

Schedule 23 to the Minutes of the
Public Hearing meeting held on
Monday, July 19, 2004.

4900 Webster Rd.
Richmond, B.C.
V7C 1L3

To Public Hearing
Date: <u>July 19, 2004</u>
Item # <u>7</u>
Re: <u>5988 Riverdale</u>

July 17, 2004

Dear Members of Council:

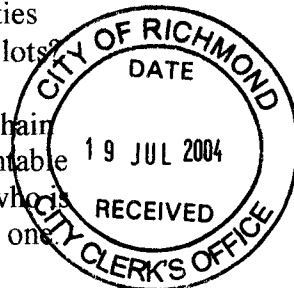
As long time residents of the area, my family and I were disheartened when we learned that there had been an application for rezoning the homes from Riverdale to McCallan Rd. along Westminster Highway. To try and change the uniform structure of not only our neighbourhood, but our community, by adding back lanes to a property almost seems obtuse. How would allowing this rezoning benefit the neighbourhood in any way? It does not. The sole benefactor in this situation is the applicant of the proposal. The decision on this proposal, with all things, must be for the greater good.

There are many potential problems which will arise from going through with the proposed course of action. First off, adding an unprecedented alleyway to the existing neighbourhood would disrupt the entire community. One lot subdivided with a lane in the middle of a side-by-side lot area seems extremely unnecessary. Our community is a paradigm for what old Richmond was like, and throwing that away so that an individual can financially benefit from it is absolutely absurd. Council cannot allow there to be two houses built on a single lot which would disturb the uniform appearance of the existing large homes in the neighbourhood.

Secondly, alley ways promote unwanted, unruly behaviour. It is certain that no one in this community welcomes a criminal element, no matter how minor. Destruction of property and vandalism are almost synonymous with back alleys. Even more disturbing would be the creation of an area to harbour and transport drugs. The possibilities of unlawful activities are endless, varying in degrees. It may seem presumptuous, yet we all know that it is a possibility. Ergo, this possibility must be prevented and kept, literally, out of our backyards.

Third, Richmond has been named the most beautiful city in the world, historically known as the Garden City. With the creation of lanes along the backs of residential lots, there would also have to be the removal of many hedges, trees and other types of important, not to mention costly, green space. It is no secret that the City cannot afford to remove healthy plant life that cannot be replaced. It would be political suicide to replace grass with asphalt, trees with power poles and hedges with fences. One of Richmond's mantras is that it is a City within a park, adding unnecessary roadway to our City would definitely go against this perspective.

Finally, the biggest problem deals with money. By rezoning one property along Westminster Highway, there is a tacit agreement to add lanes throughout the properties along Westminster Hwy. How does the City propose to add a lane through existing lots? Moreover, is it feasible to spend large amounts of money to create something dearly unwanted by the community in question? An addition would undoubtedly cause a chain reaction throughout the surrounding neighbourhoods to create laneways. Insurmountable debt would be imminent, stemming solely from a single individual. An individual who is out for a "quick buck" by being able to build two homes where there should only be one



By now it should be clear that our family is absolutely against the rezoning of property in our area. This is our home, and has been for almost forty years. It would be a travesty to have our home tainted by an awkward and unrealistic creation such as the proposed structuring.

Our family implores council to try and understand the vast impact that something that may seem trivial will inevitably have on our neighbourhood. Please, consider all of the above stated points in deliberation and revoke the application to rezone in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Ho". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Donald and Susan Ho & Family