

From: [Carmen Dunn](#)
To: [External-Clerks](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Brooklyn or East Hastings?
Date: Monday, November 15, 2021 12:13:04 PM

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Dear Councillors,

I, like you, want to see New West revitalized and respected, especially downtown New West.

I'd like to invite my Vancouver friends (who make fun of us for moving here) come and see our nice restaurants, shop along Columbia and see how great New West really is.

However, it has been brought to my attention that the Army & Navy on Columbia street is being turned into a homeless shelter. I am absolutely gobsmacked!

I thought for sure it would be turned into condos and that that block could be cleaned up.

I am a business owner and residential owner in the process of renovating a historic home here in New West - trying to uphold the historic nature of our city.

Within the 6 weeks of taking occupancy into our new home just off the 6th Street in May, we experienced, not 1 but 2 break-ins, including a person who broke into our car and left behind drug paraphernalia, within inches of my child's car seat.

In talking with the police officers that came to my house, they told me there has been a massive rise in crime since Covid. I asked what changed? They said, the opening of the shelters near our home in Brow of the Hill and on Carnarvon street. They laughed and said our stolen goods were probably on a sheet on Carnarvon street and in a pawn shop on Columbia.

In addition, us and our neighbours, dealt all summer with 3 particular homeless men outside the 7/11 drinking and doing drugs and there was human faeces being left on the side walk. I had to walk past this daily with my kids on our way to daycare. On the other side of our house, we dealt with a homeless camp in front of a church where garbage, beer bottles and drug paraphernalia were smeared all over the lawn. I am paranoid about my kids running over there for fear they'll pick up a needle. We were really questioning our move here.

Because of the shelters around Carnarvon, I don't feel safe walking along Columbia, especially with my toddlers. There always seems to be half-drunk/inebriated men, smoking against the walls and now, I am witnessing people shooting up in broad daylight. I witnessed one inebriated person light a

garbage can on fire. I know one store (whose name I won't mention) continues to have homeless/drug addicts entering her store, making her young employees feel uncomfortable and they're stealing her goods. Another hair salon has been victimized. Unfortunately, they don't feel comfortable bringing these matters up for fear of looking like the 'bad guys'.

My heart is bleeding for all the store owners on Columbia, who have been dealing with crime, drug addicts, homelessness, Covid lockdown, lack of parking due to sewer upgrades and now this. We simply cannot afford to bring more crime to our city.

A detective from the VPD told me straight up that when you open up a homeless shelter, you 100% bring in more crime.

I am sympathetic to this challenge you have on your hands and have no issues helping the less fortunate, but not at the expense of, hard working, tax payers who are trying to revitalize our city. Please find another location.

This is going to make a lot residents and store owners angry and I already know one store owner is forgoing her lease when it's up.

If there is anything I can do to help you change this (if there's still time), please let me know.

Sincerely,

Carmen Dunn

PS - For reference, I'm attaching the baggy left in my car which may have been contaminated with fentanyl according to the NRPD and a needle found at Tipperary park by the Farmer's Market where my kids were running barefoot...



