

April 9, 2009

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City of Richmond  
Mayor's Office  
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C/o City Clerk's Office

Dear Mayor Malcolm Brodie,

I, Johann Baart, have become increasingly concerned over the impacts being incurred by long-time residents of the city living adjacent to laneways. As you are well aware, over the past several years the City of Richmond has begun a process of subdividing the old 60 foot lots adjacent to major streets, like Francis Road and Shell Road just to name a couple. The old laneways had grass on both sides and a symmetrically sloped lane profile. However, with the new construction, the houses are being built higher than before and all have sloping driveways that drain into the lanes. That would not be a problem except for the fact that there currently is no drainage system in place. Therefore, the water has nowhere to go except to create large pools in the alleyways. This creates multiple issues for long-time residents including but not limited to: flooding of property, accumulation of construction waste, freezing of the pools during cold weather and illegally parked vehicles of new residents and trades which block the right of way for city (garbage and recycling) trucks, not to mention create a potential hazard for emergency vehicles (police, fire and ambulance) as well as residents.

I recently attended the City's Open House where I took up some of my concerns with City Engineering representative Anthony Fu. Anthony recognized some of the concerns I had as well as those of other citizens, as being an ongoing problem that the Engineering Department is seeking to rectify. There I learned of the laneway drainage construction that is underway for a couple of areas within the city: Williams Road Lane (North side of Williams Road between No. 4 Road and Shell Road) and Seahurst Lane (North side of Steveston Highway between Shell Road and Seamount Road). He went on to explain that City Engineering is currently looking to prioritize which laneways should be done first. While I am glad to see that some efforts are underway to mitigate the problems residents all across the city are experiencing, it was concerning to me that neither a firm nor ballpark timetable for completion could be given for the rest of the city's laneways.

Your worship, on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 I wish to address City Council at its council meeting and bring these outstanding issues to the table. I would really appreciate the ear of council, as these problems have been ongoing for at least a year adjacent to my parent's property and perhaps for longer elsewhere in the city. I thank you very much for your time and look forward to speaking with you this coming Tuesday.

Sincerely,



Johann Baart

