

Wednesday, June 9, 2021

WEST HILLHURST LOSING PEDESTRIAN CONNECTOR SPACE IF DEVELOPMENT APPROVED Residents need to be heard

Calgary, AB. Erin Waite, a candidate for Ward 7 Councillor and 30+-year resident of West Hillhurst, joins her neighbours in questioning the appropriateness of a proposed development and land use change application that would remove a key pedestrian connector space in the neighbourhood.

Erin commented, "The proposed project on 19th Street NW is an over-height development that removes a pedestrian corridor. This pathway is exactly the kind of small connector space that keeps neighbourhoods walkable and ensures neighbours are able to connect with each other. In this case, children and families would lose their walking route to school, in favour of access to a parkade. That doesn't make sense."

Development approvals on 19th Street NW, between Kensington Road and 6th Avenue, have changed the neighbourhood and are realizing increased density on a significant scale. These projects, recently built and under construction, are adding a brighter, refreshed retail component along 19th Street, mixing well with the old, established retail and restaurants that have been part of families' lives for decades.

But this near-double-allowable-height building is not designed appropriately to fit in the middle of the block and is over-sized to the extent of infringing on homes that are adjacent.

As a 30+-year resident in Ward 7, Erin Waite believes that increasing density in established neighbourhoods requires design that is specific to the site and far more considerate of the neighbours and walkability.

A different project and a different approach to design for this site on 19th Street NW will better support the pedestrian experience along 19th, preserve families' walking connection to the school, and fit in without overwhelming the homes in the immediate area.

When the right design is incorporated, established communities can increase density, ensuring a sustainable population, but work well with people who have already chosen their community and should continue to enjoy it.

Erin Waite's Ward 7 campaign includes being a champion for pedestrians as vital for neighbours to realize community interaction, contributing to neighbourhoods that are safe, welcoming, liveable, and accessible.

To learn more about the campaign to elect Erin Waite for Ward 7 Councillor: www.erinwaite.ca.

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