
From: cityclerk
Subject: FW: For Inclusion in the Council Meeting Agenda

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From: Dbheidi Redacted
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 10:53 PM
To: cityclerk <cityclerk@princegeorge.ca>
Subject: For Inclusion in the Council Meeting Agenda

For Inclusion in the Council Meeting Agenda

Re: Parks and Open Space Bylaw No. 9389, 2023

Attention: His Worship Simon Yu and City Councillors of the City of Prince George

My name is Debra Yorston and I am a resident in Millar Addition. I have lived in this neighbourhood for the past 40 years. Over the past 3 years I have watched our neighbourhood become an undesirable and unsafe area to live in. My proximity to Moccasin Flats has allowed me to witness first hand, real life instances that happen there and to attest to the validity of this statement.

Not only have I witnessed the sound of gun shots with a trajectory coming up over the bank at 8:30 am; I have watched people defecating in broad daylight. The squalor is not fit for any human. Garbage everywhere. Even hanging in the trees on Patricia Blvd. Fear, stress and anxiety are constant feelings on a daily basis. Moccasin Flats is a fire hazard. Waiting for one of the frequent fires making its way up over the blvd is a reality. There are numerous unlawful fires and there have been many burn out of control before the neighbourhood or one of the nearby businesses take notice and call it in to the Fire Department. Only a matter of time before a life is taken; the residents of Millar Addition lose a home or a life, or another business burns and employee lives are taken. Fireworks are another constant hazard. All hours of the night. Also a fire hazard especially in the hottest days of summer. Generators running constantly. This is Moccasin Flats.

Being in close proximity to the downtown and having worked on 3rd Ave for many years I have also witnessed the change to undesirable and unsafe. Not only has the homeless problem affected me personally as well as my neighbours, family and friends it has made the downtown core a no go zone. Frequent at your own risk.

I wish to express my frustration and discontent with the City's commitment to the unsafe and unjust downtown de-housed centralization plan. This proposed plan the City is considering will violate the human rights of people experiencing homelessness. It is also wrong to inflict this plan on the residents and business owners that are within close proximity to Moccasin Flats.

It is extremely disappointing to see the City's renewed commitment to a strategy that will enact violence on our homeless population rather than actually help them survive as the housing situation across the province continues to deteriorate. It is now time to seriously look at a solution to this ongoing issue and not using a band aid tactic.

The time has come to accept that living on the street is simply the only viable option for some people in the short term. There are many experts advocating for different approaches that would make the streets safe for everyone, including the people forced to shelter themselves in public spaces, and I hope you will pause this plan and collaborate with the experts for a new way forward. By way of collaboration and community input, you will gain much more support from the Citizens of Prince George.

Sincerely

Debra Yorston
467 Patricia Blvd
Prince George BC
Redacted

DMJY