

To: The Mayor and Council of the City of Victoria

I live at 1007 Caledonia in close proximity to the Tiny Home Community that opened these two years ago.

On opening the residents of the immediate community were assured by Julian Daly from Our Place Society that there would not be any shopping carts filled with detritus collected by anyone living there, noise would not be an issue and we would not have to put up with any camping in the vicinity.

To date noise issues have been dealt with in a fairly expedient manner - some situations taking longer than others. Recently there were two shopping carts parked outside this community for days at a time. Now there have been campers in and around this area and in particular one individual who arrives in the night with what appears to be a new tent after several removals by the by-laws department. There is open drug use during the day and a continual attraction appears to be a woman who is a resident of the Tiny Home Community. Our Place appears to offer assistance to this camper and the woman stays in the tent from time to time in the grassy area where they have set up camp outside the fence of The Royal Athletic Park.

Today (August 14th) this individual has shown up again but with no tent. He has been using drugs of some kind (not pot) and appears to be nodding on and off with the woman sitting nearby. They have a pile of paraphernalia scattered around them.

During the baseball season these two were occupying this area and using drugs as baseball fans were arriving for games, adults and children together.

I have sent many complaints to the By-Laws Department over this and they have been here on several occasions, but this should not be happening at all.

I question the involvement of Our Place as the staff appear to be enabling the behaviour by offering assistance.

At the intersection of Vancouver and Green Streets there are also some tents amidst a mess of debris.

I notice that the City Council is voting on an extension of the Tiny Home Community until March of 2023. September was the end date of this experiment in assisting people to get off the street and establish new lives for themselves. If this has not worked to date then a further extension is not helpful and exactly how long should this go on. I feel that the residents in this immediate area have tolerated enough and the structure has to go.

Margaret Bell  
201-1007 Caledonia Avenue  
Victoria