

# City of Surrey PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REPORT File: 7912-0232-00

Planning Report Date: June 17, 2013

#### PROPOSAL:

# • Restrictive Covenant Discharge

in order to remove the 4.0-metre (13 ft.) landscape buffer strip along 72 Avenue.

**LOCATION:** 14927 and 14909 - 72 Avenue;

7211 - 149A Street

**OWNERS:** Sarbjit K. Gill, Lakhwinder S. Gill

Gian S. Sandhu, et al

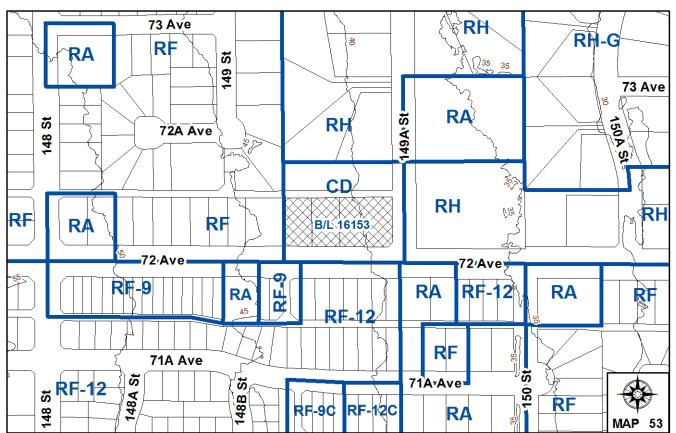
**ZONING:** CD (based on RF and RH)

**OCP DESIGNATION:** Urban / Suburban

**LAP DESIGNATION:** Urban Single Family Residential

½ Acre Suburban Single Family

Residential



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#### RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

• Council approve the proposed discharge of Restrictive Covenant No. BB287991 (RC) requiring that a 4.0-metre (13 ft.) wide landscape buffer strip be installed and maintained along 72 Avenue.

### DEVIATION FROM PLANS, POLICIES OR REGULATIONS

• The East Newton Local Area Plan (LAP) stipulates that a landscape buffer be installed along 72 Avenue as properties develop. The buffer requirements of the RC are consistent with the LAP; the fencing requirement was added to address the interface across 72 Avenue to the south. However, the landscape buffer and fencing was not installed in conformance with the specifications in the RC.

# **RATIONALE OF RECOMMENDATION**

- The City is holding security submitted by the original developer pertaining to the installation of the landscape buffer. However, the existing property owners are not agreeable to the installation of the landscape buffer as stipulated in the Covenant.
- All 3 dwellings on the subject properties completed construction in 2009 and 2010, and are sited at least 10 metres (33 ft.) from 72 Avenue. This exceeds the 7.5 metre (25 ft.) minimum setback requirement under the Zoning By-law, and the registered landscape buffer covenant.
- Fencing is currently installed along the lot lines on the subject properties, and sufficient landscaping is installed in the front yards.
- The current owners are satisfied with the existing conditions and do not wish for the proposed landscaping outlined in the Covenant. Noise impact from 72 Avenue is not a concern for the current property owners.
- Fencing on one of the three properties has been stained to complement the existing dwelling.

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#### **RECOMMENDATION**

• The Planning & Development Department recommends that Council approve the proposed discharge of Restrictive Covenant No. BB287991 requiring a 4.0-metre (13 ft.) wide landscape buffer strip along 72 Avenue.

#### **REFERRALS**

Trees and Landscaping: The Trees and Landscaping Section has no objection to the

proposed discharge of Restrictive Covenant No. BB287991.

# **SITE CHARACTERISTICS**

<u>Existing Land Use:</u> Single family dwellings.

# Adjacent Area:

Direction	Existing Use	OCP/NCP Designation	<b>Existing Zone</b>
North:	Single Family	Suburban	CD By-law 16153
	Dwelling		
East (Across 149A Street):	Single Family	gle Family Suburban	
	Dwellings		
South (Across 72 Avenue):	Single Family	Urban / Single Family	RF-9 and RF-12
	Dwellings	Small Lots (East Newton	
		South NCP)	
West:	Single Family	Urban / Transitional	RF
	Dwellings	Suburban (East Newton	
		North NCP)	

### **DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

# **Background**

- The subject site consists of 3 lots, located at the northwest corner of 72 Avenue and 149A Street. The OCP designation on the site is split with "Urban" on 14909 72 Avenue and 14927 72 Avenue, and "Suburban" on 7211 149A Street. Accordingly, the site is also split-designated "Urban Residential" and "Suburban Residential Half-Acre" in the East Newton Local Area Plan (LAP).
- The subject site was rezoned from "Half-Acre Residential Zone (RH)" to a CD zone based on RF and RH zones "Comprehensive Development Zone" (CD 16153), under Application No. 7905-0180-00. The East Newton LAP stipulated that a landscape buffer strip should be provided along both sides of 72 Avenue between 148<sup>th</sup> Street and 152 Street. To secure this requirement, a Restrictive Covenant was registered on the title of the subject site as a condition of approval.

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After final subdivision approval, the lots were sold and dwellings have since been
constructed on the subject site. The subsequent owners did not install the landscape buffer
strip in accordance with the RC, and the City continues to hold landscaping securities for
the outstanding works from the developer.

- Meeting the RC requirements necessitates cooperation from the current owners. Ongoing
  discussion between City staff, the developer, and the current owners regarding the
  installation of the landscape buffer strip led the developer to apply to discharge the RC, as
  the developer has not been able to obtain consent from the owners to construct the
  landscaping works in accordance with the RC.
- It is apparent that this lack of cooperation continues to impose significant barriers to meeting the RC requirements, and Landscape securities cannot be released to the developer unless these requirements are removed.

# **Proposal**

• The applicant seeks to discharge Restrictive Covenant No. BB287991 in order to enable the release of landscape securities currently held by the Trees & Landscaping Division.

### RESTRICTIVE COVENANT DISCHARGE EVALUATION

# **Applicant's Reasons:**

The applicant advises that fencing has been installed and that the current owners do not
wish to have the landscaping installed as per the Landscape Buffer Plan attached to the
Restrictive Covenant. The current owners have agreed to release the developer of his
obligations to provide the landscape buffer strip along the 72 Avenue frontages of their
properties.

## **Staff Comments:**

- The intent of the landscape buffer strip is to provide a visual barrier between the dwellings and vehicular traffic on 72 Avenue, an arterial road. The RC requires a 4.0-metre (13 ft.) wide landscape buffer, with an additional 3.5-metre (11.5 ft.) wide "no-build" area for the principal building, resulting in a minimum front yard setback of 7.5 metres (25 ft.). Excerpts from the RC, including the explanatory plan showing the "no-build" area and the landscape buffer plan, are shown in Appendix II.
- Currently, the dwellings on the subject site are situated at least 10.2 metres (33.5 ft.) from 72 Avenue. These setbacks exceed the Zoning By-law requirement and are greater than the "no-build" area in RC No. BB287991. The larger setbacks help mitigate the noise impacts from 72 Avenue and serve to meet the intent of the RC.
- Fencing and varied landscaping have been installed along 72 Avenue for each of the three properties as follows:
  - The owners of 7211-149A Street have installed a 1.5 metre (5 ft.) cedar fence along their 72 Avenue property line, and planted cedars behind the fence, to provide added screening from 72 Avenue.

- The owners of 14927-72 Avenue have installed decorative concrete brick and iron grate fencing, and the yard is landscaped with ornamental trees and flowering shrubs.
- The owners of 14909-72 Avenue have installed an unpainted wooden picket fence.
   Current landscaping includes two ornamental trees and twenty shrubs required by the Building Scheme registered on the site.
- City staff originally recommended that the applicant improve the appearance of the fencing along 72 Avenue by (re)staining or painting the two wood fences at 7211 149A Street and 14909 72 Avenue, and trimming the cedar hedge at 7211-149A Street as a condition of approval of the RC discharge.
- The installed fencing on the three lots is of acceptable quality, and most are higher quality than the fencing required in the Landscape Buffer Plan in the RC, which calls for a 1.2-metre (4 ft.) high wood picket fence. The owner at 14909 72 Avenue has agreed to the staining of the fence to either match or complement the principal dwelling, and the work was recently completed, as shown in Appendix III.
- The applicant, however, reported that he was unable to obtain consent to carry out the recommended improvements from the property owner at 7211-149A Street. City staff also made several attempts to contact this owner and received no response.

#### PRE-NOTIFICATION

• Pre-notification letters were sent on October 12, 2012 and staff received responses from two area residents. A resident inquired about the notice they received in the mail and did not have any concerns upon being advised of the proposal. A second resident phoned to express concerns and followed up via email about what they believed to be removal of a landscape buffer strip in the East Newton North NCP. Staff clarified that the subject site is outside of the Plan area.

# **CONCLUSION**

• Implementation of the RC requirements is largely out of the developer's control; however, the current owners are satisfied with the landscape conditions. Dwellings on the 3 subject properties are set back in excess of that required by the Covenant on title, which will help mitigate noise impacts from 72 Avenue. The fence at 14909 – 72 Avenue has been stained to complement the existing dwelling. Staff recommends that Council approve the proposed discharge of Restrictive Covenant No. BB287991.

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# **INFORMATION ATTACHED TO THIS REPORT**

The following information is attached to this Report:

Appendix I. Lot Owners, Action Summary and Project Data Sheet

Appendix II. Explanatory Plan and Landscape Buffer Plan in Restrictive Covenant

BB287991

Before and After Images of Fencing at 14909 – 72 Avenue Appendix III.

original signed by Nicholas Lai

Jean Lamontagne General Manager Planning and Development

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# <u>Information for City Clerk</u>

Legal Description and Owners of all lots that form part of the application:

1. (a) Agent: Name: Gurdarshan S. Bal

7227 - 149A Street Address:

> Surrey, BC V<sub>3</sub>S<sub>3</sub>H<sub>4</sub>

Tel: 604-543-9696

Properties involved in the Application 2.

> (a) Civic Addresses: 14909 and 14927 - 72 Avenue; 7211 - 149A Street

(b) Civic Address: 14909 - 72 Avenue

Lakhwinder S. Gill Owners:

Sarbjit K. Gill

PID: 027-206-947

Lot 4 Section 22, Township 2, New Westminster District, Plan BCP 31975

(c) Civic Address: 14927 - 72 Avenue

Surinder K. Sandhu Owners:

Gian S. Sandhu

PID: 027-206-939

Lot 3 Section 22, Township 2, New Westminster District, Plan BCP 31975

(d) Civic Address: 7211 - 149A Street Kulwant K. Reandy Owners:

John Reandy

PID: 027-206-921

Lot 2 Section 22, Township 2, New Westminster District, Plan BCP 31975

Summary of Actions for City Clerk's Office

# **DATA SHEET**

# **Existing Zoning: CD**

Requires Project Data	Proposed		
GROSS SITE AREA	r		
Acres	0.94		
Hectares	0.38		
NUMBER OF LOTS			
Existing	3		
Proposed			
SIZE OF LOTS			
Range of lot widths (metres)	23.5 m - 38 m		
Range of lot areas (square metres)	971 m² - 1,860 m²		
DELICIONA	,		
DENSITY	n/a		
Lots/Hectare & Lots/Acre (Gross)			
Lots/Hectare & Lots/Acre (Net)			
SITE COVERAGE (in % of gross site area)	n/a		
Maximum Coverage of Principal &			
Accessory Building			
Estimated Road, Lane & Driveway Coverage			
Total Site Coverage			
PARKLAND	n/a		
Area (square metres)	11/4		
% of Gross Site			
	Required		
PARKLAND			
5% money in lieu	NO		
TREE SURVEY/ASSESSMENT	NO		
MODEL BUILDING SCHEME	NO		
HERITAGE SITE Retention	NO		
BOUNDARY HEALTH Approval	NO		
DEV. VARIANCE PERMIT required			
	NO		
Road Length/Standards	NO NO		
Works and Services			
Building Retention	NO NO		
Others	NO		

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LEGEND				Assistant Deputy Registrar	
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LAND SURVEYING INC. 121 - 13140 80th Avenue	23.711	23.540	40.760	this 4th day of June, 2007.	
Surrey, B.C. V3W 3B2	90	8 8			
(ph) 604 501-6188 (fx) 604 501-6189	72nd AVENUE				
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