

From: Nakita Cheung < >
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 10:25 PM
To: Johnston, Dan <Dan.Johnston@burnaby.ca>
Cc: Clerks <Clerks@burnaby.ca>
Subject: Grafton St. Parking Obstructs Alley Vision

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Dear Mr. Johnston,

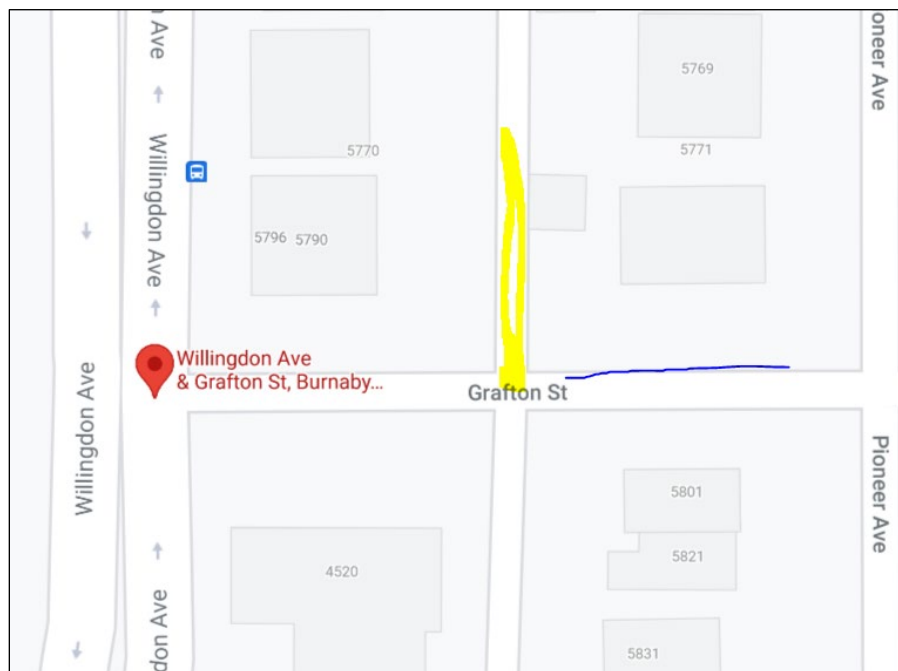
I am writing to you as a citizen who was recently in an accident caused by a blind spot beside an alleyway. I am requesting the City consider moving a no stop sign along Grafton St. and an alley way back five to ten feet.

Grafton St. intersects an alley that leads directly to Grange St. Residents frequently used it to leave their homes by car, bike, or walking. At current, the "no stop zone" stops about a full car space before the curb ends. Though this may appear sufficient, it is not. When two large cars are parked on the street, smaller cars, cyclists, and pedestrians are completely hidden. Even after inching out to block half the street, car shafts and pillars mean there continue to be blind spots.

My email will go into further detail about the area and the accident. I hope my photos will provide sufficient evidence to support moving the no stop zone back.

The Area

I live on _____, Burnaby, BC _____ and regularly take the alley located after the intersection of Grafton and Willingdon (highlighted in yellow below).



To the right of the alley is a small patch of concrete where cars may park and stop (in blue above) with a sign that indicates the limit of the parking area.

Because cars are allowed to park up to roughly two to three metres (approximately the length of a sedan) away from the curb, vision is limited.

The family living in property behind the blue area regularly parks a large Land Rover in the middle of the blue area. On normal days, this is not a problem because vision is still clear when there is a full car space between the sign and the Land Rover.

However, when an extra car is parked directly behind the no stop sign, vision is greatly diminished. Normally, a driver turning out of an alley with limited vision will rely on windows to see if cars are coming down the street. This is impossible with a Land Rover that blocks vision through a windshield.

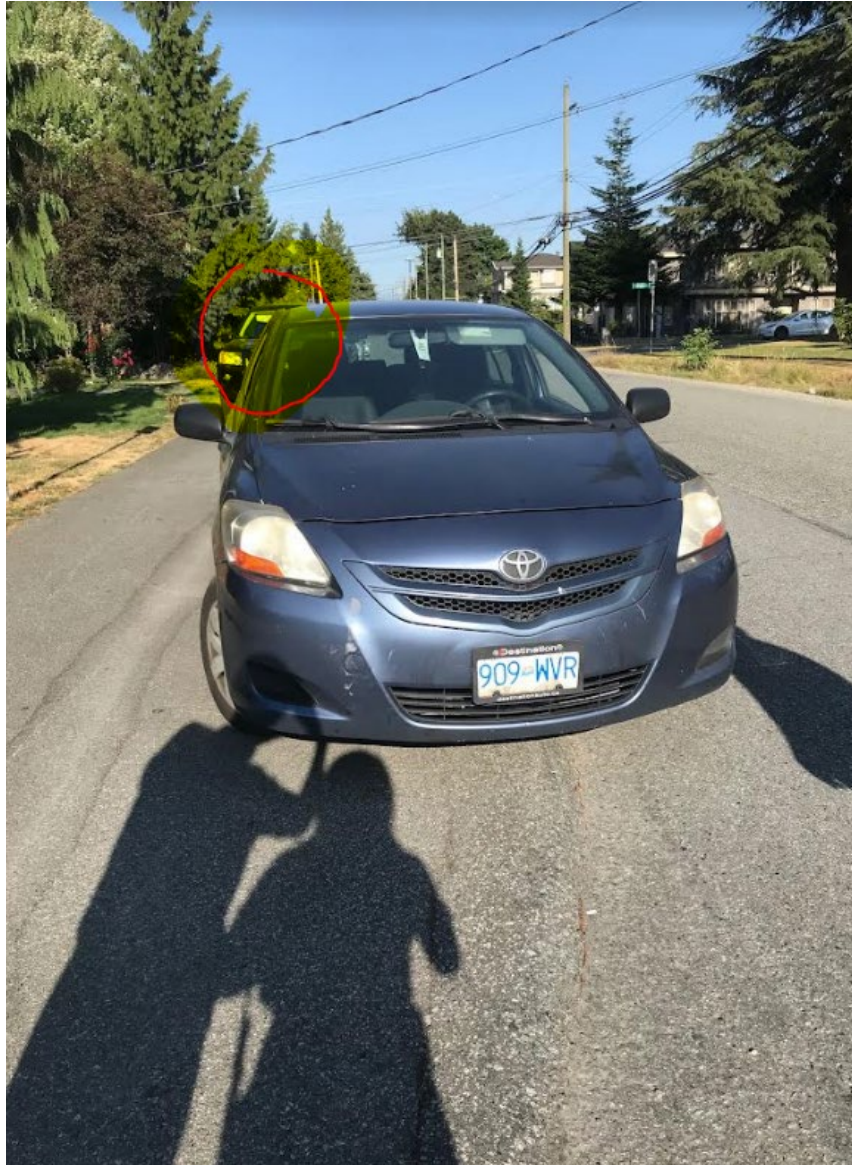
Vision is further obstructed when the car parked in front of the Land Rover is a large sedan/crossover SUV like a CRV, Rav4, Rolls Royce, BMW, or Lincoln. Yes, I have seen a Lincoln parked there before.

I drive in a regular sedan (Honda Clarity) and often need to inch out and block the entire intersection before I can see cars coming from the left side.

On numerous occasions, I've had near accidents with vehicles as a driver, cyclist, and pedestrian.

As a pedestrian, vehicles leaving the alley can not see me beside or behind a car. Without a sidewalk, I often resort to walking on the road. I do this as I do not want to step on someone else's property. As a cyclist, cars can not see me coming towards them. I'm generally hidden behind cars parked in front of the SUV. Of course, as a driver, I can not see the cars coming towards me. Large pillars in more modern cars amplify the blind spots and the lack of windshield to see through.

I took the image on the day of my accident. The Land Rover is highlighted in yellow and red below.



The accident that confirmed my concerns

On June 23, all three spots were full.

A large sedan parked immediately in front of the Land Rover with about two to four inches between the bumper and the sign. The sedan was the witness's car and is not shown in the photo above because they left the scene while I was trapped in my car.

I inched out of the alley and checked the intersection twice on both the left and right side. It was completely clear, so I stepped on the gas to pass through it.

Unfortunately, a small Toyota Yaris or Matrix was coming down the street and I could not see it behind the SUV and the large sedan. Again, I could not see through the windshields. The top of

the Toyota only reached the side mirror of the Land Rover.

Both the large sedan and SUV are substantially taller than my car. If the large sedan was not parked in the last spot closest to the curb (shown below), I am **confident** my vision would not be obstructed.

In fact, if the sedan was parked five to ten feet behind where the sign is currently located, I would've seen the Toyota's bumper and had enough time to react.



Again, on this unfortunate day, the smaller Toyota was completely hidden by the large sedan and SUV. There was no way for me to see it even after inching out very far (seen below in the accident photo).



The request

As a concerned citizen who has been in an accident, I am requesting the city to consider one of the recommendations below:

1. **move** the sign back a single car space—to the red line in the photo below;
2. **move** the sign back five to ten feet; or
3. set up **permit parking** so non-permit holders can not park there between the hours of eight and eight PM.



As you can see, if the no stop zone is expanded, a driver exiting the alleyway will have enough space to see traffic coming from Grafton. Even if a car is hidden, the extra space allows for more time to react and slam the brakes. This makes the intersection and alley **safer for everyone**.

Safety

Many families and cars pass by this intersection everyday. It is a busy alley and busy street. Now that I've been in an accident, I will tell those on my block to drive in a circle and go up Pioneer St. to access Grange St.

This will involve an extra uphill drive and a few metres, which will inevitably mean extra carbon emissions from gas fueled cars.

By making this small change you will help make the area safer. As an added bonus, it will also help keep carbon emissions lower because drivers will feel safer using the shorter route.

Conclusion

I ask you to carefully consider this request as my accident was likely not the first. If you would like to contact me directly to speak about this request and incident, please call me at anytime.

Sincerely,

Nakita Cheung
A concerned citizen