
Subject:

FW: Rezoning for proposed women's transition house on Zelkwas

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From: John Blanche [Redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 10:32 AM

To: cityclerk <cityclerk@princegeorge.ca>

Cc: Connelly, Maureen <Maureen.Connelly@princegeorge.ca>

Subject: Rezoning for proposed women's transition house on Zelkwas

Dear City Council Members,

The City's proposed rezoning of the land behind the Trinity United Church is ill thought out and will do both a disservice to the people it is intended to help as well as the neighbourhood.

We have lived in the Spruceland area for over 27 years. During this time there have been significant negative changes to the area.

There has been a significant increase in rental properties with absentee landlords who have allowed the property to go into disrepair. These same landlords fail to provide adequate parking for their tenants forcing them to park on the street. Combine this with the lack of parking in the apartments on Union results in the streets being clogged creating numerous hazards for the residents and children living in the area. The transition house will further contribute to the problem. In the past 10 years, Harry Loder Park has been used as a "campground" for transient individuals who leave their liquor bottles, drug paraphernalia, light fires, pitch tents, make lean-tos and discard their garbage and bodily fluids/excrement in our once lovely park. As a child, I walked through this park to get to school but would not walk through it now as an adult.

Additionally, the transition house will be in the immediate proximity of two streets that have rampant drug and crime issues, Ahbau and Ruggles. The problems that plague Ahbau and Ruggles are the exact issues that the individuals accessing the services on the transition homes will be trying to escape. By having them start their transition so close to these problems will not assist them with their recovery.

Rezoning this section of land without adequate consideration of the consequences of that decision is the same sort of thinking that caused community backlash with cutting the hours at Masich Place and trying to build a transit hub on 18th Avenue.

Prince George needs these types of services in the community; however, where these services go needs to be done with care as it can cause more problems than it ameliorates.

The land behind the Trinity United Church is not the right area for the transition home.

Sincerely,

John and Leonor Blanche