

Jonah Ross

From: Dan Bruyere [REDACTED]
Sent: June-11-23 2:00 PM
To: Council
Subject: Public safety building, and bike lanes (ref COTW agenda June 12)

Categories: Acknowledged, Inputted in to Mail Log

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Township of Esquimalt Network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I have been corresponding with Councillor Morrison since the last COTW regarding the direction of the public safety building. At May's COTW, I spoke in support of continuing with the development of the PSB as planned and followed up with my note of May 9, which Mayor Desjardins forwarded to Council on May 10. We stand by those remarks. The friends and neighbours we have spoken with about the project, all long time residents of Esquimalt, also support proceeding with the public safety building as has been proposed for the same reasons (the now \$62 million version).

In addition to my comments in the May 9th email, one must also consider the number of highrise condominiums being built or planned for the Township. For example, the Vista will open soon and apparently is fully sold, and no doubt those in the process of building or planning further east on Esquimalt Road will see a similar demand. Presumably these buildings and their residences will contribute significantly to the tax rolls which will help in paying for the new PSB, and those residents will expect state-of-the-art fire and police services to protect their investment and their new lifestyle. Where better to house those services than in the proposed building, and put a modern, bright look on the face of Esquimalt, one we can all be proud of? While it may be there is a component of the citizenry which longs for the quiet, pastoral Esquimalt of yesteryear, I'm afraid that ship has left the dock. The world, or at least a good part of Canada, is beating a path to our door as the secret is out. We must look to the future.

Regarding the recommendation on bike lanes to add protection on all the main roads in Esquimalt, we do not support this. Not only do we see very few bikes in them while traveling between our house and our daughter's home in Gordonhead (maybe one or two cyclists, many times none), but those big curbs are constrictive and hazardous for both cars and bikes (not to mention so unpleasing esthetically). I say this as a former bike commuter in Calgary, 20 kms per day, round trip into the downtown. And I can't begin to imagine the cost to the taxpayer to inconvenience the very many for the benefit of the very, very few. After our 11% tax increase YoY, this is not something we would like to spend our money on.

I'm afraid we can't make the COTW tomorrow, but hopefully you will take these comments into consideration in your deliberations on these items.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Sue and Dan Bruyere
4 - 704 Rockheights Ave
Esquimalt, B.C.