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**From :** "Kandan, Connie" <connie\_kandan@city.vancouver.bc.ca>  
**To :** 'Friends of the Woodward's Squat' <violetta\_sera@hotmail.com>  
**Subject :** RE: Inquiry Regarding Authenticity of Letter to Squatters  
**Date :** Tue, 29 Oct 2002 10:24:51 -0800

Thank you for your email which has been forwarded for information to the Mayor, City Manager, Councillors, GM of Community Services Group, Director of Current Planning, Director of Law Department and referred to the GM of Engineering Services for a response.

-----Original Message-----

From: Friends of the Woodward's Squat [mailto:violetta\_sera@hotmail.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2002 8:43 AM  
To: ccclerk@xmail.city.vancouver.bc.ca  
Subject: Inquiry Regarding Authenticity of Letter to Squatters

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

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  
Friends@woodsquat.net  
www.woodsquat.net

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