

The volume of letters Council has received and absorbed over the past two weeks has been huge. At the time of submitting this report on June 4th over 40 letters from 35 addresses had been submitted by email directly to Councilors in those two weeks. I am certain there will be more by the time the Public Meeting is over and before Council makes its decision on June 10th. Thank-you to all those citizens who took the time to write their views and questions so eloquently.

One of the letters was about including George Massey Park in the list of excluded areas for overnight camping. That was dealt with at the COTW this morning. Another 2 letters complained about the increase in taxes. Hopefully next year we can do better with that. The other 38 letters were about the rezoning of the 4 70th Street lots for the Supportive Housing facility. None of the letters spoke in favor of that location. There were many concerns and issues: proximity to vulnerable populations of seniors and children, loss of privacy, increase in traffic, and the capacity of city infrastructure to handle to increased load. Some of the letters were adamantly opposed to supportive housing anywhere in the community. Other letters suggested 2nd Street was a preferable location to the 70th. Another letter pointed out that the 70th Street location would leave the tenants further from the down town core and the medical services they would need. One letter addressed to provincial officials and cc'ed to Council pleaded for 'breathing space' for our community stating that we needed TIME to complete flood recovery, enumerate the homeless and needy and plan housing comprehensively for the community. Now that is something I can support.

I hope that the passion and the care that went into most of those letters continues as we sort out the housing challenges facing our community.