

#2101-4353 Halifax Street
Burnaby, B.C. V5C 5Z4
April 19, 2016

Traffic Safety Committee
City of Burnaby
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, B.C.

To Whom It May Concern,

I write to you now as a strata council representative of the three hundred unit Brent Gardens strata community, located at 4353, 4363 and 4373 Halifax Street. We have many traffic concerns and seek a meeting with your committee as soon as possible. We have noticed a dramatic increase in both the volume and speed of traffic on Halifax Street. We attribute this alarming and troublesome problem to the increase in residential and commercial development and also specifically to the removal of the four way stop signs at Halifax, Douglas and Madison. The four way stop signs served to both space and slow traffic down considerably. We are perplexed as to their complete removal without the addition of a regular set of traffic lights in their place. Instead, the current configuration serves to noticeably and dangerously increase the speed and flow of traffic on the section of Halifax in front of our complex. In addition, the current configuration at the Halifax, Douglas and Madison intersection also causes other dangerous traffic turning and traffic flow problems, in all directions, which we want to elaborate upon, in a meeting with you.

We are further and especially concerned since much of the massive residential development of the Brentwood area still remains uncompleted and we are already experiencing serious problems. First, our concern for pedestrians. We have had longstanding problems with the pedestrian controlled stop light at Halifax and Rosser, and it is not as safe as one might hope or expect. When the light at the pedestrian controlled crosswalk is not yet red, but cars going west are stopped and signaling a left turn onto Rosser, many drivers coming from behind the car waiting to turn left, speed by on the inside right of the cars stopped ahead, endangering waiting pedestrians, especially seniors and children. This problem will only get worse with the completion of the Brentwood Mall and tower residences. We have many seniors in our building, and the Amica Seniors' home is also just across the street. Again, there has been at least one other close call wherein a car speeding east down Halifax, and turning right onto Rosser street, almost struck a senior, right under the sign that alerts drivers of a seniors walking sign. These are enough scares and close calls already, and we do not want to wait for a tragedy to occur.

Importantly, many of our children walk to school along Halifax and the increased speed and volume of traffic is a serious concern for us. We also surmise that the children from the Madison complex cannot even walk to their nearest school at Kitchener since there are no crosswalks at the intersections of Douglas, Madison and Halifax. This does not seem in keeping with Burnaby councils' stated position of encouraging a pedestrian friendly and more environmentally aware city. We definitely need a full traffic signal light system with crosswalks at this location to meet these goals.

The increased speed and volume of traffic in both directions is also of great concern for our drivers and our cyclists. Both are experiencing much more difficulty and danger in

exiting and entering both of our underground parking roadways. The exit and entry problems are exacerbated by both the increased speed and volume of traffic, but also further compromised by the limited sight line visibility we experience due to the increased Skytrain street parking. The city garbage pickup also makes it more hazardous exiting when we are also contending with increased volume and speed of other traffic.

We have made inquiries to varying city hall officials and have been told that since Halifax Street is designated as a Major Collector – Primary there are limitations as to what can be done to ensure our safety and security; namely that we cannot ask for speed bumps. We have also been told that a traffic light at Halifax and Douglas would not serve to slow traffic down – perhaps it will not but perhaps it will serve to space the traffic. If it will not even serve to space the traffic then we need to seek additional multiple solutions in addition to this full traffic light and pedestrian crossing.

We have also been told that Halifax is considered a conduit onto the freeway. And clearly when First Avenue is completed through to Douglas we will also be a throughway conduit to the commerce and residents of Brentwood Mall. We have also been told that studies have been done that show there is no need for another traffic light or another pedestrian cross walk in the area of concern but **whatever studies were done certainly did not involve talking to residents of our community.** We don't believe our safety should be sacrificed to the needs of mall or freeway access, or driver convenience.

We request a meeting with your committee so we can dialogue with you regarding these concerns. We would like to discuss possible and multiple solutions. We believe a full traffic signal light at Halifax and Douglas, complete with crosswalks is a necessary first step. We also believe the speed limit should be lowered, and posted, and perhaps a flashing sign indicating driver speed is also necessary. We also request increased police patrols and enforcement of speeding and driving regulations. In addition, we request that Skytrain street parking on Halifax Street be removed. The massive Brentwood Mall development should be required to absorb the Skytrain parking requirements.

We know that our Polaris strata neighbours share our concerns, and they will send representatives from their strata to our meeting with you. We are also in the process of contacting other neighbouring stratas. Perhaps they will also send representatives to a meeting. We look forward to a prompt response from you and to a meeting with your committee, and to a satisfactory resolution of our concerns. I can be reached by phone or text at 778-322-5921, or via email.

Yours sincerely,

Debra Sutherland,
Brent Garden Strata Council
Representative

cc Mayor Derek Corrigan
City Councillors
Burnaby RCMP
Burnaby City Engineering