

[ Emblem of the City of Vancouver ]

CITY OF VANCOUVER  
ENGINEERING SERVICES  
D.H. Rudberg, P.Eng., General Manager  
T.R. Timm, P.Eng., Deputy City Engineer

[ Address, telephone, e-mail omitted ]  
[ Date omitted ]

To Whom It May Concern:

You are using or occupying tents, structures and objects on City sidewalks in the 100 block West Hastings Street, the 300 block Abbott Street, and the 100 block Cordova Street. These tents, structures and objects block the free use of the sidewalks and violate the City's Street and Traffic By-law.

I demand that you remove these tents, structures, and objects from City streets, including City sidewalks, ON [sic] OR BEFORE NOON ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2002.

If you need help finding a place to stay, you may contact the City's Tenants' Assistance Program (604 873-7488) who [sic] will help find housing for you.

If you need help with the removal of tents, structures, or other objects from City streets or sidewalks, you can contact the City's Engineering Services (604 323-7650) to arrange for the removal and disposal of those items.

[ Signature – appears to be “D.H. Rudberg” ]

CITY ENGINEER



Friends of the Woodward's Squat | [www.woodsquat.net](http://www.woodsquat.net) | [friends@woodsquat.net](mailto:friends@woodsquat.net)

Please note that FWS is a material support group. It does not represent the Woodward's Squat, Woodward's Coalition for Social Housing, or any other of the many groups and individuals currently involved in the DTES housing action.

# W.O.O.D.S.Q.U.A.T. #32

## TWO POLITE LETTERS TO CITY HALL

No person shall build, construct, place, maintain, occupy, or cause to be built, constructed, placed, maintained or occupied (except in accordance with any by-law of the City, or except with the approval of and subject to such conditions as shall be determined by the Council) in any street, any structure, object, substance, or thing which is an obstruction to the free use of such street, or which may encroach thereon, or lay or construct, or reconstruct any sidewalk on any street, without first obtaining therefor the written permission of the City Engineer.

STREET AND TRAFFIC BY-LAW NO. 2849 SECTION 71 (1)

DAY 48 - THURSDAY - 31 OCT 02

Tuesday 29 October 2002: Day 46 of the Woodward's Squat

Dear Mayor and Council,

We are inquiring about an unusual letter that was delivered by hand to some of the residents of the Woodward's Squat yesterday afternoon. We would like to confirm the authenticity of this letter with you today. If it is, in fact, an official letter from the City of Vancouver, we would also like to clear up some confusions we have regarding the content of the document.

The letter appears to be from the City of Vancouver Engineering Services Department and contains the emblem of the City of Vancouver and identifies the General Manager and Deputy City Engineer in a truncated version of the letterhead. There is, however, no address, telephone number or electronic mail address contained in the letterhead, which is odd, as a letter of this nature ought to be printed on official stationery that includes this information, at least. We thought at first that this letter was a prank because of the missing information on the letterhead and because of the serious grammatical errors in the second and third paragraphs. Clearly whoever wrote this letter did it in haste.

Can you confirm that this is indeed an official letter or notice from the City of Vancouver intended to address specific residents at the Woodward's Squat?

If it is the case that this is an official letter we ask that you clarify two ambiguities contained within it. First: which sections of the "Street and Traffic By-law" does the City feel are being violated? We have read and re-read the By-Law many times and need some help to understand which parts of the document the City believes apply to this case.

Second, which "tents, structures, and objects" are violating these sections of the bylaw? The residents of the Woodward's Squat work hard to ensure the free flow of pedestrian traffic along all three sidewalks on the north side of 100 block West Hastings Street, on the west side of 300 block Abbott Street, and the south side of 100 block Cordova Street. We would like to know which temporary housing shelters or structures you believe are preventing "free use" of these sidewalks. As you are likely aware these are big sidewalks with plenty of room for free passage on foot and by wheelchair. We would like to know specifically how many centimetres of pedestrian/wheelchair space is required in order to meet your criterion for unobstructed passage. This is basic information that is not contained in the

By-Law, to our knowledge, and we would appreciate clarification in this matter today so we may advise the members of our organization what to prepare for tomorrow.

We must stress also that there are many residents at the Woodward's Squat who did not receive this letter yesterday.

Thank you, Aaron Vidaver, Friends of the Woodward's Squat

Thursday 31 October 2002: Day 48 of the Woodward's Squat

Dear Mayor and Council,

We are very concerned that your Engineering Services Department has not replied to our time-sensitive inquiry. We understand that the City Clerk forwarded our letter to the General Manager of Engineering Services for a response some time before 10:24 am on 29 October but we have still received no information regarding this urgent matter.

A lawyer for one of the Woodward's Squat residents mentioned to us that he received a telephone call yesterday from the Law Department informing him that it is Section 71 of Street and Traffic By-Law No. 2849 that the City Engineer intended to refer to in his notice. If this is the case, we still need to know which structure, object, substance, or thing is offensive to free use. We believe that our organization is in a unique position to assist the residents of the Woodward's Squat to achieve By-Law compliance without the need for an injunction or the use of police force. But we must first receive information from the City regarding your criteria for unobstructed passage. Until the residents are told how they are in violation of the By-Law it is very difficult to act upon the demand of Mr. Rudberg. We cannot lend assistance unless the City's expectations for compliance are presented to us.

I have attached copies of our previous inquiry, the City Clerk's acknowledgement of our inquiry, and the City Engineer's notice of 28 October, which we now assume to be an official City of Vancouver document.

Please advise us on how to proceed in this matter. We are here to help.

Thank you, Aaron Vidaver, Friends of the Woodward's Squat

cc. John Richardson, Cameron Ward