

Unit 2.1: Formal Report Proposal

To: Dr. Erika Paterson

From: Darren Wong

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Subject: Proposal for eliminating back alley parking at 2195 W40th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6M1W4

Introduction

Kerrisdale is one of the busier and most vibrant neighbourhoods in Vancouver's west side. The area is home to elderly residents and young families with small children who primarily rent in the low rise apartments along W39th and W38th Avenue. Along W41st Avenue, there are numerous banks, drugstores, restaurants, coffee shops, bakeries, and local grocers which attract local residents and people from neighbouring areas alike. Traffic, including foot traffic, is heavy in this area.

Statement of Problem

I reside in a building on the corner of W40th Avenue and Yew Street, which is considered in the heart of Kerrisdale. The back alley is a short cut for residents of W38th and W39th Avenue to commute to and from W41st Avenue for shopping purposes. At the moment, alley parking is permitted without restrictions. However, given the narrowness of the alley, pedestrians and drivers are always fighting for their right of way. Seniors with walkers and parents with strollers tend to walk slower and they take up the whole alley. This results in blocking traffic turning into and out of the alley. Furthermore, from time to time, drivers violate parking rules and park right outside of my garage exit which makes it impossible to make a left turn.

Proposed Solution

By eliminating back alley parking, the alley will be wide enough for cars and pedestrians to share the road. This will enhance the safety of our local residents,

especially those seniors with difficulty walking. Furthermore, this will reduce traffic by cars circling the alley trying to find parking.

Scope

To assess the feasibility of eliminating back alley parking at the residence, I plan to pursue and investigate the following areas of inquiry:

1. Will the elimination of back alley parking pose a problem on the already-tight parking situation in Kerrisdale?
2. When is traffic most congested at the corner of W40th Avenue and Yew Street?
3. What do pedestrians think about the proposal?
4. What do drivers think about the proposal?
5. Can there be a compromise? For instance, should parking with restrictions be allowed?

Methods

My primary data source will be from surveys. I will begin by asking the other eight households in my building for their opinion. I will then do some on site investigation regarding the number of cars and pedestrians using the alley at various time intervals. Furthermore, I will survey the opinions of drivers who park at the alley and pedestrians who cut through the alley for their views.

My secondary source will be from the City of Vancouver website regarding parking regulations and bylaws.

My Qualifications

I have been living in my building for six years. Ever since I lived there, I have witnessed several accidents involving drivers and pedestrians who fight for their right of way in the alley. During peak hours, it is extremely difficult to exit my garage since there are always people walking in the narrow alley. The problem has

gotten worse lately since there are newer housing developments being built around the area. My experience is first hand.

Conclusion

The Kerrisdale neighbourhood is getting busier and I would like to ensure the safety of our residents walking around the area. With your approval, I will investigate into the feasibility of eliminating back alley parking at my residence and write a proposal to the Neighbourhood Transportation and Parking Unit of the City of Vancouver.