

MayorandCouncillors

From: MayorandCouncillors
Sent: Monday, 19 January 2015 10:14 AM
To: 'Michelle Li'
Subject: RE: Polygon Development on Steveston High School Site

This is to acknowledge and thank you for your email of January 18, 2015 to the Mayor and Councillors, in connection with the above matter, a copy of which has been forwarded to the Mayor and each Councillor for their information.

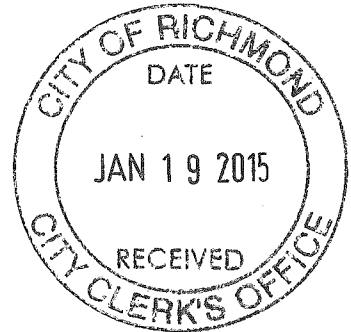
This email will also be made available at the Public Hearing tonight.

Thank you again for taking the time to make your views known.

Yours truly,

Michelle Jansson
Manager, Legislative Services
City of Richmond, 6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1
Phone: 604-276-4006 | Email: mjansson@richmond.ca

To Public Hearing	
Date:	<u>Jan 19 / 15</u>
Item #	<u>1</u>
Re:	<u>10440 & 10460 No 2 Rd.</u> <u>B213-649524</u>



-----Original Message-----

From: Michelle Li [<mailto:michelleli.van@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, 18 January 2015 11:38 PM
To: MayorandCouncillors
Subject: Polygon Development on Steveston High School Site

To Mayor Brodie and Councillors,

I have been following the development proposal for the London/Steveston High School property. I am not opposed to developments such as this as I would like to see more affordable and low-income housing in our area. Many friends have eventually moved from Steveston area as it is getting too expensive. I would love to have a development that sees a mixture of young and older members of the community come together in affordable housing. My concern is what developers can do to make this a better deal for the community.

The elementary school that my children attend, McKinney Elementary, will be the catchment school for the children who would be living at the proposed development. Although not an old school, it is showing its age and is in need of improvements to the playground as it is becoming unsafe and replacement parts can be difficult to source. In addition, our school's playground is small and children have to take turns playing on it and abide by a schedule. As parents, we are required to fully fund playground replacements (not covered by school board, city or province) and it is a large burden to put on parents, fundraising a minimum of \$100,000 for a basic replacement playground.

As developers come into areas such as ours, I would like to see them support our schools and communities by helping fund improvements to parks and school playgrounds that are already in existence, instead of building new structures and new play areas that aren't as accessible to the public.

I understand that developers sometimes have to give money for public art and/or parks (<http://www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/programs/civicpublicartprogram.htm>), but I would like to see that expanded to include school playgrounds- which are public park spaces- and for items such as equipment and trees, logs and rocks for kids to play on and for community members to enjoy and gather at. I do love public art, but when I hear about tens thousands of dollars of being spent on pieces of metal that kids can't play on and that don't bring the community together like public parks do, it saddens me.

We have been working for years now to raise money for a new playground. What has taken us years of difficult and time-consuming fundraising, could easily be paid by developers who wish to come into areas that are desperate for additional funding to create engaging community spaces for younger and older members of society.

What to us is a heavy financial burden in fundraising, is pocket change to these development corporations who stand to make millions and send more children into our schools and onto our small and unsafe playgrounds that need revitalizing. Please turn this around.

I would ask for your support in making Richmond a better place for families by making school play areas and public parks more of a priority- especially when it comes to what developers can and should fund in the future.

Sincerely,
Michelle Li
Parent and PAC member, McKinney Elementary