

LATE ITEM
MAY 14, 2018
REGULAR AGENDA
ITEM: E.2

May 10, 2018

ATTN: City of Port Alberni City Council

4850 Argyle Street,

Port Alberni, B.C. V9Y 1V8

Re 5109 Athol St. - Arrowview Hotel

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to seek consideration from city council regarding my property on 5109 Athol St., also known as the Arrowview Hotel. I do understand the frustration that council has had over the years with this property, but I also ask council to understand that I am not related to those delays or issues and only have the sole intention to rezone, renovate and develop the building as has been discussed in the past.

I don't want to make excuses, and yes I was very aware of the work that needs to be done when I purchased the property. I also had financing set up to begin the main structural and roof work, that if completed would have made it easier for me to secure further financing to complete the rezoning & renovations of the building, but the requirement of getting financing in one shot has made it impossible to get anyone to finance this project. And this has been compounded by the fact that my 93-year-old mother, of whom I am the primary caregiver, has been having chronic heart failure issues continuously during this time and it continues to this day.

I also hope council understands that my intentions have been genuinely about making a change and bringing opportunity to others - including the City of Port Alberni's residents. I am presently living in Vancouver with my family and there is no other reason that I would be putting myself out on a limb to simply waste council's or anyone else time if I was not trying to make this work... So although council ridiculed me when I was present at the meeting, I feel it was unfair to judge me for what I do not know. I have not come this far to show up in front of council to make fake excuses and to be honest I would have hoped that there would be more understanding and effort to help me move this forward than to simply push for demolish. I was actually surprised since it seemed council was understanding and open to helping other nuisance property owners succeed - as we heard during the meeting that one property owner hadn't done work due to the months of rain while another council member mentioned that council should not press too hard with the nuisance ordinance - yet when it came to me none of this applied - even though the same rain fell on my building.

And council was also very happy with the one business owner who after a year was able to start a business in the uptown area. I do hope council notes that it took the owner a year yet I am being pressed to demolish in half that time even though I have made it clear of my intentions and situation. Again, not making excuses, but I do hope that council can appreciate the effort I am making and the sacrifice with my family just to try to make change for others.

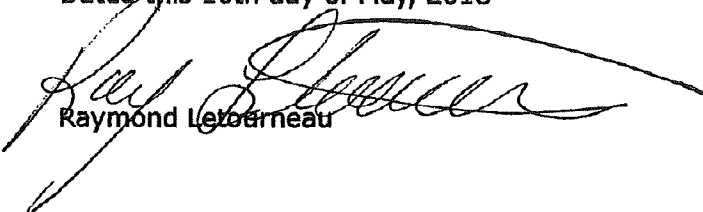
And yes this is my goal and no one asked me to do anything for your community, but I have stepped up and standing before council that evening listening to people telling me how

disappointed they were with me or how I left things to the last minute and so forth seemed counterproductive and also left me wondering why I was even trying when no one else seems to care to help... And that applies to others I have asked at city hall, who have made it clear that they like my learning model but don't want anything to do with the Arrowview - and I don't blame them as everything every said has been about demolishing it. So again not looking for an excuse, just some consideration to help make this work for everyone - including allowing the Arrowview Hotel to continue to be part of the historical assets of the City of Port Alberni.

To assure council of my intentions to rectify this hurdle I have been in discussion with Raymond de Beeld Architects, Brad West of McGill Engineering as well as contractors to find a way to move this forward asap. The goal will be to get the cities requirements completed and then I will pursue further financing to complete my goal of returning the building to C6 Economic zoning status - mixed residential/commercial use.

I will provide further details to Mr. Scott Smith prior to the next city council meeting or during the meeting if needed.

Dated this 10th day of May, 2018



Raymond Leberneau