



Comments on Planning and Land Use Applications

Date Completed: Wednesday May 3rd 2023 7:54 AM

Reference Number: 2023-05-03-002

First Name *

Samuel

Last Name *

Chernish

Address *

Redacted 5th Ave Prince George

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Prince George

Please provide a valid telephone number or email address for internal use only. *

Email Address *

Redacted

Email Address

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For which application would you like to provide comments? (One form per application) *

RZ100770 - Bylaw 9358 (1616 and 1650 Queensway) - Meeting Date: May 8, 2023

Comments:

Hello Council. I am writing to you today as a continuation of attempting to share the perspective of a hardworking young person who lives on Queensway St. I previously spoke to council members about centralizing the homeless population in the lower Queensway site and the dangers of such a move. I am in strong opposition to putting a "supportive housing" unit on Queensway at the listed address. I point to the failure of the project at the "Knights Inn" downtown and how it has become a central site for crime, mischief, vagrancy and open drug use. I point to the incredibly fragile nature of Queensway St, in that it is already hit extremely heavily with crime associated with gangs, drugs, homelessness, violence and theft; and I ask, why? Why add another "project" to this area that will not be successful? Are we not suffering enough due to the decisions made by council? I have worked incredibly hard in my life in order to get where I am today. My partner and I took all of our savings in order to buy a home on Queensway St. With the cost of rent and inflation running rampant, it was the only sensible thing to do, though very expensive. In the roughly 6 months we have lived on Queensway St there has been a murder or an attempted murder nearly every month within a few blocks of our residence. There have been people trespassing in the yard, theft of our property from the yard, people experiencing mental health crisis walking around the home screaming at the top of their lungs during all hours of the day, meaning we cannot leave my own home for fear for our safety, multiple fires started by homeless people within a short distance of the home and of a school and church that have required the fire department, and it's just getting started. Why do you punish us so? Why do you punish the homeless people as well? This is no better for them than it is for us. To push them into a high crime area as persons who are often taken advantage of and are vulnerable is truly questionable, not just morally, but statistically. How can council do this in good conscious?

I would recommend we build these supportive housing units in areas that are new developments, well off, perhaps with access to health care and other supports, certainly the statistics that are widely available about health outcomes being directly tied to geographical area, access to health care and the economic structure of the area are enough evidence to give this argument credence. But then again, that might put homeless people near the parts of town that people in government live in, or cause them to be visible to those who might be more vocal or have sway with council itself. I am truly ashamed of the actions taken by council both towards the homeless population in their forced centralization which combines vulnerable women, young people, those experiencing mental health problems with dangerous criminals and also ashamed of the action they have taken towards those who have given all they have in order to be able to live in this city and are punished for it with poor planning and politicized rhetoric from city council.

Provide documents or photos related to your comment. You may attach:

- A maximum of 3 files.
- Files up to 50MB each.

Add Attachment (optional)

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