

City of Richmond Planning and Development Department

Report to **Development Permit Panel**

To:

Development Permit Panel

Date:

March 22, 2010

From:

Brian J. Jackson, MCIP

File:

DP 09-493613

Director of Development

Re:

Application by Penta Homes (Princess Lane) Ltd. for a Development Permit at

6451 Princess Lane

Staff Recommendation

That a Development Permit be issued which would:

- 1. Permit the construction of 18 apartment housing units over a parking structure at 6451 Princess Lane on a site zoned Town Housing (ZT43); and
- 2. Vary the provisions of Richmond Zoning Bylaw 8500 to increase the maximum lot coverage for apartment housing from 35% to 36%.

Brian J. Jackson, MCIP Director of Development

EL.blg Att.

Staff Report

Origin

Penta Homes (Princess Lane) Ltd. has applied to the City of Richmond for permission to develop 18 apartment housing units over a parking structure at 6451 Princess Lane on a site zoned Town Housing (ZT43). The site is currently vacant.

The site is being rezoned from Light Industrial (IL) and Single Detached Heritage (ZS1) to Town Housing (ZT43) for this project under Bylaw 8545 (RZ 08-431606). Required road and infrastructure improvements were identified at the rezoning stage and will be constructed through Servicing Agreement (SA 08-434944).

Development Information

Please refer to the attached Development Application Data Sheet (Attachment 1) for a comparison of the proposed development data with the relevant bylaw requirements.

Background

Development surrounding the subject site is as follows:

To the North: Recently developed single-family lots zoned Town Housing (ZT43);

To the East: Agricultural uses within the Agricultural Land Reserved, zoned

Agriculture (AG1);

To the South: A heritage style duplex on property zoned Heritage Two-Unit Dwelling (ZD1)

and a heritage home on property zoned Single Detached Heritage (ZS1); and

To the West: Recently developed detached townhouses on property zoned

Town Housing (ZT43).

Rezoning and Public Hearing Results

The Public Hearing for the rezoning of this site was held on November 16, 2009. No concerns about rezoning were expressed at the Public Hearing.

Staff Comments

The proposed scheme attached to this report has satisfactorily addressed the significant urban design issues and other staff comments identified as part of the review of the subject Development Permit application. In addition, it complies with the intent of the applicable sections of the Official Community Plan (OCP) and is generally in compliance with Town Housing (ZT43) except for the zoning variances noted below.

Zoning Compliance/Variances (staff comments in bold)

The applicant requests to vary the provisions of the Richmond Zoning Bylaw 8500 to increase the maximum lot coverage for Apartment Housing from 35% 36.4%.

(Staff supports the proposed variance, as it is a minor variance, which allows for more usable covered front porches on the west side of the buildings. The front porches help create a pedestrian-friendly streetscape along the laneway and increase natural surveillance opportunity on the west side of the buildings.)

Advisory Design Panel Comments

The development proposal was reviewed by the Advisory Design Panel on November 18, 2009. A copy of the relevant excerpt from the Advisory Design Panel Minutes is attached for reference (Attachment 2). The design response from the applicant has been included immediately following the specific Design Panel comments and is identified in 'bold italics'.

Analysis

Conditions of Adjacency

- The development site is bordered by Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) on its east side; hence, an ALR buffer along the east property is required. The proposed setbacks of building, parking structure and stairs to the ALR boundary, as well as the proposed landscape plan for the ALR Buffer area (east of the proposed parking structure) have been reviewed and are supported by the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC). The details of the buffer are set out under the "landscape design" section.
- The proposed height, siting and orientation of the buildings respect the massing of the existing single-family and two-unit dwellings to the north and south, as well as the multiple-family developments to the west.
- The proposed parking structure is set back 3 m from the south property line and the proposed finished site grade matches the existing site grade on the adjacent properties to the south.
- A portion of the proposed parking structure is at a zero setback from the north property line. A standard 1.8 m (6 ft.) high fence along the common property line will screen the wall of the parking structure entirely from the adjacent single-family home.
- The easternmost portion of the proposed parking structure (adjacent to the back yard area of the adjacent single-family home to the north) is set back 1.52 m (5 ft.) from the north property line. A landscape buffer area with two (2) trees within are proposed to address potential overlooking from the proposed patio space on top of the parking structure to the rear yard of the adjacent single-family home to the north.

Urban Design and Site Planning

- The subject site is the last piece of undeveloped property on Princess Lane. This is an irregular-shaped lot adjacent to the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). The site has limited road frontage at the northwest corner of the site, but has a long frontage on the 6m wide laneway between Princess Lane and Dyke Road, which is used as pedestrian access to the waterfront dyke.
- Three (3) distinct buildings of six (6) units each over a parking structure are proposed. Each building contains four (4) two-level townhouse units on the bottom levels and two (2) single-level apartment penthouses.
- A partially in-ground parking garage is proposed. The entrance ramp to the parking garage is located off the laneway to the west of the subject site. All units are provided with two (2) side-by-side parking spaces in the parking garage. A total of 40 parking spaces are provided, including four (4) visitor stalls. The visitor parking has been broken up in individual single car parking spaces and located throughout the parking garage.

- Due to the new road and laneway alignments, a piece of surplus road right-of-way (ROW) (approximately 53.7 m²) is created at the corner of London Road and the laneway west of the subject site. The applicant proposes to locate the required outdoor amenity area for the subject development along the London Road frontage, adjacent to this piece of surplus road, to create a public plaza instead of a residential only outdoor amenity area. The proposed plaza will be located at street level, has the maximum exposure to the street, and is easily accessible from all of the proposed units and the neighbourhood at large.
- A Public Plaza Agreement to warrant that the Owner/Strata Corporation at 6451 Princess
 Lane will be responsible for the maintenance of the proposed Public Plaza was secured
 through the rezoning. The developer is required to amend the signed Servicing
 Agreement (SA 08-434944) to include the design and construction of the proposed Public
 Plaza, which straddles on both private and public property, as shown on the Development
 Permit Plans.
- All two-level townhouse units have a front porch and direct access from the public plaza or the laneway. All main entrances to the elevator lobbies (for the penthouses) also front onto the laneway, and in one case onto the proposed public plaza.
- Garbage will be handled within the parking garage, via the laneway, by a private contractor. Recycling, too, will be handled along the laneway, but will be picked up outside due to the high clearance required by the truck. The recycling carts will be moved to the concrete pad located adjacent to the parking garage entrance on collection day. A landscape buffer is provided between this concrete pad and the public plaza to screen views toward this small service area.

Architectural Form and Character

- The proposed "heritage" style architecture is generally complementary to the existing character of the area and complies with the Character Area Guidelines for London Landing.
- Each building reads as two (2) large single-family homes placed side by side and connected with a "core area" that houses access (private residential elevators and common stairwells) to the upper floor suites. This vertical "core area" helps to visually separate the two (2) "single-family homes".
- Visual interest and variety has been incorporated to the development with steep gable roof, porches, varying material combinations and a range of colour finishes.
- The distinctive appearance of each "single-family home" is reinforced by use of colour, siding, and trim details.
- The proposed building materials (wood fascia, wood knee brace, hardie panel, hardie siding, hardie singles, wood window trim, and asphalt roof shingles) are generally consistent with the Official Community Plan (OCP) Guidelines and compatible with similar developments in the area.
- Pedestrian frontage character facing the public plaza/laneway has been developed to enhance the pedestrian residential streetscape experience.
- All penthouses (6 units) are designed to be fully accessible. Wheelchair access to these units must pass through the parking garage. The project architect has confirmed that

these accessible units will incorporate all of the Basic Universal Housing Features described in the Zoning Bylaw. A total of 11.16 m² (1.86 m² per unit) of floor area are therefore exempted from the floor area calculation.

Landscape Design and Open Space Design

- No bylaw-sized trees exist on-site; no replacement trees are required.
- The proposed landscape scheme focuses on creating pedestrian-friendly streetscape. A diversity of formally arranged ornamental trees and plant materials will create a landscape with a variety of texture and seasonal colours along the laneway.
- The incorporation of a public plaza, private and common green spaces encourages social interaction among residents and neighbours which contributes to community building. The public plaza is designed for an open flow of pedestrian use and passive use. No children's play equipment is proposed at the public plaza.
- Planting within the public plaza will be of evergreen and semi-evergreen variety. A Chinese Empress tree is proposed at the centre of the main planter in the plaza to create a landscaping landmark for the neighbourhood.
- Custom bollards are proposed at the edge of the plaza to identify a "change in space" between the sidewalk and the plaza as well as to clearly delineate vehicular and pedestrian realm.
- The proposed ALR buffer (12 m wide) is consistent with the established buffer on the single-family lots to the north. The rear yards that directly abut agriculture are proposed to be raised about 1.2 m (4 ft.). A retaining wall will be constructed along the east property line.
- A 2.4 m (8 ft.) high fence will be constructed on top of the retaining wall to eliminate direct ground level views and opportunity for trespass into the agricultural areas. The fence will also help screen the rear yards from any dust or drift that may emanate from normal farm activities.
- The landscaped buffer strip will be 4.6 m (15 ft.) in width and include a Cedar hedge, a row of deciduous tree screening, and three (3) rows of trespass-inhibiting shrubs.
- The remaining distance between the landscaped buffer strip and residential building will be 7.4 m and will contain the stairs to the garages and patio spaces for the townhouse units.
- Cash-in-lieu (\$18,000) for indoor amenity has been provided as a condition of rezoning approval (RZ 08-431606).

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

- Site design has incorporated the principles of CPTED to minimize opportunities for crime, to promote passive surveillance of both the street frontages and internal private and semi-private space.
- All unit patios and decks are elevated, with landscaping acting as a trespass inhibitor to all other areas.

- Exterior lighting will be provided on the front elevations, improving the sense of safety for users of the laneway during evening hours. The large amount of openings from each building will help to ensure each occupant is able to view neighborhood activities.
- The parking garage will be secured by an overhead gate with a grille designed to secure sight lines.
- Motion sensors on the exit doors from the parking garage will be provided to improve lighting within the depressed areas.

Conclusions

The applicant has satisfactorily addressed staff's comments regarding conditions of adjacency, urban design and site planning, architectural form and character, landscape and open space design, and crime prevention through environmental design. The applicant has presented a development that fits into the existing context. Therefore, staff recommend support of this Development Permit application.



Edwin Lee Planning Technician – Design (Local 4121)

EL:blg

The following are to be met prior to forwarding this application to Council for approval:

- Payment of cash in-lieu of on-site indoor amenity space in the amount of \$18,000; and
- Receipt of a Letter-of-Credit for landscaping in the amount of \$168,437 (based on cost estimates provided by the developer.
- Amend Servicing Agreement (SA 08-434944) to include the design and construction of the proposed Public Plaza, which straddles on both private and public property, as shown on the Development Permit Plans.

Prior to future Building Permit issuance, the developer is required to complete the following:

- The applicant is required to obtain a Building Permit for any construction hoarding associated with the proposed development. If construction hoarding is required to temporarily occupy a street, or any part thereof, or occupy the air space above a street or any part thereof, additional City approvals and associated fees may be required as part of the Building Permit. For further information on the Building Permit, please contact Building Approvals Division at 604-276-4285.
- Submission of a construction traffic and parking management plan to the satisfaction of the City's Transportation Division (http://www.richmond.ca/services/ttp/special.htm).



Development Application Data Sheet

Development Applications Division

DP 09-493613 Attachment 1

Address: 6451 Princess Lane

Applicant: Penta Homes (Princess Lane) Ltd. Owner: Penta Homes (Princess Lane) Ltd.

Planning Area(s): Steveston Area Plan (Schedule 2.4)

Floor Area Gross: 3,684m² (39,657 ft²) Floor Area Net: 2,128 m² (22,906 ft²)

	Existing	Proposed No change	
Site Area:	2,447 m ² (26,335 ft ²)		
Land Uses:	Light Industrial (vacant)	Multiple-Family Residential	
OCP Designation:	General Land Use Map – Neighbourhood Residential	No change	
Area Plan Designation:	Residential & Heritage Residential	No change	
Zoning:	Light Industrial (IL) and Single Detached Heritage (ZS1)	Town Housing (ZT43)	
Number of Units:	n/a	18	

	Bylaw Requirement	Proposed	Variance
Floor Area Ratio:	0.87	0.87	none permitted
Lot Coverage:	Max. 35%	36.4%	Variance Supported
Setback – Front Yard (Public Road and Lane):	Min. 4 m	4 m	none
Setback – Side Yard (north):	Min. 3 m	3 m	none
Setback – Side Yard (south):	Min. 3 m	3 m	none
Setback – Rear Yard:	Min. 3 m	12 m	none
Height (m):	Max. 15 m	13.2 m	none
Off-street Parking Spaces – Residential/Visitor:	27 and 4	36 and 4	none
Off-street Parking Spaces – Accessible:	1	1	none
Total off-street Spaces:	31	40	none
Tandem Parking Spaces	not permitted	none	none
Amenity Space – Indoor:	Min. 70 m ²	cash-in-lieu	none
Amenity Space – Outdoor:	Min. 108 m ²	111.8 m ²	none

Excerpt from the Minutes from The Design Panel Meeting

Wednesday, November 18, 2009 – 4:00 p.m. Rm. M.1.003 Richmond City Hall

The design response from the applicant has been included immediately following the specific Design Panel comments and is identified in 'bold italics'.

The comments of the Panel were as follows:

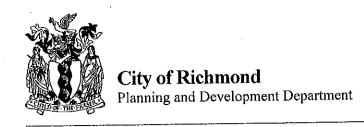
- 1. consider varying the treatments of street elevations and bring back stability to the building forms to fit well into the neighbourhood;
 - We have reviewed the street elevations and added variations to the post and eave details to provide distinction between the buildings. In addition to this, we have varied the setbacks of each building face to improve the verticality of the development and its compatibility with the neighbourhood. The elevation of each building remains consistent with the single-family homes to the north.
- 2. consider enhancing the security of the buildings to prevent access of strangers to different levels of the buildings from the ground floor;
 - The lobby areas will be controlled by a fob key that will only be available to the Penthouse units. The stairs from these lobbies are meant as a means for egress, and only access the top floor units. Security measures will be placed on these doors to ensure access is only available to these homeowners. We have added motion detectors onto the two exterior exits within the parkade to improve visibility and safety at night in these areas.
- 3. consider using an alternative approach to address the interface with the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) area to get a better view of the area from the ground level of the development;
 - The current approach provides a consistent screen that works aesthetically and functionally with the adjacent properties. Landscape design and species selection is in coordination with adjacent property landscaping. View potential has been maximized where applicable.
- 4. consider adding the sidewalk back to the lane edge;
 - We feel that our current treatment of the lane is adequate for the uses envisioned along here. The lane only serves 6451 Princess Lane, 6433, 6461 and 6463 Dyke Rd. This lane is used mainly as a pedestrian access to the dyke for the neighbourhood. Our design is consistent with the development across the road and the proposed plaza will serve as a large hardscaped "landing point" for pedestrians to cross through.

5. design development of the plaza to create a less ambiguous zone and make it more inward-looking;

The plaza is designed for an open flow of pedestrian use and passive use. Landscape elements are designed to be setback at an appropriate distance such that sight lines at the street intersection will not be affected; thus enhancing safety of the area. The use of perimeter lighting and feature planting creates an inviting edge for people to transition through. The extension of pavers onto the sidewalk enhances the sense of invitation.

- 6. consider reducing the number of parking spaces in the development;

 We have considered this, however we feel that our current design is a unique approach to off-street parking areas seen in the immediate vicinity and serves our proposed unit configuration well.
- 7. design development of the raised parkade at the north property line to address overlooking concern on adjacent single-family homes;
 - Within this five-foot setback we have added 2 deciduous trees at a minimum height above the proposed fence on the parkade lid. This will serve to provide shading and prevent overlook into the backyard of 6417 London Rd. In the winter the deciduous trees will allow light into this area.
- 8. design development of the three corridors leading to the common stairs to the upper units to permit more daylight to the corridors;
 - We have moved the entrance door to these corridors to 2' off of the rear building envelope. This has improved the security of this area, lighting will be provided by interior lights. The entrance to Building A is slightly further back due the building envelope above.
- 9. consider increasing the depth of articulation from adjacent gable bay forms; and We have added further articulation to the front façade to amplify the recess of the elevator cores. The location of the cores is restricted by the need for access at the main floor level and the requirement for exit stairs.
- 10. consider using a different elevator type and reduce the height of the element.
 - We have introduced 6 residential lift elevators into the development, instead of the 3 commercial grade elevators originally proposed. Each elevator will serve an individual penthouse unit. These elevators by nature have a lower profile and have thus allowed us to reduce the height of the core element.



Development Permit

No. DP 09-493613

To the Holder:

PENTA HOMES (PRINCESS LANE) LTD.

Property Address:

6451 PRINCESS LANE

Address:

C/O MR. NATHAN CURRAN

12235 NO. 1 ROAD

RICHMOND, BC V7E 1T6

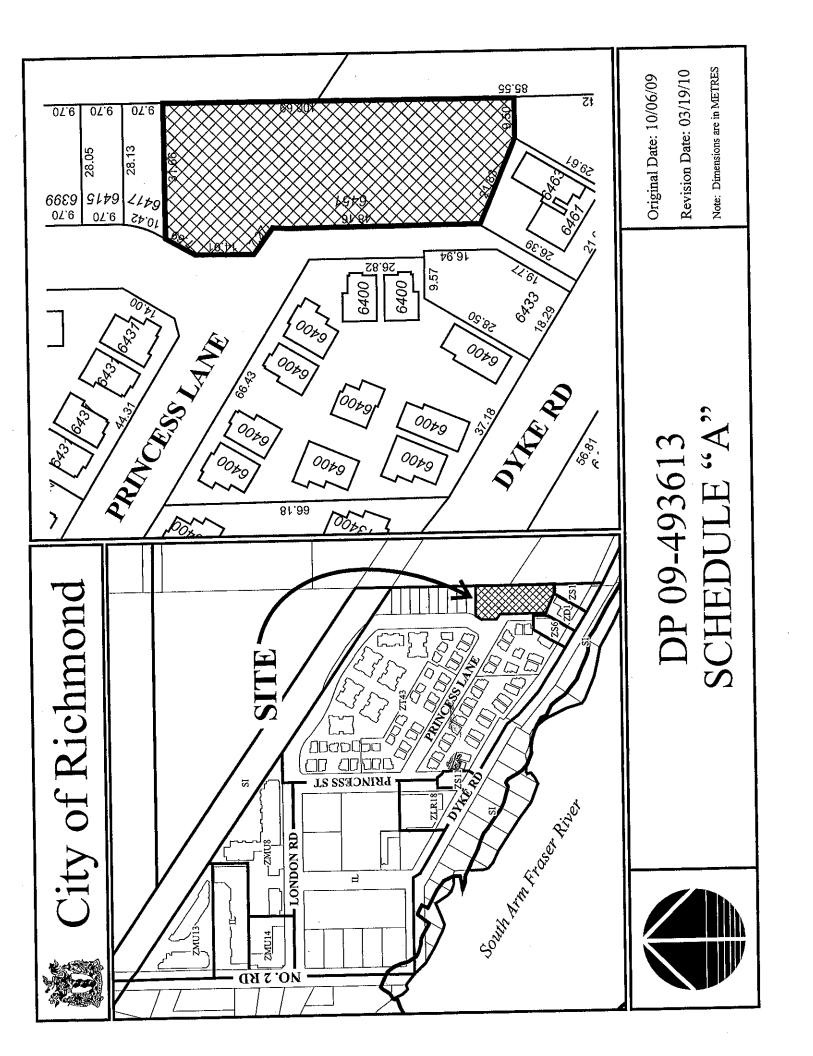
- 1. This Development Permit is issued subject to compliance with all of the Bylaws of the City applicable thereto, except as specifically varied or supplemented by this Permit.
- 2. This Development Permit applies to and only to those lands shown cross-hatched on the attached Schedule "A" and any and all buildings, structures and other development thereon.
- 3. The "Richmond Zoning Bylaw 8500" is hereby varied to increase the maximum lot coverage for apartment housing from 35% to 36.4%.
- 4. Subject to Section 692 of the Local Government Act, R.S.B.C.: buildings and structures; off-street parking and loading facilities; roads and parking areas; and landscaping and screening shall be constructed generally in accordance with Plans #1 to #4 attached hereto.
- 5. Sanitary sewers, water, drainage, highways, street lighting, underground wiring, and sidewalks, shall be provided as required.
- 6. As a condition of the issuance of this Permit, the City is holding the security in the amount of \$168,437 to ensure that development is carried out in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Permit. Should any interest be earned upon the security, it shall accrue to the Holder if the security is returned. The condition of the posting of the security is that should the Holder fail to carry out the development hereby authorized, according to the terms and conditions of this Permit within the time provided, the City may use the security to carry out the work by its servants, agents or contractors, and any surplus shall be paid over to the Holder. Should the Holder carry out the development permitted by this permit within the time set out herein, the security shall be returned to the Holder. The City may retain the security for up to one year after inspection of the completed landscaping in order to ensure that plant material has survived.
- 7. If the Holder does not commence the construction permitted by this Permit within 24 months of the date of this Permit, this Permit shall lapse and the security shall be returned in full.

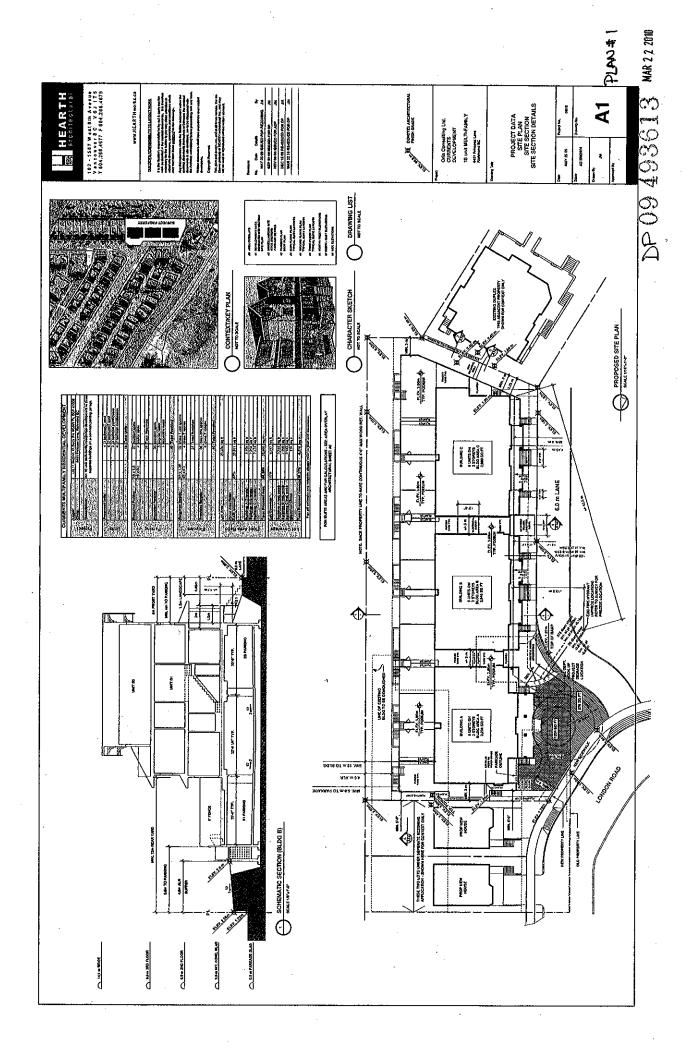
Development Permit

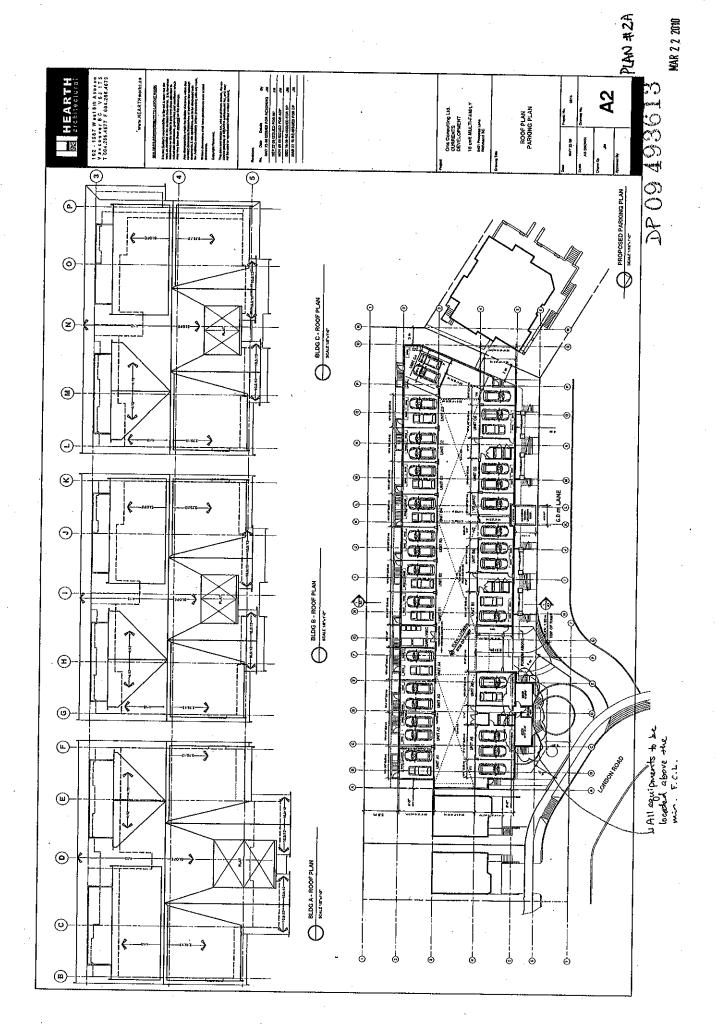
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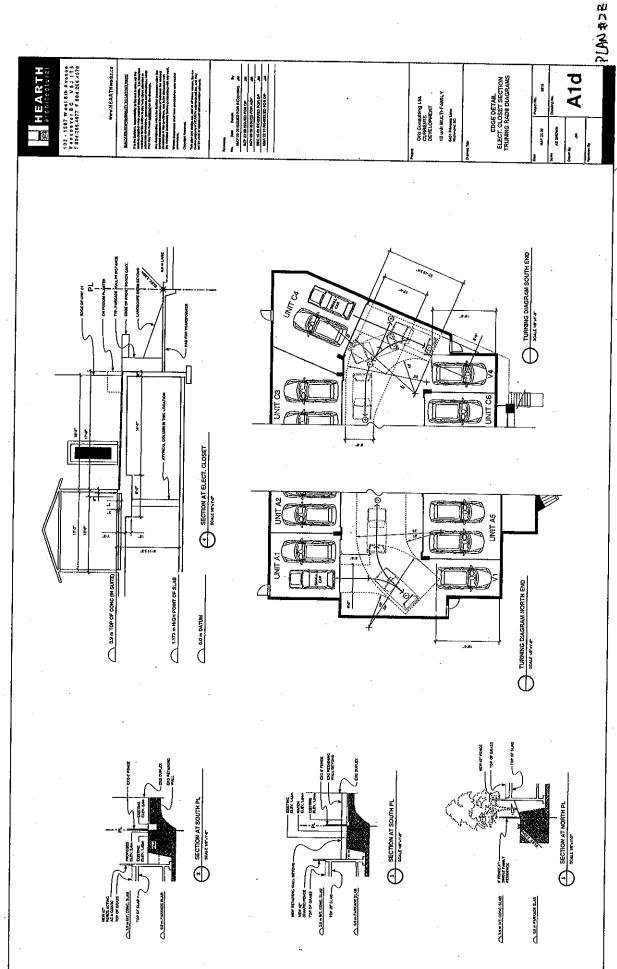
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Property Address:	6451 PRINCES	6451 PRINCESS LANE		
Address:	12235 NO. 1 R	C/O MR. NATHAN CURRAN 12235 NO. 1 ROAD RICHMOND, BC V7E 1T6		
8. The land described h conditions and provi Permit which shall for	sions of this Permit a	ped generally in accordance with the terms and any plans and specifications attached to thi		
This Permit is not a l	Building Permit.			
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DELIVERED THIS	DAY OF	,		
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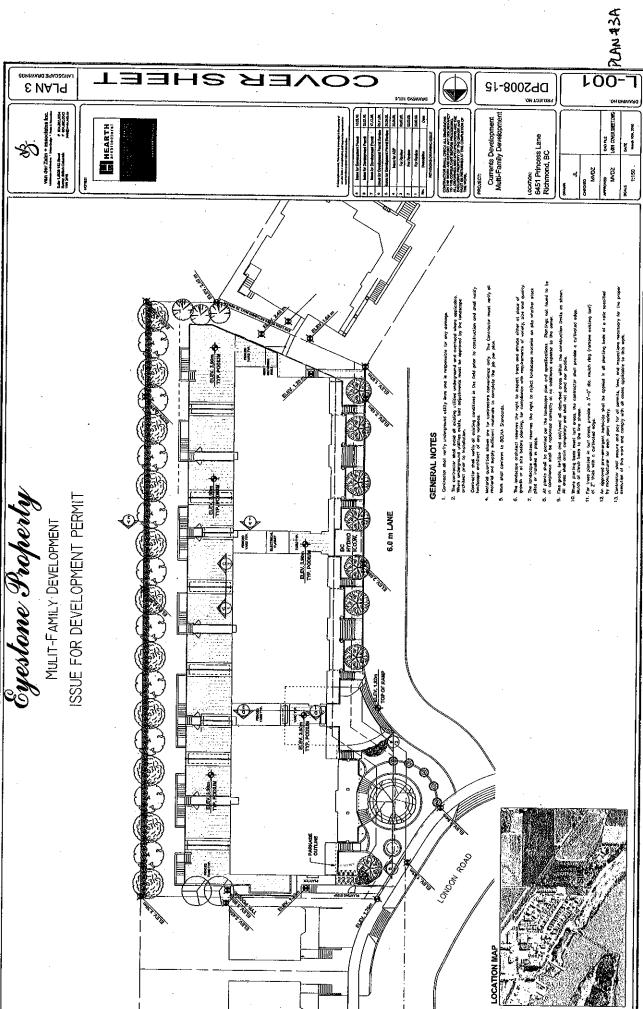
MAYOR

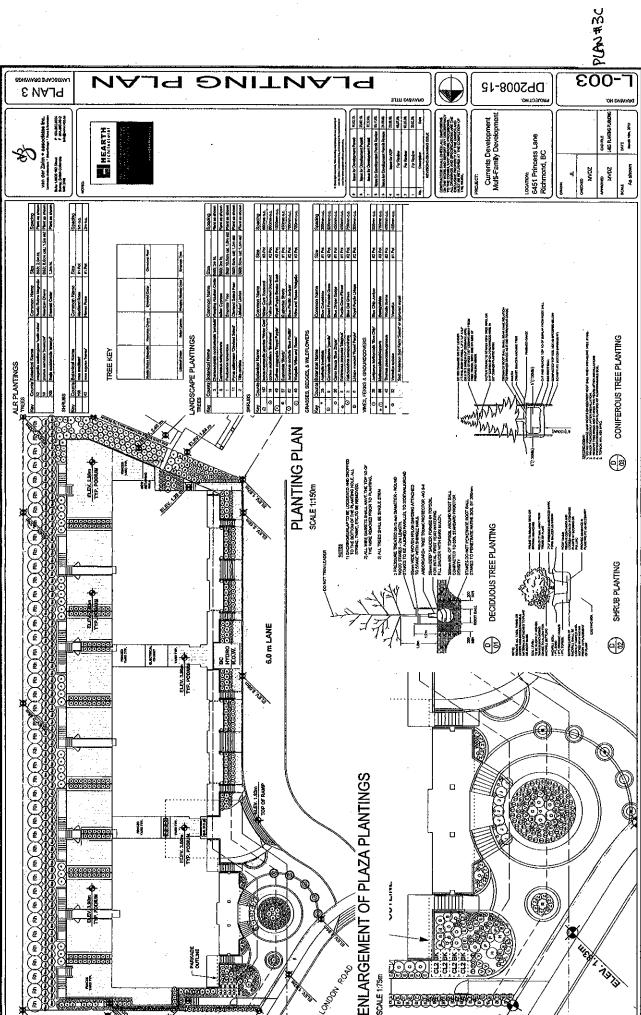




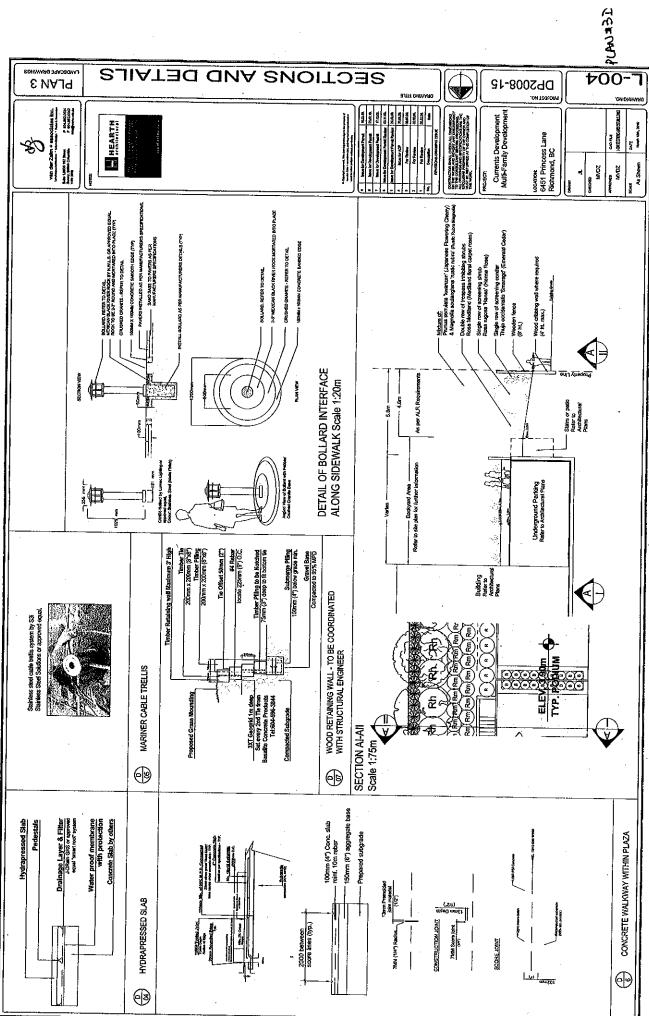




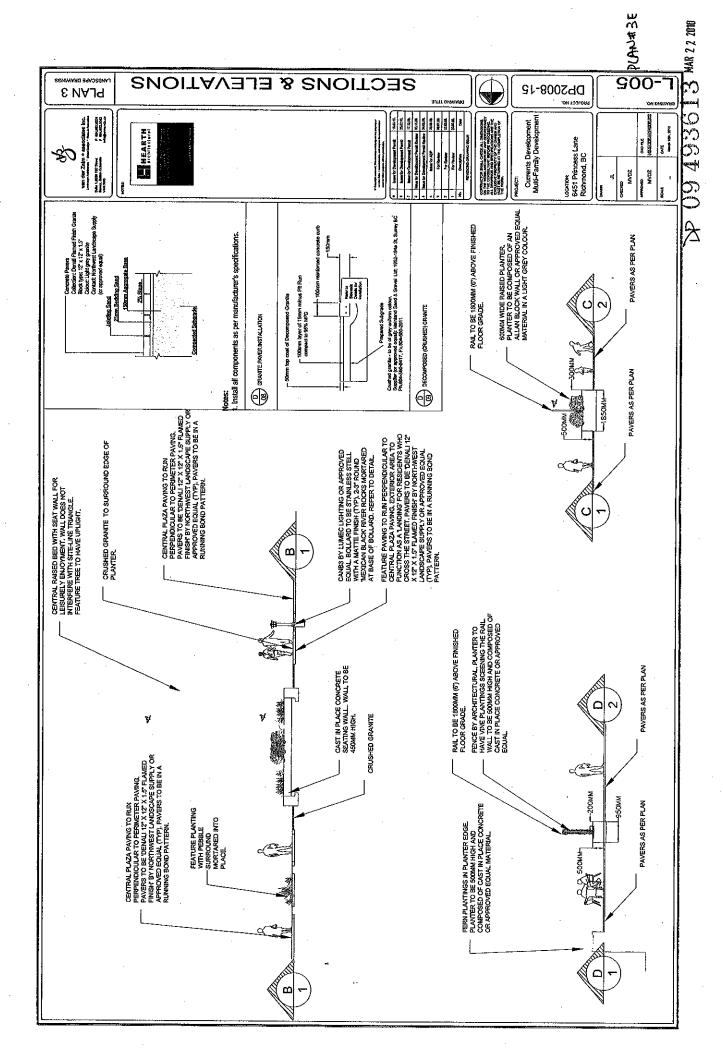


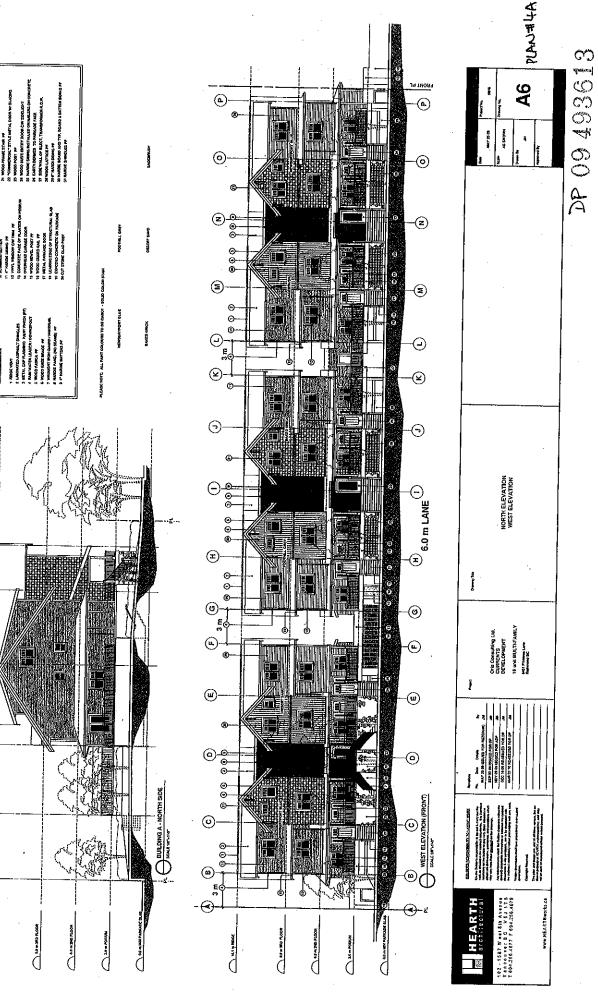


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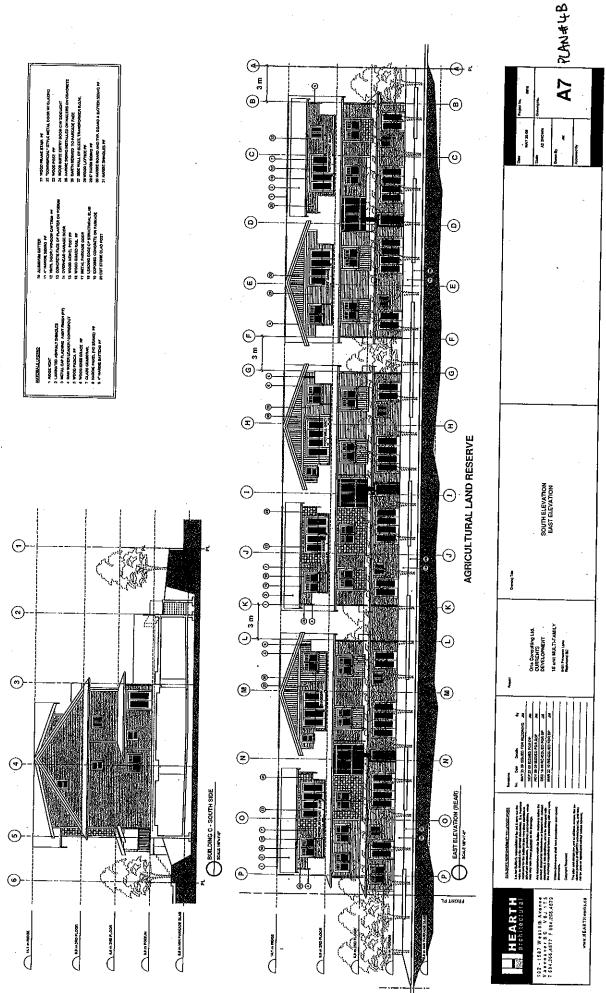


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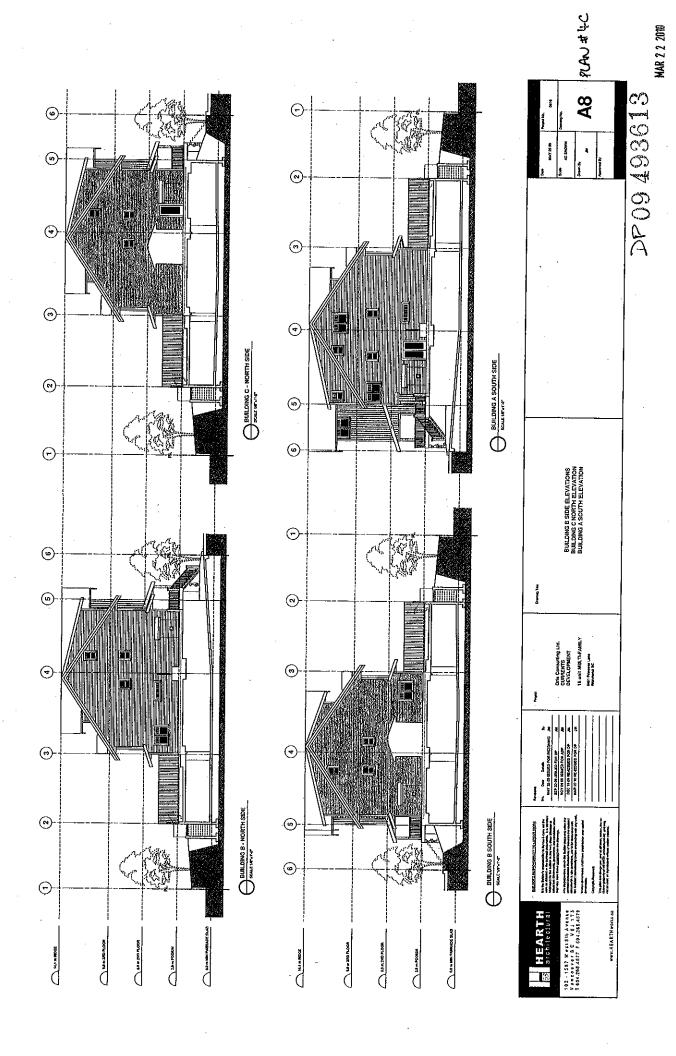
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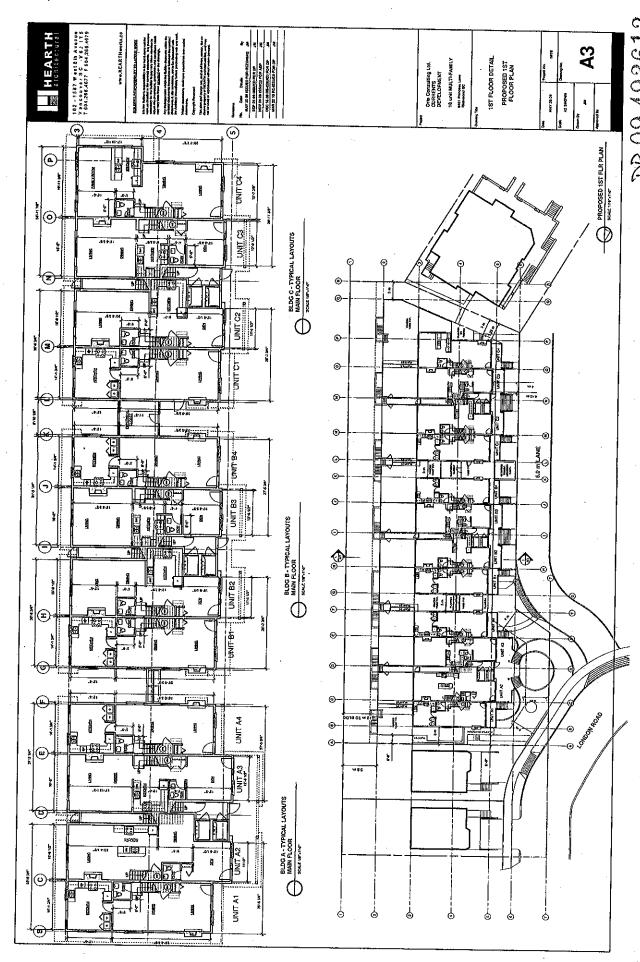
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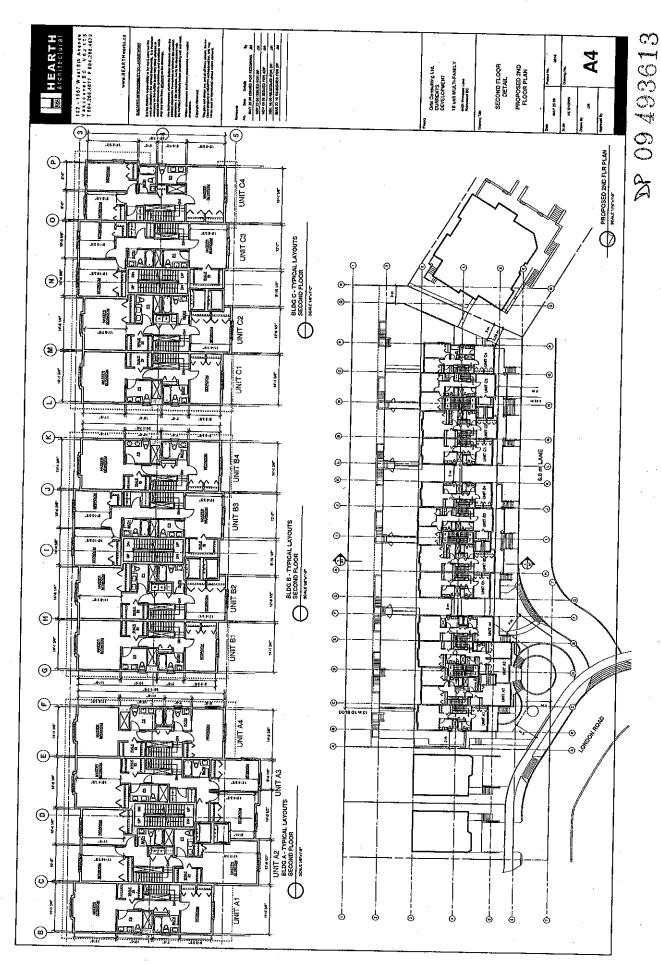
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DV 09493613







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