
From: Chris Chung <chris@curion.ca>
Sent: January 19, 2024 10:40 AM
To: CityClerk
Subject: Temporary Use Permit TU 23-032827 ("Aster Place")

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To whom it may concern at the City of Richmond:

We request the City of Richmond to cancel the renewal of Temporary Use Permit TU 23-032827.

I am an owner and the CEO of Curion Dental Products located across the street from Aster Place at 2571 Smith Street, V6X 2J1. On any given weekday, 8-10 staff work in our office (mostly women). We have been at this location since 1996.

In the planning phase for Aster Place, the city of Richmond failed to mention to residents and businesses in the area that this facility would transform into a place for those in need of far more than just basic housing support. It is crystal clear that many residents of Aster Place are substance abusers, petty criminals, and individuals grappling with severe mental issues. It is indeed ironic that a facility supposedly designed to nurture the vulnerable, inspired by the aster flower's virtues of love, hope, and loyalty, has instead negatively impacted the community in the opposite manner. Our community, deserving of a safe and healthy neighborhood, has been naively betrayed by the very institution that pledges to protect and uplift all members of its community.

Below is a **partial** list of negative experiences we have had with Aster Place. I am certain that other residents have a list of negative experiences if they were asked.

1. Regular suspicious or inappropriate activity/ behaviour by residents of Aster Place

- Public cannabis smoking is regular just across the street – on the sidewalk directly in front of Aster (as residents are not allowed to use drugs in the Aster facility or on Aster property)
- It is not unusual to see Aster residents using drugs (cannabis, and syringe-related) directly on our property and throughout the neighbourhood – including surrounding back-alleys and nooks (not well seen areas) around homes and on building properties in the area
- Note: we have had meetings with Aster management to make it clear to their residents that they are not to be on our property (private property, no trespassers). Nonetheless, Aster residents still come onto our property.

2. Regular loitering on our property – and, leaving litter and a mess on our property. This has increased significantly since the opening of Aster.

- This is a frustrating cost to Curion – time and effort for Curion staff to deal with the mess created by Aster residents

3. Incident A – 2023 January 3rd (TUE)

- Captured on CCTV – and reported to RCMP and Aster Place management.
- RCMP Case Number: RI23-2502
- Aster Place male resident (confirmed to be from Aster) came onto Curion property, loitered just in front of our front door and smoked cannabis. A Curion staff asked him to leave the property. Included in this incident was a death threat by the trespasser to the Curion staff who initially confronted him.
- This incident was incredibly unsettling not only to the target person of the threat, but also to all Curion staff

4. Incident B – 2023 March 3rd (FRI)

- Captured on CCTV – and reported to RCMP and Aster Place management.
- RCMP Case Number: RI-23-6744
- Late at night, car entered Curion parking lot and parked. Driver (sole person) walked to and back from Aster Place. Came back to car, re-parked car under Curion building's front lights, then ransacked said car, left a massive mess on our property, drove off "through" our landscape hedges, and hit one of parking lot lamp-posts (which remains damaged)

5. Incident C – 2023 March 6th (MON)

- Captured on CCTV – and reported to RCMP and Aster Place management.
- RCMP Case Number: RI-23-7117
- Aster Place residents (2 females – confirmed to be from Aster) at the back of our property (back parking lot). Looked into cars, and eventually rang our back doorbell. Curion staff answered, and a female made efforts to look "into" the back warehouse. The female seemed to be curious about the contents within – assumed to be "staking" the premises with ill-intent.

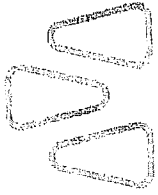
6. Incident(s) D – 2023 July/August

- Captured on CCTV – and reported to Aster Place management.
- Unwelcome use of the water faucet on the front of our building (trespassing). Note: one needs to squeeze by landscape hedging to access this faucet). We ended-up installing a special faucet case/housing and a lock to deter such use.
- A cost to Curion (financially, and staff time)

If the city of Richmond is going to proceed with renewing the temporary use permit for Aster Place, we demand that a full-time security detail be implemented to protect the neighbourhood from many of the residents at Aster Place.

Sincerely,

Chris Chung



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CEO

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