

Benny Xu and Sharon Liu
1938 – 2 Ave NW
Calgary, Alberta
T2N0G4



Re.: LOC219-0015

- 218 19 ST NW
- 222 19 ST NW
- 226 19 ST NW
- 230 19 ST NW
- LOC219-0015

July 22, 2019

Dear Calgary City Council,

We are opposing the rezoning and development plan known as LOC219-0015 for the following reasons.

Traffic concerns

- The proposed plan will significantly increase traffic on both 19th Street and 2nd Ave NW
- This section of 19th Street is a Single-Line street, unlike 10th or 14th Street NW, this section of 19th Street is not designed or capable of handling heavy traffic
- 2nd Ave NW is a residential street, with major school just one block away, increase traffic can be a serious **safety hazard** for both youth and seniors.
- Business/commercial use will also be making the already busy intersection on 19th street and 2nd Ave NW even busier.
- 2nd Ave NW is not designed or designated as a main road like Kensington Road.

Environmental and health concerns

Emission from increasing traffic and idling cars, especially in the winter, will not only impact air quality in the neighborhood, but also discourage outdoor activities, which all will have long term health impact on surrounding residents.

High levels of air pollution can trigger attacks (exacerbations) in people with **asthma** or **chronic obstructive pulmonary disease**.

Air pollution-related lung disease increases the risk of **heart and blood vessel disorders** and may increase the risk of **lung cancer**.

This rezoning and development proposal is putting people living in areas at particular high risk. Research shows, air pollutants cause the muscles in airways to contract, narrowing the airway (airway hyper-reactivity).

Noise pollution

Increasing traffic, business activities, idling cars, will all cause the increase of noise pollution.

Exposure to prolonged or excessive noise has been shown to cause a range of health problems ranging from stress, poor concentration, productivity losses in the workplace, and communication difficulties and fatigue from lack of sleep, to more serious issues such as cardiovascular disease, cognitive impairment, tinnitus and hearing loss.

In 211 the World Health Organization (WHO) released a report titled 'Burden of disease from environmental noise'.

The studies analyzed environmental noise from planes, trains and vehicles, as well as other city sources, and then looked at links to health conditions such as cardiovascular disease, sleep disturbance, tinnitus, cognitive impairment in children, and annoyance.

The studies concluded: the health impacts of environmental noise are a growing concern. **At least one million healthy life years are lost** every year from traffic-related noise in the western part of Europe.

Loss of Natural Sunlight and Privacy

The height of the building proposed will block natural sunlight through out of the day to the East, West, and especially North surroundings. In addition, we will be fully exposed and lose our privacy.

With less than 8 hour of natural sunlight available in Calgary's winter, this is a serious health concerns

Natural sunlight is known for:

- Building strong bones
- Cancer prevention, especially for colon cancer, Hodgkin's lymphoma, ovarian cancer, pancreatic cancer, and prostate cancer
- Health Skin Conditions, such as psoriasis, eczema, jaundice, and acne

Numerous studies shown lack of exposure to natural light is associated with physiological, sleep and depressive symptoms.

The fact is that in any given year, 1 in 5 people in Canada already personally experience a mental health problem or illness. The relationship between mental illness and violent behavior has serious implications from a public health perspective.

Taking the invaluable natural sunlight away is like **taking our health away**.

Safety concerns

Business and commercial activities can bring unintended use and actions to the neighborhood. Although the city oversees the business development permit, in reality, the City has limited control on how one business will run.

For example, a business operate with cash may increase criminal activities. A business opens late, may bring not-to-sober customers. Statistics suggesting vandalism and car theft are closely related to the mention.

Significant inadequate Street Parking

Currently, there are significant inadequate parking for businesses operating on 19th street, and people parking on 2nd Ave to access those existing business as early as 7am and to as late as 11pm.

This not only have increased traffic to 2nd Ave, causing environmental and noise pollutions, the current situation has already causing local residents cannot even find a reasonable parking space at home.

To protect the local residents, parking on North of 2nd Ave between 18 and 19 street should be by permit only. I understand neighbors are talking about a petition.

The current LOC219-0015 development/building plan shows inadequate parking for its retail space.

In addition to the current neighborhood parking situation, local residents will have hard time to park at home, not to mention their guests and visitors.

Quality of life / living

With overwhelming safety, environmental, health, parking and privacy concerns, our quality of life and daily living will be significantly affected by this LOC219-0015 development/building plan.

We hope Councilors can take a closer look at our concerns, your decisions on the proposal will have long term impact for people's life, not only for a short term, but for generations to come.

Best Regards,

Benny Xu and Sharon Liu