

Lucas De Amaral

From: Gregory Clarke [REDACTED]
Sent: December 19, 2018 11:11 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Aquara development

Mayor and city council,

I live in the Shutters condo complex at 68 Songhees Rd. in Vic West. My unit faces Kimta Rd and the Aquara construction site, which has been the site of increasingly aggressive blasting and drilling for the past 5 months. Our son was born in August and has had to endure this brutally disruptive noise from day one. I am appalled that the City of Victoria would approve such a development, knowing it would allow massive, daily blasting so close (10-20 m away) to our home. Why did council totally disregard the potential impact (literally) on the neighbours when it green-lighted this project? While some residents are less affected since they work during the day, I am an Air Force Officer who works in Search and Rescue, thus a shift worker. My wife is off on maternity leave. In all, my newborn son, wife and I have all been exhausted on many days, incapable of sleeping due to the incessant noise and blasting vibrations. Furthermore, I'm also having increasing adverse reactions to many of the large, irregularly-timed blasts stemming from a year (2013-2014) serving as a UN Observer on an outpost during the Syrian civil war. I spent much of my time in a bomb shelter as shells landed around us. Your developer-friendly Council has completely disregarded any ill-effects of this project on residents. If council were half as concerned about affected residents (including new parents, their babies, as well as veterans) as they were about cyclists, then perhaps you would have scrutinized this plan a little more.

I am clearly appalled and feel betrayed after living here for 9 years. While city council spends much of your time debating the offensiveness of Christmas trees and poinsettias, or railroading more bike lanes for the benefit of a fraction of citizens, you've neglected to look beyond your base and address the less-ideological and more pragmatic issues that affect everyday folks.

Fed up, we have decided to sell our condo and move out of the area. It has been listed for 6 weeks now, but to add more insult to injury, it appears we will not be able to sell it while the construction is going on. Every single prospective home-buyer has indicated that, although they liked the unit, they would never buy it with such disruptive noise. Given that this project has no hard timelines and foreseeable end-date, it has rendered my home effectively worthless. All while the BC Assessed value of my property increased again this year. Add to this, the rental restrictions imposed by my Strata, we are in a bind. The City of Victoria's hasty, financially-motivated, insensitive, or even careless support of this development will result in revenue for many, including the City, but at the significant expense of others.

You have a responsibility here. I wanted to raise my plight, beginning with the City, as the approving authority for this project, in hopes you might take the matter seriously, despite skepticism following my experience a few years ago when a simple email query went completely unaddressed.

Thank you.

Gregory Clarke
520-68 Songhees Rd.
Victoria, BC

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