
From: cityclerk
Subject: FW: City Of Prince George Zoning Bylaw No. 7850, 2007, Amendment Bylaw No. 9268, 2021/ Liquor Licence Application No. LL100178

From: Sammy Thomson <*REDACTED*>
Sent: Saturday, April 02, 2022 7:54 PM
To: cityclerk <cityclerk@princegeorge.ca>
Subject: City Of Prince George Zoning Bylaw No. 7850, 2007, Amendment Bylaw No. 9268, 2021/ Liquor Licence Application No. LL100178

Hello,

I am writing to you regarding the property of 1933 Queensway and the proposed liquor store for this property.

I am seriously concerned about this proposal. I live directly behind this building and have both lived and worked downtown for the last 8 years. Our neighborhood has had a substantial number of issues particularly in the area of the alleyway where this building resides. While my neighbours themselves are excellent, there is a massive amount of human traffic in the area including the serious issue of prostitution. None of these women live in my neighborhood but they walk over to Queensway / 19th avenue/ Juniper Street to conduct their business. Anyone in Prince George who is not aware of this situation has honestly been living under a rock.

Multiple people in the neighborhood over the years have put in various complaints to the city and RCMP. Not only are the people wandering through problematic but so are the drugs and liquor that they bring with them to the area and leave behind. In the time that I have lived here, I have found drugs, used needles, other drug paraphernalia, used condoms, empty and broken liquor bottles, weapons including various types of knives and stolen articles including clothing, wallets and copious amounts of trash in the area. I and my neighbours have had to call the RCMP before for people who have been passed out and unresponsive on our street. There has been violence. There have been shootings that have happened in that alleyway. Just this past weekend, I also found a discarded knife that had been thrown over my fence, into my backyard, from the alleyway. On two separate occasions since I have lived here, I have had people try to break into my locked home in the middle of the night because they are so intoxicated and/ or high that they believed this was their home and they were locked out of it. In both cases, they became angry, belligerent and frustrated, and unwilling to leave my front step which resulted in phone calls to the RCMP.

ALL of the women prostituting in this area are constantly drunk and/ or high and I truly believe that the people controlling their 'business', and the customers, provide them with both so that they remain compliant and agreeable. Adding a liquor store to the area only aids in their atrocious business transactions when there is already a much bigger problem at stake here. These women need serious help and not more liquor at their fingertips and those of their paying customers.

While one might argue that it would be good to have any kind of business occupy the building, I truly believe that because of the current state of our neighborhood, this building as a liquor store would NOT attract a "good" clientele and it would soon turn into an even more undesirable area AND put more pressure on our RCMP services. I do not want this to be the next Shooters liquor store next to Parkwood, or the next 711 on

20th ave (or the Queensway one for that matter). I urge the city to look at the neighboring businesses and properties on Queensway and how many issues they have had over the years. The SPCA building next door to this property had to put a fence and new bright lights up around their back door because there were literally prostitutes having sex on their back step, and people leaving disgusting and dangerous garbage behind every day. A liquor store is not the way to go with this building.

I deserve to feel safe in my home and my neighborhood. I want to be able to take my dog for a walk without worrying about being a single female walking alone downtown. I want to be able to sit in my back yard after dark and not worry about the people who are just on the other side of my fence. I want to be able to mow my lawn without picking up garbage and liquor bottles and used needles.

I remain hopeful in the revitalization of my neighborhood, because the goodness of my neighbors helps me to believe in it. That being said, I can tell you that I have seen little change come from the city and RCMP already in regards to our neighborhood over the years. I truly believe that if this liquor store were to move forward, we would continue to not receive the support we already so desperately need and things would only get worse. I would suggest the owners of this proposed business spend a few nights in our neighborhood to see the issues we already face, because they clearly don't live anywhere nearby. There is an empty lot behind the building that I'm sure they could pitch a tent in (watch out for the needles!)

No good can come from a liquor store in this neighborhood and I strongly oppose this business. Please think of the people who live in the neighborhood and not solely of the dollars and cents.

Yours respectfully,

Samantha Thomson

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