

Lacey Maxwell

From: Scott Daly [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2017 10:46 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Temporary Use Permit, 3020 Douglas Street

Mayor Helps and Victoria Council,

I recently attended a community meeting regarding Cool Aid's proposed temporary housing facility at 3020 Douglas Street, in the former Tally Ho hotel. There were concerns expressed by some vocal community members that this proposal should not be approved because the concentration of shelter spaces and supportive housing in Burnside-Gorge is too high. One often quoted statistic is that the area contains 7% of the population but 77% of the shelter bed spaces. This number is jarring. But with some research from publicly available sources, this number is also grossly incorrect, especially when seasonal and emergency weather response spaces are factored in.

While you will no doubt hear from some of my neighbours who are opposed to this facility at its current proposed location, I would like council to be aware that this sentiment is not shared by all Burnside-Gorge community members. If anything, I believe the concerns I heard expressed at the meeting, and that you will hear in the process of considering this permit, are more the result of the problem of homelessness and addiction that is being felt across Victoria – something that Cool Aid's proposal would directly help to address.

As you know, homelessness is a complex issue with one or more underlying causes for each person. Accordingly, there is no one solution to homelessness. Rather, there needs to be more spaces and a wider array of solutions to match the level of support different people need to address why they are chronically homeless. Some only need more affordable housing while others need more involved supportive services to stabilize and break the cycle that causes them to be homeless.

I also heard concerns about safety in our community. But we make our community less safe by making the most vulnerable more desperate. I believe this initiative is one piece of the solution that would get more people off the streets and give them more ready access to the supports they need. This makes us all safer. Importantly, this proposal can be readied relatively quickly and, having lived directly across from another Cool Aid transitional housing facility for 6 years, I can attest that they do seamlessly blend into the neighbourhood.

My husband and I would welcome this transitional housing facility into our neighbourhood and I urge council to approve the temporary use permit for 3020 Douglas Street.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Scott and Tom Daly

304 – 606 Speed Ave

Victoria, BC

Pamela Martin

From: Public Hearings
Subject: FW: 3020 Douglas St

From: LORI SPENCE <[REDACTED]>
Sent: November 20, 2017 6:13 PM
To: publichearins@victoria.ca
Subject: 3020 Douglas St

I do not support any further development , re-zoning, permitting for more temporary transient shelters in the Burnside Gorge area. Burnside area already has a high concentration of these type of facilities. When the Selkirk Development was in development and completed the future picture was quite different as of today. I am a home owner and work in this area. I have seen an increase of crime with businesses increasing their cost of business in this area, with installing fencing and security cameras, not to mention added security patrols.

Approving "Temporary Use Permit", only means permanent. Burnside Gorge area has become a dumping ground and a convenient for Government as a quick fix. Not taking in consideration for contributing tax paying home owners and businesses on their vision of our community.

It is time to quit pushing out young working families and working single persons, that could contribute to the positives of our community.

Thank you for your attention .

Lori Spence

Nov. 13, 2017

To: Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing and
Mayor & Council, City of Victoria

Re: 3020 Douglas Street formerly Tally Ho

We are all home owners or residents, some for over 25 years, in the Burnside-Gorge community. Sympathetic to the homeless crisis the Victoria area is experiencing, we have been accepting of the many housing projects that have opened in our area - but our neighbourhood has changed.

We are all experiencing far too many incidents with drug addicts, with "challenged" people, with used needles and syringes, vagrants, discarded condoms, prostitution and a noticeable increase of break-ins, stolen cars and bicycles etc. Many of us are afraid for our children and afraid when out in the early mornings and nights, if not accompanied. Our parks are often scary places to walk. Retail stores are remaining vacant because new tenants are wary of the neighbourhood. We have had to increase security systems in our homes and buildings. Use of public transportation is sometimes intimidating. These are just some of the changes with which we are having to cope.

We would like to let the Ministry of Housing and the Victoria City Council know that we cannot, due to these growing concerns and over-concentration of shelters, be supportive of any of the plans for the project proposed by the BC Ministry of Housing and the Victoria Cool Aid Society for 3020 Douglas St. formerly Tally Ho.

We are disturbed by the fact that the Cool Aid Society purchased the property with BC Housing support before either had approached or consulted our community for input. We are now waiting for information from the Housing Ministry as to how this transaction occurred with no prior consultation and asking in which way the government was involved. All property development, whether by private applicants or public organizations, must seek approvals before it can be assumed the development will take place.

If proper prior consultation and a study of our community had been done, it would have been clearly evident that there already exists a large number of supportive housing projects in the Burnside-Gorge area and an additional one would place unacceptable strain on our neighbourhood and it does not fit into our Community Association development plans.

We are not in favour of the Victoria City Council granting a 3 year temporary use permit for the Tally Ho property. We were shocked and surprised to learn that work was already taking place inside the Tally Ho prior to any change of zoning being granted. This speaks of a complete disregard for input, consultation and acknowledgement of our Community Association's recommendations. Community input is being ignored and it seems that there was no intention to listen. Are we living in a democracy or are things done arbitrarily? Community engagement should mean what it says, not just imposing projects on a community. We want elected officials, at ALL levels, that listen and respond to community concerns and recommendations. We acknowledge a housing crisis but our community has already absorbed many projects that address this need.

We are, also, not in favour of the Victoria Cool Aid Society having a three year period to develop a plan that will "meet all Burnside Gorge Community Development Plans" at 3020 Douglas St. This site as a "supportive and stabilized housing project" will not fit into our Community's plans. We already are at a level far above other communities in supportive housing. We already have an inclusive, diverse plan. We are a caring community but we are saturated now with the projects that are established here. We have just 7% of the City of Victoria's population but we have 77% of the shelter units in the City. We have 36% of all supportive housing units in Victoria. A high concentration in one community of marginalized people is counter-productive and contrary to all treatment models. Instead, consider providing a housing project with a treatment aspect to it, where the residents can be separated from peer pressures, learn new life skills, and be participants in the community. A regional approach must be the only consideration.

Please do not approve a temporary use permit or any project by the Cool Aid Society for the Tally Ho property because it does not meet the needs of the Burnside Gorge Community and our Association. At a recent meeting on Nov 8th at our community centre, those present almost unanimously expressed their discontent with the project because of effects already being felt in the community. It is not fair or supportable to concentrate this type of housing in any one neighbourhood. We propose that the Housing Ministry and the Cool Aid Society find another location in another district that would distribute this type of needed housing across Victoria and the CRD. We want our Burnside Gorge community to be vibrant and healthy. As the saying goes: "enough already". It is clear that concentrating people who have complex problems defeats the benefits of the housing provided.

Be analytical, strategic, fair, and engaging by listening to the mental health professionals, our community residents and its leaders. Maintain a sense of perspective and a vision of the future. Don't make a mistake. Please listen.

Thanking you in advance for addressing the needs of our community,
We are Burnside Gorge residents,

Brenda Dean

BRENDA DEAN

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