

Public Hearing Submission  
September 8, 2015

Good evening Mr. Mayor, Councillors and Staff:

My name is Rosa Stuiver, I live at 8911 Fairdell Place, Richmond.

I ask Council to reconsider the storey height. The Public Meetings, editorials, and letters from the residents all point to concern on our changing neighbourhoods and what is contributing to that. In spite of that Public outcry, the majority of council supports these changes. It takes me back to Terra Nova Public Hearings, when days of Public Hearing and the pleas of residents fell on deaf ears. This feels like deja vue.

Unfortunately Council is not obligated to share with the public why they support certain bylaws. That leaves the public no choice but to surmise what might be those reasons, be they right or wrong. Perhaps it is all about money. After all, a multi-million dollar home returns more revenue to the City coffers than my humble Seafair home.

The residents that chose Richmond to purchase their homes 30, 40, 50 years ago most likely did not do so because "the market is hot". If they were like me, they looked at the neighbourhood, the buildings, the yards, lot space, trees, shrubs and gardens and saw a property that was suitable to call home, personalize, update as required, raise a family and earn a living.

What makes a neighbourhood? I believe my street epitomizes what a neighbourhood used to be. We know each other by name, we look out for each other, caring when illness strikes and supportive in our daily lives. We only have one mega home on our street and it does not have a gated front. That neighbour introduced himself while some of us chatted on the front lawn. During a storm in the spring, the power went off, and my husband immediately went to another new neighbour to enquire if they had a flashlight and candles, and were they alright. This is what Richmond neighbourhoods used to be like. Not house beside house, many sitting empty and dark, some with <sup>uncut</sup> grass and weeds growing everywhere. When "Artists Among Us" open their homes, many people walk down our street, and comment on the flowers. We have humble homes. A number of the residents are the original residents when Seafair was developed. We are aging. We like our yards, our homes. We are active and healthy. We are kind and caring.

I cannot improve upon the many letters so eloquently written, on how these changes impact our neighbourhoods. Do I want a 16.4 foot concrete wall three feet from my fence, that

blocks all the sunlight? Many of my neighbours have incredibly beautiful back gardens made possible by light around their property.

One Councillor commented that it can't be that bad, the construction. We have had construction noise now for the past three years. We get the garbage on windy days as it blows around because the sites are not kept free of debris.

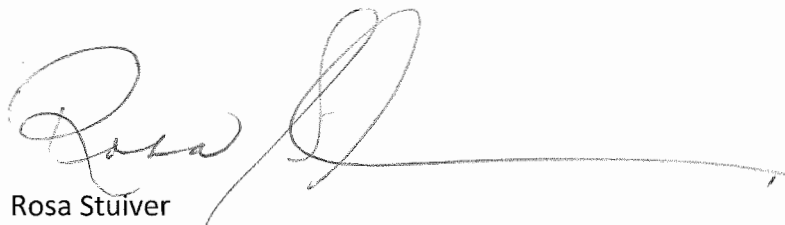
There are so many unfair actions in how building now takes place. We have beautiful trees on our street, and most homes did. If those trees are now unmanageable, and we would like to have them removed, we cannot do so without great cost to determine if it falls within the Tree Protection Bylaw. But a developer can come in, remove every shrub and tree without a problem. Our properties provide grass and yards for the rain to dissipate. We have birds and bees which are important for pollination. All of this is removed and replaced with a cedar hedge, a bit of grass and mostly building and concrete.

The symmetry is gone. Some of the homes are so huge. I could not help but wonder this summer with the water shortage, the difference in water consumption between a house with 5 ½ full bathrooms compared to the average home. How responsible is this Council in considering all aspects of how these homes impact everyone around them including the environment in the future?

I see no respect or consideration for those of us, who have supported Richmond for many years, long before it became a Real Estate "hot spot". Many of my former coworkers from City Hall upon retirement have left Richmond. And in private, the most common theme was the changing neighbourhoods. Perhaps one day, I too will join the 28,000 that have already left Richmond for communities into which they feel welcomed.

What is your vision of Richmond? Whom are you serving? These are questions every resident should ask and seek an answer to from each member of Council.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my concerns.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Rosa Stulver', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rosa Stulver

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