
From: cityclerk
Subject: City of PG Zoning Bylaw No 7850, 2007, Amendment Bylaw No 9268, 2021 and Liquor Licence Application No LL100178

From: Tammy Hull <*REDACTED*>
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2022 10:58 PM
To: Mayor <MAYOR@princegeorge.ca>; cityclerk <cityclerk@princegeorge.ca>
Cc: Tammy <*REDACTED*>
Subject: City of PG Zoning Bylaw No 7850, 2007, Amendment Bylaw No 9268, 2021 and Liquor Licence Application No LL100178

To mayor and council

I email you today to voice my concerns and my objection for re-zoning at 1933 Queensway Street to a liquor store.

I live in the Millar addition and own two homes, one my daughter resides in and the second being our home. Both homes have experienced an increase in crime that is not been managed in a manner that's protects all citizens. I am thankful for the RCMP who attend calls and for the bylaw officers who show a presence in our neighbourhood.

Myself, my husband and children have been a direct target of theft, threats, violence including a man walking up our walkway high on drugs and pointing a firearm at our home. I called 911 and the criminal continued down the road pointing his gun at neighbours until he was apprehended by Rcmp. This is becoming our normal since the tent encampment became a permanent homestead for persons suffering from homelessness and addictions. With the recent ruling by the courts regarding the tent encampment it has given the persons residing there a sense of entitlement, "we won and we can do whatever we chose in this neighbourhood". During my walk the other day a sign was posted in the encampment facing our neighborhood stating "fuck off".

I have had to call the RCMP weekly with vagrants threatening my family when asked to leave our yard from open theft in the middle of the day. For the past two years the Millar Addition, Connaught Hill and the VLA neighbourhoods have fallen victim to a broken system and our safety seems to be put in the background. By rezoning a building on queensway for retail liquor sales it will further contribute to an already tense situation occurring with residents. We pay our taxes without fail, and we contribute to the well-being of our neighbours but it is becoming exhausting. To hear this rezoning is being considered as an option is mind blowing! The prior shooters liquor store on queensway experienced robberies, theft and violence regularly to finally see it close and expand into a larger retail setting closer to the downtown residents. I looked at the locations of all the liquor and cannabis retailers and many are located within close proximity to the proposed location. I do not see the same concentration of liquor stores and cannabis retailers popping up all over other residential areas. The majority are located in malls. I also do not see many social agencies located throughout our city, it seems to be mostly located in our neighbourhoods

I used to be able to walk to work, I no longer feel safe. I used to walk in my neighbourhood freely, I no longer feel safe. I am not alone in this reality as neighbours gather to express they no longer feel safe due to the vagrants and thieves. The snow is not even melted and already people are setting up new tents in the encampment and once again are navigating the hill to access furnishings from the residents in Millar Addition.

I do feel empathy for the position the city and council faced regarding the encampment court proceedings as not all outcomes can be controlled. I do believe the city has full control in rezoning applications, the city does have the power to decline. The Millar Addition neighbourhood and the downtown is a disgrace and our citizens need services to support a healthy outcomes not another retail outlet to feed into addictions and the social issues.

I do not want to see the same issues the 7-11 on 17th experiences in our neighbourhood, I see drug deals, prostitution violence, overdoses, robbery, gun violence and they sell no alcohol. I believe this common scene will spread to the new proposed site and invite more crime. I remember the neighbourhood asking council to reconsider the friendship house as it would increase criminal entities present, we spoke of the vulnerability of persons residing there and time has proven this is true, 7-11 is the perfect example of outcomes.

By allowing a liquor store to be zoned in such close proximity to the residential areas heavily impacted by social issues and crimes already feels unjust for the hardworking, tax paying citizens of the area. This rezoning will negatively impact and burden the Millar addition, Connaught Hill and the VLA areas further.

Each day I have to drive past shooters liquor store on Victoria street, there is usually persons intoxicated trying to cross the busy intersection. Save-on foods is moving, park wood has to have full time security to manage intoxicated people. Using Wendy's drive thru is scary as intoxicated persons approach your vehicle wanting money. Tim hortons always has intoxicated persons begging, banging on your window wanting money. This proposed liquor store will be no different, it will not improve property values it will negatively impact many persons on many levels.

The Millar addition, Caghnought and VLA neighbourhoods already have liquor retailers located in the areas and adding another within a few city blocks of other liquor retailers does not make sense. Today I drove by the proposed location and noticed the renovation has already started, I am hoping this open renovation is not an indication that this rezoning is guaranteed.

I would ask the mayor and council to map out the location of all liquor retailers and compare to populations of the surrounding neighbourhoods and still be able to say this rezoning makes sense. Does lower college heights, beaverly, west gate, university heights, Southridge, Malispina ridge, north nechako, Edgewood just to name a few have as many liquor retailers located within their neighbourhood? How many social agencies and shelters do their neighbourhoods support?

I stood before the city council last year to present on behalf of the residents in the neighbourhood and I was thankful we were heard. I ask that you re-consider the rezoning of this property - it should not be zoned for a liquor store nor any other facility that will contribute to addictions that in turn contribute to the increase the social issues that already exist in Prince George.

Respectfully,

Tammy Hull
1523 Gorse Street
Sent from my iPhone