

**Helen Soderholm, Peter Buchanan**

5724 Eglinton Street  
Burnaby, BC  
V5G 2B6

► **City of Burnaby – Board of Variance**

4949 Canada Way  
Burnaby, BC, Canada  
V5G 1M2

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**Dear Board Members:**

This letter supports a variance application for an over height fence built in 2007 on the western border of our property, 5724 Eglinton Street (Drawing 1 and Panels 1-4 Drawing 2B). The proposed retaining wall and fence shown on the attached drawings (Panels 5 – 11) are not part of this variance application as they comply with City of Burnaby by-laws. They were submitted to the City's Building Department for comment. We have been advised that this proposed wall and fence are in by-law compliance.

A typical panel of panels 1 – 4 is shown in Drawing 2, (page 2 of 8), and consists of four 5' 8" high solid prefabricated cedar panels topped with vegetation supports. The vegetation supports are 2-foot high diagonal lattices and a 10 ½ inch high trellises constructed of 2-inch by 2-inch cross pieces. These panels now support climbing vines and a flower and shrub garden adjacent to the fence. (Photo 1). All portions of the fence are situated on or over our property.

The fence panels that are the subject of this application were erected in 2007 to replace an English laurel hedge (approximately 12 feet in height and up to 12 feet in width). In 2013 and 2014 the remaining overgrown hedges along the property line were removed and a similar over height fence was erected. It was then that the residents of the adjoining property expressed their displeasure with the removal of the hedge and the fence and filed a complaint with the City. We applied for a Variance in June of 2015 for the entire fence but were denied a variance.

We have removed the top portions of the fence that was constructed in 2013-2014 which brings these newer panels into compliance: these changes have been accepted by the Burnaby bylaw officer. We are now applying for a variance for the original panels constructed in 2007 for the following reasons:

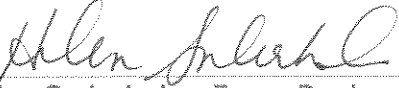
- This portion of the fence was in place for seven years without any concerns being raised;
  - The residents of the adjoining property have now indicated that they would accept the original panels, see attached letter;
  - Removing the entwined vines and lattice could damage the structure and integrity of the fence,
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necessitating more costs to us in repair and/or replacement.

- Removing the vines will remove an attractive and diverse boundary that supports flowering plants and shrubs providing habitat for several bird and insect species;

Thank you for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely



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**Helen Soderholm, Peter Buchanan**

Property Owners  
5724 Eglinton Street

Photo 1



Photo 2



September 9, 2015

We are not interested in compensation. We would be willing to consider the compromise we offered in September 2014. This would be to retain the over height fence between the two houses and remove the lattice and pergola on the remaining seven panels. As this was our position last September we would be willing to withdraw our objection. This would leave it up to City Hall whether they wish to enforce the bylaw and the decision of the Board of Variance. The bylaw officer who has been in contact with us regarding the fence is on holiday until September 14 and so we would want to clarify with her that this compromise would be acceptable to the city.

Ross & Linda