-of-Passage Right-of-Way along the entire south property line, for a future lane. The lane would be widened to City Centre standard of 9 m with the future development of the property to the south.
- On-site loading is required to accommodate a moving truck to City standards (WB-17) and meeting vertical clearance standards, as well.
- The applicant is required to provide a "parking during construction plan" (parking for workers, services, etc), noting there is to be no parking on Cooney Road and parking on Spires Gate will not be acceptable.
- Staff support a relaxation of parking for multiple-family development in the City Centre to promote the development of a transit oriented neighbourhood. The typical standard which has been used is a reduction for one bedroom units from 1.5 spaces per unit to 1.0 space per unit. For this project, with six proposed one-bedroom units, the reduction in parking would be for three spaces (a relaxation of two spaces at the Development Permit stage is requested).

Engineering

Prior to final adoption the following shall be done:

- The two lots shall be consolidated into one development parcel.
- Road dedication of 0.11 m plus an agreed upon extra width at the north property line (as either dedication or Public Rights of Passage) to accommodate a power pole at about 1.8 m behind the existing curb, which will be now part of the relocated sidewalk. To move the pole into the future boulevard, the wires will conflict with the trees, so staff suggest the new sidewalk meander an additional 0.3 m to 0.5 m into the development site. Consultation with the developer's Engineering consultant is required to finalize the exact size and location of the dedication.
- Granting of a 6 m Public Rights of Passage Right-of-Way for laneway across the entire south edge of the site. (A future 3 m Public Rights of Passage Right-of-Way will be required from the north edge of 6351 Cooney when it redevelops, to complete to standard City Centre 9 m lane works.)

Then prior to issuance of the Building Permit, the developer is to enter into the City's standard Servicing Agreement for offsite beautification along their Cooney Road frontage and for lane construction. Works include, but are not limited to, removing the existing sidewalk and replacing with a 1.5 m paved boulevard, with a 1.5 m concrete sidewalk behind that (the back of which will be at the new property line.). In the new boulevard, provide City Centre street lights and trees with grates. This is a continuation of the existing frontage works to the north. The lane works are to be to City Centre standard. Works include roll curb and gutter on the north edge (the south edge is to be widened in the future complete with sidewalk, as noted above), City Centre laneway lighting per standard L12.1, and storm sewer. All works are at the developer's sole cost, with no credit available. It is recommended that the applicant retain a Civil Engineer to resolve the power pole issue noted above.

Public Notification

A site sign was installed on the site on July 11, 2003. To date, staff have received four letters from individuals, a letter from a Strata Council, and a petition signed by 27 neighbouring residents. All of the respondents oppose the project. The following concerns were expressed:

- View blockage
- Loss of sunlight
- Lot size not appropriate for a high-rise
- Too many high-rise buildings in neighbourhood
- Increased traffic congestion would result
- Tower is located too close to neighbouring buildings
- Fire hazard

Open House: The applicant organized a Public Information Meeting at Cook Elementary School for the neighbouring properties, held December 3, 2003. Notification was sent to 1,093 households and 320 business addresses. The invitation was written in both English and Chinese, and a translator was available at the Open House. Ten people attended the open house.

Staff Response to Concerns: The tower location and configuration are consistent with City Centre design guidelines, which establish minimum tower spacing to minimize impacts on neighbouring sunlight, views and privacy. Staff have concluded that the proposal is compatible with the adjacent residential towers and the neighbouring low rise residential buildings, with a lane providing a buffer to the existing homes to the south. The proposed provision of 34 dwelling units on the site is consistent with population forecasts for the City Centre, and transportation networks have been designed for this increased capacity.

Analysis

- The proposed project and its construction of a portion of a lane network to serve the block between Buswell Street and Cooney Road are consistent with Richmond's planning and development objectives. The project is expected to be an attractive and fitting addition to the City Centre's Downtown multiple-family neighbourhood.
- The applicant's proposal for a public gallery space for exhibiting community art is an appropriate public benefit. Legal agreements are required to secure the gallery space and associated outdoor sculpture garden for non-commercial public use.

- The project requires rezoning to Downtown Commercial District (C7) to permit a maximum floor area ratio (FAR) of 3.0 on the site, the accepted maximum density for the City Centre Area, and to permit a form of development (height, setbacks, and site coverage) consistent with the adjacent downtown development.
- The proposed application has addressed the concerns that were made with regard to the previous application for rezoning of this site, in 1995, and has proposed a tower that is slimmer, shorter and with an improved public realm relationship. Staff recommend support for the subject application.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Rezoning of the subject site as proposed conforms to citywide and City Centre objectives for residential growth and merits favourable consideration.



Eric Fiss, MCIP Community Planner - Urban Design

EF:ef

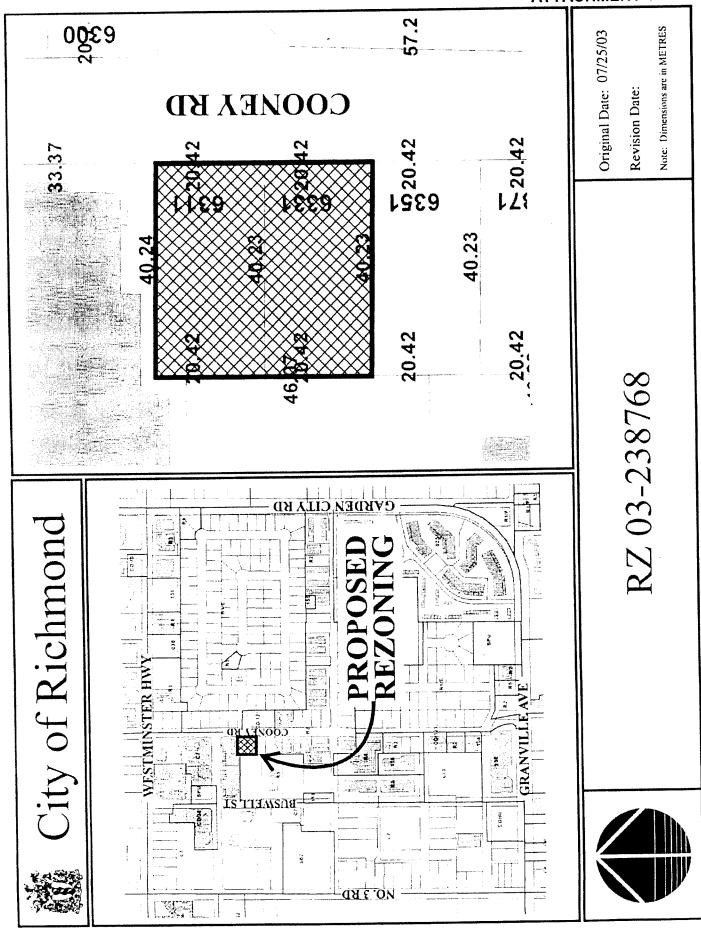
There are requirements to be dealt with prior to final adoption: Legal requirement, specifically:

- The two lots shall be consolidated into one development parcel;
- Dedication of 0.11 m for Cooney Road plus an agreed upon extra width at the north property line to accommodate a power pole at about 1.8 m behind the existing curb, which will be now part of the relocated sidewalk. Consultation with the developer's Engineering consultant is required to finalize the exact size and location of the dedication.
- Granting of a 6 m Public Rights of Passage Right-of-Way for lane across the entire south edge of the site
- Registration of a covenant to restrict non-residential uses on site. Permitted uses are to be limited to Residential, including Congregate Housing; Boarding & Lodging, limited to two persons per dwelling unit; Home Occupation; Studio, for artist or display; and Accessory Uses, but excluding secondary suites;
- Registration of a restrictive covenant agreeing to provide an acoustic report recommending the incorporation of adequate sound measures against aircraft noise;
- Registration of a 1.5 m Public Rights of Passage Right-of-Way along the entire west property line for a future north-south lane; and
- Registration of a covenant, in consultation with the City, to secure the gallery space and associated outdoor sculpture
 garden for non-commercial public use to be made available to community arts groups for non-commercial art studio
 space or exhibitions, only.

Development requirements, specifically:

- Demolition of any existing structures on the subject properties;
- The applicant is required to provide a "parking during construction plan" (parking for workers, services, etc), noting there is to be no parking on Cooney Road and parking on Spires Gate will not be acceptable;
- Contribute funds towards the City's Affordable Housing Reserve at the rate of \$0.60 per buildable square foot (e.g. approximately \$28,100) of the proposed project, excluding parking, and
- Processing of a Development Permit application to the satisfaction of the Manager of Development Applications.

ATTACHMENT 1



W. T. LEUNG

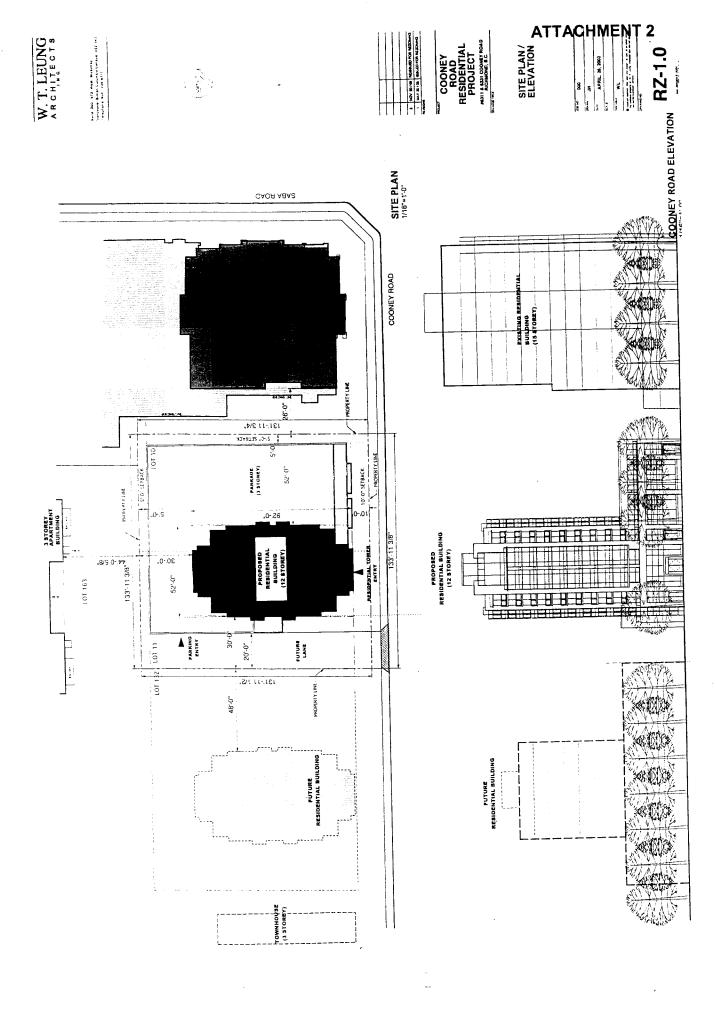
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RZ-0.0



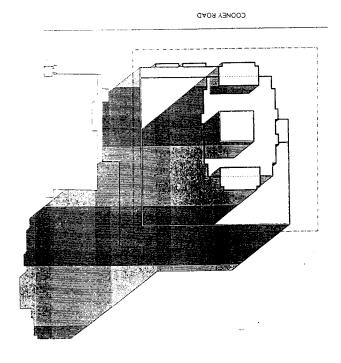
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SEPTEMBER 22 / MARCH 22 2PM

SHADOW DIAGRAM

SEPTEMBER 22 / MARCH 22 12AM

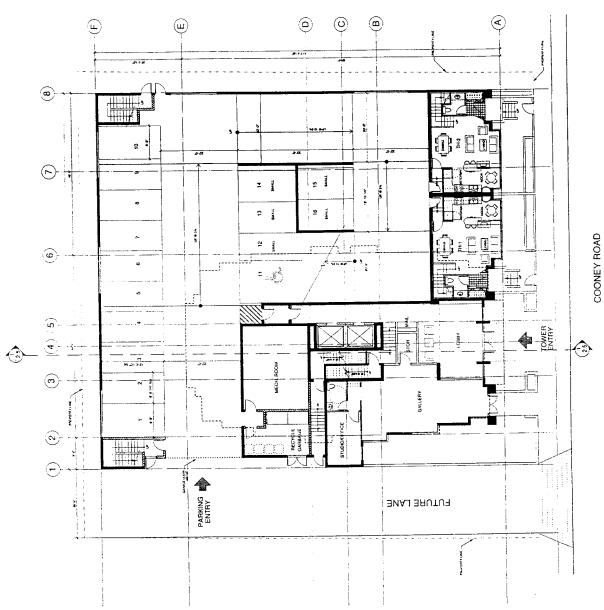
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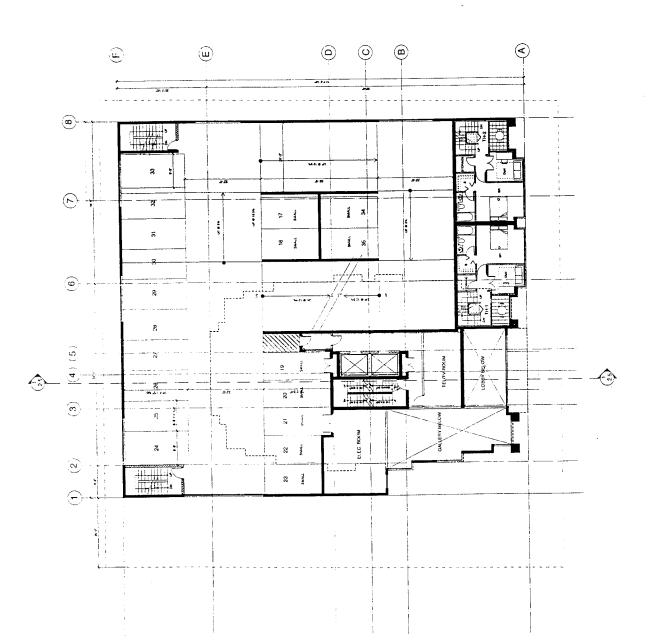












W. T. LEUNG

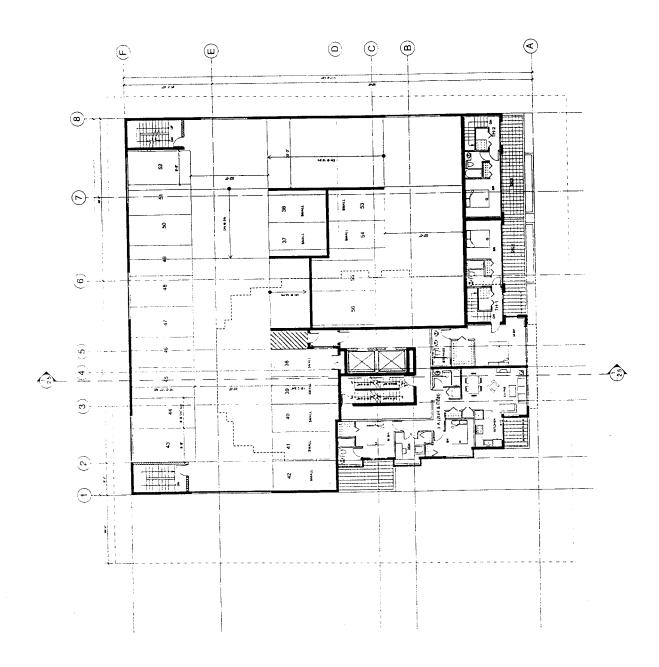
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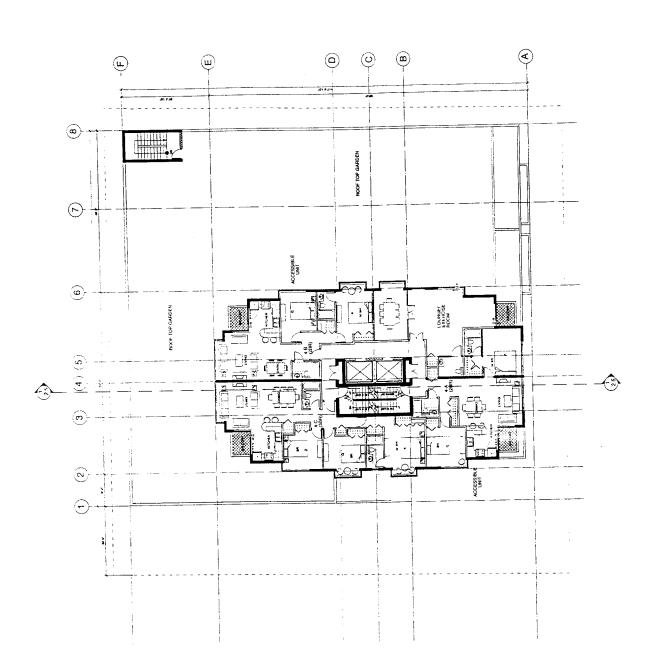


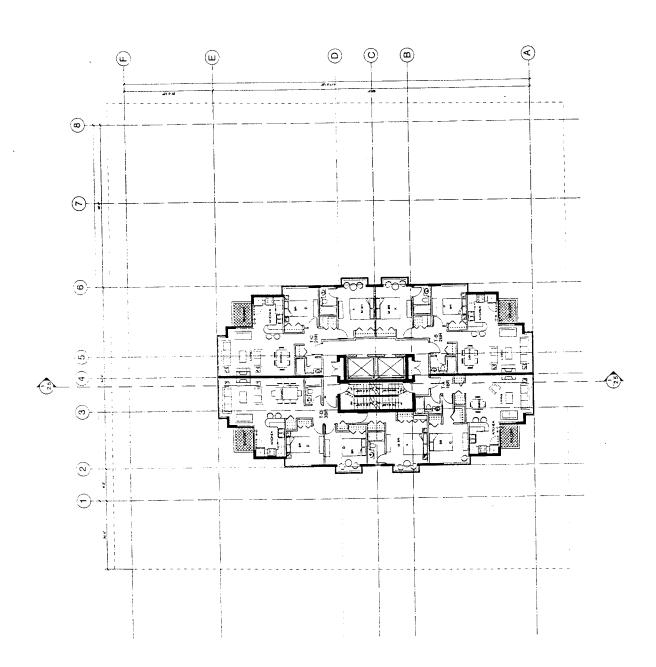
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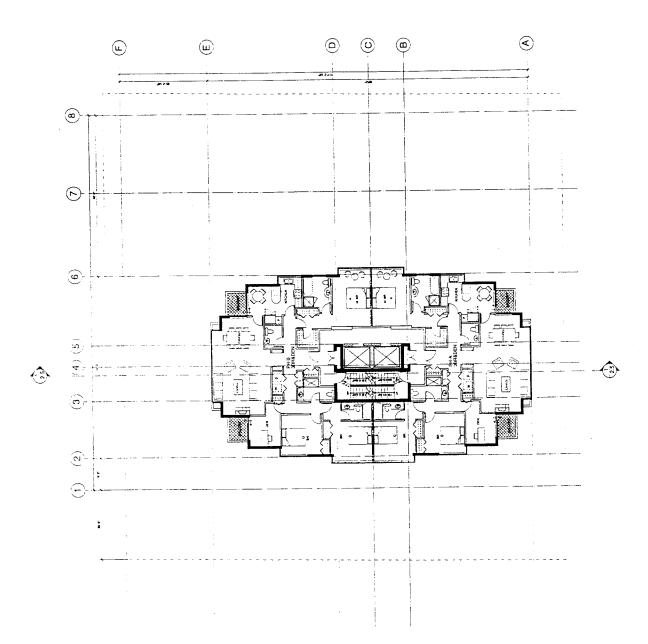


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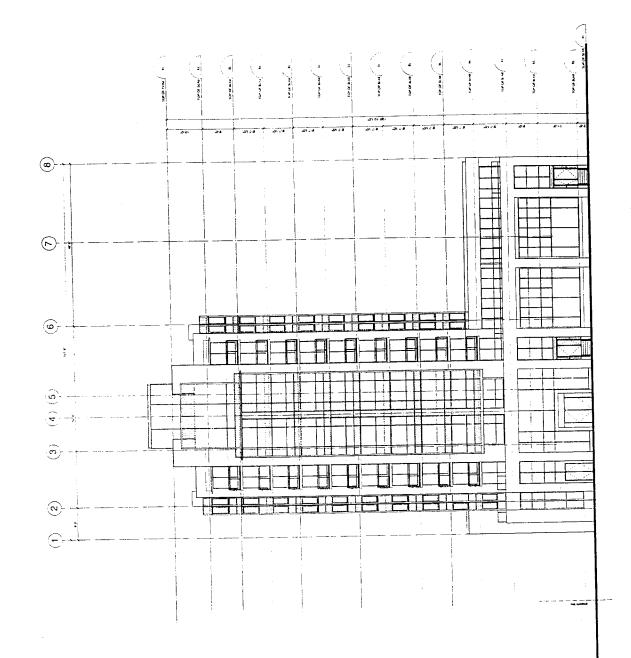
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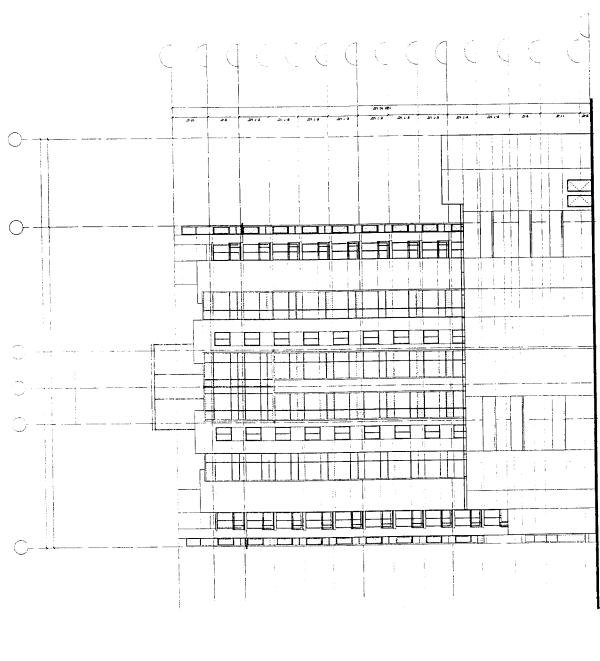


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W. T. LEUNG

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W. T. LEUNC

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COONEY ROAD RESIDENTIAL PROJECT

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RZ-2.4

Henry Yau

808 – 8288 Saba Road Richmond BC V6Y 4C8

Rec'd Aug 1/03

July 30, 2003

Halger Burke
Development Application Dept
City of Richmond
6911 Number 3 Road
Richmond
V6Y 4C1

Dear Sir.

It has caught our attention that 6311 and 6331 of Cooney Street applied for rezone (file # RZ 03-238768) to build a twelve story structure. It is our concern that this structure will effectively shut off our view to the south and completely block off the sunlight from the south. With such a close proximity to our building that there may be fire hazard and traffic congestion.

Sincerely,

H. Ken

Henry Yau

1602	Bert	604-821-1019
1502 603A	Partin Roh	604-803.6336 604-619-1896
1307	Martin Roh	604-214-3530
1302	D.Y. JEON	604-232-3366
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(604) ·232-0836 604-278-1685



Phone 604-257-0325

Fax 604-736-5044

August 7, 2003

Development Application Dept. City of Richmond 6911 Number 3 Road Richmond, BC V6Y 4C1 Attention: Mr. Halger Burke

Dear Mr. Burke,

RE: APPLICATION OF 6311 & 6331 COONEY ROAD, RICHMOND FILE # RZ 03 - 238768

We are instructed by the Strata Council of the Owners of The Chancellor at 8238 & 8288 Saba Road, Richmond to inform you that the owners oppose to the rezoning application for the above addresses, from Townhouse District (R2) to Comprehensive Development District Zone (CD).

The owners find that with the construction of a twelve storey complex, it would affect the southern view and block off the sunlight for the building of 8288 Saba Road. With such close proximity to our buildings, it could cause traffic congestion and even fire hazard.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

On behalf of Owners of Strata Plan LMS 2970

Ƙatie Khoo

Strata Property Agent

pc. Council

Councillor Bill McNulty, Planning Committee

Mrs Alice m. Mayhler 311-6340 Buswell St. Richmond, BC. V64261 August 28, 2003 Richmond City Hall 6911- #3 RdT Richmord, BC. V6/2C1 Dear Sir: of a Highrise on the property 63/1 and 633/600 cg & R. I. 03: 238768) which is directly behind me, my living room faces the back yard of the property. In 1996 I presented a petition signed by for the very same house nutribers. The Uman in charge of the flaming Deputment, told me the lost was not deep enough för a highrise, While being questioned at the meeting. Driplied, that I kigured they would build down houses - like the out faither down to oney Rå - towards Gook Road. Sincerely. Alice M1. M/ayhew.

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if really don't think the Island will sink, y do have confidence in our Richmond og enginers. will stack if building Continues.

Apriciated:
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To Richmond City Hall 6911- #3 Rd Richmond, B.C. V67 2C1

Shalom and Pora Labkovsky 6340 Bus well St # 315 Richmond, B.C. V6426

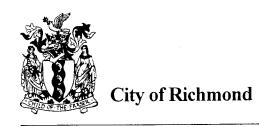
Attention Mr. Holgar Burke

Re: File # RZ03 238768 - application for rezoning 6311-6931 Cooney RA.

We strongly object to the construction of a 12 floor higherix right behind the building where we live.

Richmond, August 29, 2003

Respectfully |S. Lackovsky| & Lab porty



Richmond Zoning and Development Bylaw 5300 Amendment Bylaw 7670 (RZ 03-238768) 6311 AND 6331 COONEY ROAD

The Council of the City of Richmond, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1.	The Zoning Map of the City of Richmond, which accompanies and forms part of
	Richmond Zoning and Development Bylaw 5300, is amended by repealing the existing
	zoning designation of the following area and by designating it DOWNTOWN
	COMMERCIAL DISTRICT (C7).

P.I.D. 003-844-544

Lot 11 Section 9 Block 4 North Range 6 West New Westminster District Plan 15292

P.I.D. 004-048-512

Lot 10 Section 9 Block 4 North Range 6 West New Westminster District Plan 15292

2. This Bylaw may be cited as "Richmond Zoning and Development Bylaw 5300, Amendment Bylaw 7670".

FIRST READING	RIC	CHMON
A PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD ON	for or	conten riginati dept.
SECOND READING	AP	HB PROV
THIRD READING	by	Solici
OTHER REQUIREMENTS SATISFIED		
ADOPTED		
MAYOR	CITY CLERK	