

April 5, 2022

To Mayor and Council,

I am writing to ask your reconsideration of the rezoning of the former Pizza Hut location on Queensway to a liquor store.

My family was born and raised in Prince George and I currently own and live in the house my great grandfather built. In the time I was raised in this house until now, I have never seen this amount of garbage, needles, crime or vandalism. I feel like I am living back in east Vancouver, where in some ways, I actually felt safer.

What has now become a vulnerable and unsafe area for myself, my neighbours, their children and our animals, the rezoning of the property on Queensway to a liquor store will exacerbate an already relentless, volatile and unsafe situation.

It will become the "greyhound station" of Queensway and this road already has issues with prostitution, johns, and drug exchanges.

It will not only put the communities from the River to Ron Brent School at risk, it will put the individuals at the Friendship lodge at risk and are these not some of the individuals that we are to be looking out for?

Friendship Lodge

The Prince George Native Friendship Centre has joined with BC Housing to operate 30 units of supported housing, which addresses the needs of adults who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. Core to the development of Friendship Lodge is addressing the needs in our community through the provision of an affordable, safe "home" supportive atmosphere thereby facilitating resident's transition to greater stability.

Friendship Lodge assists individuals with mental illnesses and/or physical disabilities and/or those with drug and alcohol addictions with help they require to transition to self-reliance and independence.

I feel that our community has been provided with very little support or options to mitigate this homeless camp, so this proposed liquor store location feels like an act of aggression towards our community.

With the downtown community losing Save On Foods in Parkwood, why not look at a "Green Grocer" type of business or do a call out for that type of business proposal. Change the walking traffic on Queensway to something positive. Build the community, not exacerbate the issue by allowing easy access to another form of abuse.

This is not the time to consider a liquor store or a pot store in our community. This is the time to consider other types of businesses to bring the communities together, to build up the positive, to change traffic patterns. This is the time to think towards the future of what this area means to the growth of downtown and how to better establish other services that improves neighbourhoods not breaks them down.

I, like many of my fellow homeowners, renters and business owners of the Millar Addition, stand opposed to this proposed location of the liquor store.

Thank you.
Michelle Stephen
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