

April 16, 2024

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

I am a resident of the Millar Addition neighbourhood and have been so for nearly 10 years. I am writing this letter to share some of my concerns that have been building over the last three years, as the nearby encampment on Lower Patricia has become increasingly established and endorsed by the City.

1. I am a fit, active and healthy young person, yet I no longer feel safe being out in my neighbourhood after dark.
2. I have experienced multiple thefts from my property, including propane tanks, lawn chairs and a car break-in. This forces me to have to tie anything down that I can.
3. I have small children and I must constantly be in high alert every time we exit our house lest they encounter dangerous drug paraphernalia (used needles, pipes, bands, a baggie with pills, etc) which we have on several occasions, including on our own front lawn. This is both terrifying and devastating to me.
4. Air quality has never been ideal in the bowl, however the additional smoke and pollutants rising from Moccasin Flats have made it abysmal. I have a young child diagnosed with *redacted and we have had to spend some miserable days inside due the smoke and pollutants emitted from the Lower Patricia encampment.
5. I have had groups of unknown individuals ringing my door bell late at night and have observing both groups and individuals skulking in my yard, in windows and around my garage and cars. I worry for the safety and privacy of my children (and myself) in case this escalates.
6. The increased fire risk is unacceptable and is problematic for everyone.

This letter has been very difficult to write. The mental, physical and financial tolls placed on myself and my fellow neighbours are real.

It is my request that you support a Notice of Motion for a community safety town hall regarding the encampment on Lower Patricia.

While I believe the Temporary Short Term Use Application from BC Housing to be well – intentioned, when due consideration is given to its proposed location – in a pre-existing high density area of crime, marginalization and high risk of safety hazards (not the least of which is fire) - it is not a sound option.

Regards,

Madelaine Deevy
Millar Addition Resident