

1805-14

From: ( )  
 Sent: September 27, 2009 7:05 PM  
 To: MayorandCouncil  
 Subject: 21st STREET TRAFFIC CALMING PROJECT

(1)

Dear Mayor and Council,

The group calling themselves the "21st Street Area Residents Association" had a meeting on Thursday night (September 24) to discuss the "21st Street Traffic Calming Project". As you know, in addition to Your Worship, Councillors Michael Evison and Michael Smith, as well as Brent Dozzi and Brent Leigh represented Municipal Hall. Two of the questions raised by attendees and the responses concern me.

1. It was noted the newly installed roundabout (traffic circle) at Fulton and 21<sup>st</sup> had not only failed to calm traffic but, had actually caused it to move faster and possibly less safely. The response seemed to be that yes, the contractor had not built it to specifications, but no mention was made of going back to the contractor to have him fix it. Instead, the floor offered solutions to fix the new traffic circle's problems, the best came after the meeting when late comers, talking with Brent Leigh, innocently suggested putting in a four way stop. Someone even commented that installing more roundabouts up the street, with the same negative results, could cause more speeding. The meeting leaders deftly shifted the conversation to advocating yet more circles!

2. After listening for over 60 minutes to anecdotal comments about how the traffic on 21<sup>st</sup> had increased over the years, I suggested they could probably make a stronger case with some empirical data. That since most of the concerned traffic increasing projects were now complete we should have traffic counts for the last year that we could compare with 2 years ago, 5 years ago, 10 years ago, etc., and thus, gauge the problem, if there was one, and the effectiveness of any solutions. The response seemed to be that it was out of line to even ask the question. When pressed, neither Brent Dozzi nor the committee head could offer statistical data of any kind. Its surprising that people who have been working on this project for four years could not even respond with general percentages to support their case, and finish up by saying they would supply the actual numbers after the meeting.

So here we are: The Residents Association and Municipal Hall have been working on a project to solve a "problem" for four years. The "problem", which could easily be quantified, to justify the project, hasn't been and the part of the project that has been completed (the roundabout) is a failure.

As I understand it, a few years ago, before the community centre was built, and developments above the highway were underway, studies were done and estimates were made that traffic calming measures may be justified and possibly additional sidewalks. With the projects now complete empirical data should be available to show whether these measures are needed. With this in mind, before any more money is spent, the rationality of the entire traffic calming project and its proposals should be revisited.

On a related note, when I moved to the corner of ( ) in 2002, it seemed like the police were patrolling the street regularly and occasionally ticketing speeders. I have noticed a marked reduction in flashing lights on police cars pulling over speeders. Is there less speeding or less patrolling? Here again, we don't have to rely on anecdotal comments, even by yours truly, I suspect the police department can supply statistical records of speeding tickets and locations over the years.

I have lived on the corner of ( ) since 2002. My front door faces 21<sup>st</sup> and is about 25 feet from the curb. Like most of the residents on 21<sup>st</sup>, had I wanted to, I could have chosen a quieter street in West Vancouver, there are many, and, like most, I moved here after it became a through street. One of the main reasons I bought the house was because I liked the ambiance of the street. I have not regretted the purchase. Other than normal maintenance, I do not want to see the street changed. A few years ago I met with the 21<sup>st</sup> Street Group, reviewed the plans and, at that time, told them my objections to it. My views have not changed.

Please respond with clarification and data at your earliest convenience.

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