

Good morning Mayor & Council,

I am writing you today about the news report of Victoria Police seizing weapons in an abandoned tent at the temporary tent camp community at 940 Caledonia Ave. The weapons found by police were a baseball bat with nails in it and two replica firearms.

Please see the news report here: <https://www.cheknews.ca/wooden-bat-with-nails-among-weapons-seized-at-victoria-sheltering-area-744748/>

In my emails below, I outlined that the safety of my strata's residents and North Park residents was paramount. The possibility that homeless thugs could be in our neighbourhood with weapons such as these found by the police at the tent camp is very concerning to the safety of all nearby residents. Why would these homeless campers have these weapons? What would they be trying to do with them, fight each other?

What could be the result if one of these homeless campers decided to attack a North Park resident with one of these weapons? Or decided to make threats to residents while brandishing the firearm? Or decided to destroy property in the neighbourhood with the baseball bat with nails?

The answers to any of these questions would be horrible for the city, my strata's residents and the residents of North Park to find out.

Therefore, I ask, if an abandoned tent can be used to store weapons, then do you think that a shipping container shelter can be used by the homeless campers to store weapons easily as well in the North Park neighbourhood for a longer period of time?

I hope that you are all beginning to understand the type of homeless campers that could be living in these tent camps, and the proposed shipping container shelter at 940 Caledonia Ave, are not the type of homeless campers that should be living in any residential neighbourhood in Victoria at all.

Please reconsider putting the proposed shipping container shelters at 940 Caledonia Ave. The shelters will attract a violent group of homeless campers in the North Park neighbourhood. Please consider the proposed location 2100 to 2200 Government street between Pembroke street and Queens Ave for the shipping container shelters in my email below.

Thank you,

Adit Prasad
Vice President
Calais Strata 1007 Caledonia Ave

From: Adit Prasad [REDACTED]

Sent: January 27, 2021 8:30 PM

To: Lisa Helps (Mayor) <LHelps@victoria.ca>; Marianne Alto (Councillor) <malto@victoria.ca>; stephen.andrew@victoria.ca <stephen.andrew@victoria.ca>; sdubow@victoria.ca <sdubow@victoria.ca>; Ben Isitt (Councillor) <BIsitt@victoria.ca>; jloveday@victoria.ca <jloveday@victoria.ca>; spotts@victoria.ca <spotts@victoria.ca>; cthornton-joe@victoria.ca <cthornton-joe@victoria.ca>; gyoung@victoria.ca <gyoung@victoria.ca>

Cc: mayor@victoria.ca <mayor@victoria.ca>; [REDACTED]

Victoria Mayor and Council

<mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>; [REDACTED]

Subject: Homeless Death & Tiny Home Community on Caledonia Ave

Good evening Mayor & Council,

I am writing you today about the death of the 30 year old man at the homeless tent camp on the parking lot of Royal Athletic Park (940 Caledonia Ave) and how this man's death in the tent camp can affect the North Park Neighbourhood going forward if the tiny home shipping container community is built at 940 Caledonia Ave. This tent camp is across the street from my strata building on Caledonia Ave.

This death was very tragic and it was caused by a suspected drug over dose in his tent, according to CHEK News.

<https://www.cheknews.ca/hes-loved-calls-to-reopen-arena-shelter-grow-after-victoria-homeless-man-found-dead-738090/#:~:text=WatchFriends%20mourn%20after%20a,next%20to%20Royal%20Athletic%20Park.&text=Dawson%20says%20the%20man%2C%20who,and%20has%20about%2034%20tents.>

This tent camp has no full time onsite supports, so it's unknown if a full time outreach worker was there if his life could have been saved.

This homeless man's death at the tent camp raises the following concerns for the residents of my strata:

- 1) This man's body was found in his tent. If he were in a shipping container home he would likely have more privacy to perform his drug use compared to a tent (there is no full time outreach worker to stop him). We are concerned that these shipping container homes will be used for the homeless to privately consume drugs in our neighbourhood.
- 2) We do not want the North Park Neighbourhood to become known as a place where the homeless can come to hang out in the parking lot to buy and consume drugs (out in the open or inside shipping containers). Who will be there full time to stop that from happening?

3) We do not want to see scenes in the news of our neighbourhood looking like it is a drug haven for the homeless to enjoy unsupervised. This makes our neighbourhood look cheap, dirty and an undesirable place to live and own a home.

4) The safety of our strata residents and other North Park residents is paramount. We have a good working relationship with the Vic PD as well. A drug filled shipping container homeless community across the street from my strata does not seem like a safe idea for the neighbourhood residents.

As a strata, we do support the need for permanent housing solutions for the homeless and we accept and understand the situation of the homeless tent camp in the parking lot until March 31, 2021 as the city has proposed so that the homeless can camp on pavement rather than a wet park field. The North Park neighbourhood is doing its part for the city during this time of housing need for the homeless during the pandemic by accepting the temporary tent camp until March 31st.

Especially now that the Save on Foods Memorial Arena will once again (announced today) be used to house the homeless (approved by BC Housing), our neighbourhood is really accepting the needs of the homeless population. This project was very successful in 2020 and was barely noticeable on Caledonia Ave to the residents of my strata.

But, having shipping container housing in our neighbourhood until September 2022 will be detrimental for the reasons stated above.

As an alternative to the site of 940 Caledonia Ave, may I propose the site of 2100 to 2200 Government street between Pembroke street and Queens Ave that has wall art on the fencing, as the site for a shipping container transitional housing community for the homeless? The reasons that I believe that this is a good site are:

1) There is not much of an existing residential community in this area, or much local businesses except VI Brewery. Local residents will likely not be affected by whatever activities the homeless do in their tiny home community at this location.

2) A few years ago Mayor Helps proposed that this site should be used to build temporary housing for all of Victoria's temporary construction workers who were having a hard time finding housing in the city while they worked to build many new condo towers in the city. So, why not build the shipping container transitional tiny home community for the homeless at this site?

3) This site is large enough for more shipping container homes to be built if the city decides to do so to house the growing homeless population beyond 2022. I'm sure it can be supervised very well by outreach workers as needed, and the fencing helps to control who enters the site (prevent drug trafficking and likely usage).

I hope that Counsellors and Mayor consider this alternative site. Please let me know your thoughts on this alternative site.

Please see my email below for further information and concerns.

Thank you,

Adit Prasad
Vice President
Calais Strata 1007 Caledonia Ave

From: Adit Prasad
Sent: January 10, 2021 10:04 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Cc: mayor@victoria.ca <mayor@victoria.ca>; stephen.andrew@victoria.ca <stephen.andrew@victoria.ca>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] April Lawrence
[REDACTED]
Subject: Reconsider Homeless Tiny Home Community on Caledonia Ave

Good evening City of Victoria Council,

I am writing to you all about my strata's concerns with the city's consideration to accept Aryze Developments' proposal to build 30 housing units by using repurposed shipping containers on the site of 940 Caledonia Ave, the Royal Athletic Park Parking lot. I understand that this site is proposed to be used for this transitional tiny home community from March 2021 to September 2022 and City of Victoria is working with the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness (GVCEH) and Aryze Developments to build this transitional housing for the homeless using repurposed shipping containers.

As a resident of the Calais Strata on the 1000 block of Caledonia ave, which is directly across from the entrance to Royal Athletic Park and adjacent to the parking lot, I am concerned about the choice of this location because of the safety and security of the owners of my strata building due to the homeless currently living in tents in the parking lot of Royal Athletic Park. Currently the sight of many large tents to provide shelter in the Royal Athletic Park Parking lot and wrapped in temporary fencing is quite an ugly look to our North Park neighbourhood. But we understand that this measure is truly temporary and accept this for the winter season.

My strata already has issues with homeless people committing vandalism of our recycling bins, breaking exterior property of our building such as lights and fences, breaking and entering into our resident's vehicles, refusing to leave our parking area and finding used drug needles on our

strata's property. We accept that is part of living in our vibrant, entertaining and sports filled neighbourhood.

We are concerned that this proposed longer term transitional housing for the homeless of using repurposed shipping containers at 940 Caledonia Ave will:

- 1) Only exacerbate the issues stated above by allowing the homeless residents to stay in the North Park neighbourhood longer and possibly commit property crimes on Caledonia Ave. They are still homeless regardless even if they live in a shipping container temporarily.
- 2) Be used by the homeless residents for the consumption, storage and sale of illegal drugs. We do not want to potentially see a city sponsored illegal drug complex in our neighbourhood, no matter how "pretty" the shipping containers look from the outside.
- 3) Remain at 940 Caledonia Ave even after the latest proposed date of September 2022. What guarantees can the city provide to North Park residents that more homeless people will not be housed in shipping containers at this site and possibly beyond 2022?
- 4) Affect fan attendance of Royals hockey games and Harbourcats baseball games (when they start to play again and fans are allowed to attend), and events at RAP. Our neighbourhood is known as the home of these great Victoria sports teams and RAP events, and the parking lot is used by people who come to the games and events. We would expect games and events to be back hopefully by 2022 with the viability of these teams and events.
- 5) Negatively affect bicycle parking at the covered bicycle lock up at the corner on Vancouver St at Caledonia Ave. It is possible that citizens that bike in the neighbourhood would not feel safe locking their bike up at that bicycle parking spot for fear of the homeless residents stealing their bikes/bike parts. The city spent a lot of money building this bike lock up shelter a few years ago, and now with Vancouver street as dedicated bike traffic only, it would look bad if citizens are afraid to use the bike lock up or even riding their bikes on Vancouver street pass the shipping container shelters for fear of being accosted by the homeless campers.

6) Negatively affect the perception of the North Park neighbourhood as a safe place to live long term, and to buy a home, and sell it at a fair market price. We don't want to see our property values decrease because of this shipping container homeless shelters in our neighbourhood. We don't want the city to turn North Park into a homeless shelter ghetto.

I ask all Counsellors and Mayor to please cancel the plan to turn the site of 940 Caledonia Ave into the shipping container transitional tiny home community for the homeless for the reasons that I've stated above.

The residents of my strata are not against homeless people living in repurposed shipping containers as transitional housing, as this will help with their mental and physical well-being. But we really don't want this transitional housing in our neighbourhood.

As an alternative to the site of 940 Caledonia Ave, may I propose the site of 2100 to 2200 Government street between Pembroke street and Queens Ave that has wall art on the fencing, as the site for a shipping container transitional housing community for the homeless? The reasons that I believe that this is a good site are:

1) There is not much of an existing residential community in this area, or much local businesses except VI Brewery. Local residents will likely not be affected by whatever activities the homeless do in their tiny home community at this location.

2) A few years ago Mayor Helps proposed that this site should be used to build temporary housing for all of Victoria's temporary construction workers who were having a hard time finding housing in the city while they worked to build many new condo towers in the city. So, why not build the shipping container transitional tiny home community for the homeless at this site?

3) This site is large enough for more shipping container homes to be built if the city decides to do so to house the growing homeless population beyond 2022.

I hope that Counsellors and Mayor consider this alternative site.

Also, I would like to remind all Counsellors and Mayor that the newly elected Counsellor, Stephen Andrew, ran his election campaign on a platform that included ending 24/7 camping in parks by homeless people. **Stephen Andrew won the by-election by over 3,000 votes compared to the 2nd place candidate, and presumably, many Victorians agree with Mr. Andrew's stand on ending 24/7 camping in parks by homeless people. All Counsellors and Mayor should consider this by-election result as a very clear and**

strong message from Victorians. The idea of ending 24/7 camping in parks by homeless people can be applied to not allowing homeless people to live in shipping container transitional tiny homes in Royal Athletic Park's parking lot for many months. The parking lot at 940 Caledonia Ave is still part of Royal Athletic Park.

Thank you all for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from all Counsellors and Mayor on this very important issue.

Adit Prasad
Vice President
Calais Strata