

To: mayor@burnaby.ca secondariesuites@burnaby.ca

January 24, 2017

Dear Mr. Mayor and Councilors,

SECTION 2 COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE (2017.02.16)
Planning and Development Committee (2017.02.28)
City Manager
Deputy City Manager
Dir. Planning

I can't help but notice that while Vancouver is struggling to create low rental and affordable housing, Burnaby is causing its legal, affordable housing to shrink.

Case in Point

1. Metrotown Renovictions.
2. Closing down suites if more than one per residence.
3. Increasing the cost of existing suites by initiating a 50% water and sewage surcharge, which increases the cost to everyone – about 12% in our case. Prior to this we have not raised the rent for 2 ½ years and for 5 years prior to that.

Some comments –

1. Our four bedroom house has three seniors housed.
2. Up until recently one local house with 2 suites had 24 family members living in the residence.
3. Burnaby is renovating (renovicting?) many small apartment buildings to upgrade accommodations.
4. Garbage – we only put out our midsize garbage can every 2nd week. Now although Burnaby has reduced the pick up to every 2nd week why would we need a larger tote?
5. Increase water and sewage 50% - we are already doing our part!
 - a. This property doesn't have a lawn or use a sprinkler.
 - b. Our suite does not have a bathtub, only a shower.
 - c. We keep a bottle of water in the fridge so running the water for a cold drink is not required.
 - d. Water conservation in the bathroom - we encourage the Selective Flush [if it's yellow, ...]

Questions, please respond!

1. How is increasing utility charges going to help the rental market problem?
2. If there is more than one suite in a house will the other(s) be closed down? (See previous.)
Where will the tenants go?
3. What is going to happen to private houses where room & board is supplied, i.e. foreign students, who house up to 4 persons per home?
4. What is going to happen to rooming houses that rent rooms but that share the bathroom and kitchen?
5. What about homes that rent a room on AIRBNB?
6. If there is off street parking for one car, is that for the suite or the residence? What if the suite requires 2 or more parking spaces – then what?
7. Can I increase the rent by the amount you have charged me?

Thank you for taking the time to listen to our concerns. As longtime residents of Burnaby we are concerned that some of the proposed new policies will not serve the purpose for which they are intended. Doug & Rhonda Gale douglashgale@gmail.com

