

From: Lexy Clayburn <lexyclayburn@yahoo.ca>
Sent: July 27, 2020 2:11 PM
To: CityClerk
Subject: 6333 Mah Bing Road Development

Categories: Rustico (DPP & ADP)

Planning and Development Committee
Minoru Gardens Demolition
Edwin Lee

To Development Permit Panel
Date: <u>JULY 29, 2020</u>
Item # <u>4</u>
Re: <u>DP 18-837117</u>



Dear Mr. Lee,

One hundred and thirty families live at Minoru Gardens. Some have lived here for over twenty years. I am writing to you because I am concerned about the permit application for demolition of our homes.

Safety

Is it safe to ask families to move during a pandemic? We will have a four months for seventy families in each building to use one elevator. There have been reports of people contracting Covid through elevator buttons. It will also be difficult to physical distance, something the Provincial Health Officer has stressed we are supposed to do to prevent outbreaks. Also, our neighbours who are not moving, may be at risk too since there is limited parking space for several large moving vans between the buildings.

Relocation

The vacancy rate for apartments is very low in Richmond, especially for affordable units that can house families. The new units will be much smaller so even if we could afford them, we couldn't house our families in them. We are essential workers (retail, hospital, schools). For a city to function, essential workers need to live in that city. If we cannot afford to live in Richmond we will have to leave. The loss of one hundred and thirty families who contribute to Richmond's economic well-being will affect the quality of life of Richmond residents.

Communication

I read that we are being informed of what is happening. We are not. When the residential tower opened up, we were supposed to have priority. We did not. While we received mail about the opening of the tower, when it was ready for occupancy we were not informed. I found out from a neighbor that an open house was held and people from off the street who saw the open house got priority.

Varying the Bylaw

I see that the minimum lot area is being reduced almost by a half. I would like to see some explanation of this as it may impact future developments. Are they saying that green space in the current towers will count as green space in the future towers? Then would that mean a developer could trade green space between neighborhoods? That seems like a dangerous precedent to set. Will the residents in the new tower have access to the green space in the older tower? Please explain why the staff have decided to let this happen.

I am not an expert in public relations but a council that votes to replace affordable housing with unaffordable luxury condos during a pandemic may be seen as heartless.

Thank you for your time.

Lexy