

March, 30th 2021

Alaidjah McGlynn - Resident at #201 - 6630 Sussex Ave.

Regarding ReZ #18-20 at 6620-6630 Sussex Ave, Burnaby. BC V5H 3C6

I have lived in the Metrotown area for over a decade. I have witnessed a complete change in what this neighbourhood has become; from an affordable, convenient location for low income and elderly residents, into a true to its name "metropolis" for the wealthy. Only now, is the city looking to protect citizens from displacement, and while I am pleased by progress I do insist that more can be done.

The current developer Keltic Development has hired Sommerville as a Tenant Relations screenwall. Sommerville has only recently even so much as replied to an email, let alone a phone call. They have selectively reached out to limited few of the many tenants in the building - leaving the majority in a tense, worried limbo. Sommerville's mission statement includes a paragraph on how they:

"Aim to enhance tenant connections and facilitate transparent processes while working together with applicants and cities"

Though my experience with Sommerville has been to the contrary, whilst witnessing neighbors move out. When asked why they were moving, the answer was continual. The building is coming down, we dont know when, we dont want to be stuck competing with fellow tenants for future housing. I understood this reasoning as that was my logic for abandoning my last 3 residencies within this neighborhood. Information regarding these inquiries was only available at a Sommerville held online zoom meeting. Many tenants not technologically savvy, or ESL, were excluded and not caught up with ongoing developments. Leaving residents to do their best to update fellow neighbors.

The building itself is in terrible living conditions with constant roof repairs, issues with mold, and an ongoing rodent and insect infestation; also resulting in tenants moving, or stuck with bi-monthly trips by unsuccessful fumigators, practicing illegal procedures such as spraying mattresses and clothes directly with harmful chemicals, or, allowing residents to remain in their suites while they spray those chemicals.

Tenants who have moved in after the 'eligibility date' of Sept, 19th, 2019 should not be minimalized as citizens and left to find alternate housing; whilst witnessing their neighbours enjoying benefits of a compassionate society.. I would propose at the minimum, a free months rent compensation or moving expenses paid or both?

Rez Ref # 18-20

Bylaw # _____

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Speaking to the size and layout of the proposed 53 unit building:

I searched diligently when first looking for a suitable living arrangement for me and my family, which consists of pets as well. It was imperative that I found a balcony attached apartment, as I have 2 cats and seeing them lay outside on the balcony, stretched out in the sun, watching birds brings me great joy and satisfaction. To know that this would be an impossibility due to the sheer size disheartens me. As I progress forward, shouldn't my city and how it looks at living conditions for future residents? My suite is currently packed with furniture and belongs - I have no idea how I would logistically fit all of it inside one of these proposed 1 bedroom suites.

Constant construction and an ever changing backdrop of cranes and new towers is a daily reminder of my limited time left in this community. As this proposed development shows, the minimum is being done for the current citizens of Burnaby. A small unit for unit replacement with smaller homes for us is quite undesirable and bleak.

A balcony I can barely stand on, is not an improvement.

A 30 storey towering over me as my neighbour, is not an improvement.

The construction site directly across the street from me currently is a mirror image of what this development will look like; albeit a bit more drastic, with a 12 storey hamster-home style, unsightly, but "affordable" housing tower with a 57 storey luxury tower as its neighbour. These affordable housing dwellings need to be better than bare minimum, tiny, living quarters - which are just that, a quarter of what they should be.

I would like to thank you Mayor Hurley and all city councillors for continuing to listen and improve our beloved city. I ask that you further look into tenant and developer relations, and entertain the thought of an unbiased third party communications division. I also ask you implement a strict "standard of maintenance by-law" as soon as possible. Citizens of Burnaby are currently living in undesirable conditions while developers and managers bully and ignore tenants. Yearly check-ups similar to fire alarm tests must be conducted to prevent demovictions as a result of negligence by management.

I oppose this development and would like to thank all of you for your time considering this.

Alaidjah McGlynn