

Pearson, Barbera CSCD:EX

From: Bertrand, Dana [dana.bertrand@vancouver.ca]
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2011 11:14 AM
To: Minister, JTI JTI:EX
Subject: 63450 Letter from Mayor Gregor Robertson, City of Vancouver Re: Electronic Signage and Internal Field Lights at BC Place
Attachments: Letter from Mayor Robertson City of Vancouver to Minister Pat Bell re BC Place Oct 24.PDF

Please find the attached letter from Mayor Gregor Robertson, City of Vancouver for your consideration. The original will be sent via post.

Thank you,

Dana Bertrand
Office of the Mayor
City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4
dana.bertrand@vancouver.ca

ni? ct xatəmətəl, tə ʔnimət, tə təmæw ʔi? tə kʷaʔkʷə I *

We watch over the land and sea and in turn they watch over us.

October 24, 2011

The Honourable Pat Bell
Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation
PO Box 9079, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9A8
c/o JTI.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Bell:

Re: BC Place

I am writing in regards to significant concerns in relation to the impact on the neighbouring community of both external electronic signage and the internal field lights which are often left on overnight.

The City is well aware that given the statutory provisions governing PAVCO that BC Place is not obliged to align with municipal by-laws. However, it has been our assumption that, on issues related to the local community, PAVCO would work hard to be a good neighbour.

The new electronic sign on the north-west (at Beatty) corner of the stadium is not in compliance with our sign bylaw. This sign is already the source of significant complaints due to its impact on the neighbours. It is anticipated that the next 2 external signs due to be activated are also non compliant and are certainly likely to trigger more complaints.

Many citizens have also called and emailed the city in regard to the field lights which appear to frequently be left on overnight. The good work of BC Hydro over many years and the City's strong focus on green policy has definitely increased our citizens' desire to not unnecessarily waste energy. There has been no explanation provided by PAVCO or any visible action in regard to this legitimate concern.

Minister, I would ask that you direct your officials at PAVCO to look seriously at the concerns of the citizens who are neighbours of BC Place — bring your signage into compliance with our by-law and address the issue of the stadium lights. This is an area of the city where there are innovative plans for further development, and it is essential that we keep the public fully engaged and supportive.

Thank you so much for your assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,



Gregor Robertson
MAYOR

ni? ci xatəmətəf, tə ʔnimət, tə təmexʷ ʔi? tə kʷaxkʷə ʔ I *
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Gregor Robertson
MAYOR

Minister's Office of:									
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ROUTE TO: _____									

FINAL

Date:

November 16, 2011

Typist/Editor Initials: LH/KS

Ref: 63450

His Worship Mayor Gregor Robertson
City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 1V4

Dear Mayor Robertson:

Thank you for your letter of October 24, 2011, regarding the use of electronic signage and lighting at the newly reopened BC Place.

I have been in touch with the BC Pavilion Corporation (PavCo), and members of the BC Place management team are communicating with a number of the neighbours who have contacted BC Place on this issue, to balance their concerns against the benefits provided by the new lighting and outdoor screens.

In response to initial concerns about the Beatty Street sign, PavCo has reduced its operating hours which are now between the hours of 7:00 am and 7:00 pm, with the exception of event nights. Many of the neighbours' concerns about the screens came during the initial testing period when it was brighter than planned. The screen has since been dimmed by 50 per cent during the day, and 20 per cent prior to 9:00 pm and after 6:00 pm. PavCo is also investigating other ways to further reduce the intensity and impact of the new signs.

The two outdoor screens at the east and west ends of BC Place have operated, in these locations, from 6:00 am to 11:00 pm daily for many years. Although the replacement screens at these locations are larger, they have also been dimmed by 50 per cent in the daytime, and 25 per cent in the early morning and evening.

PavCo has invested significant resources in creating a vibrant, world class attraction within the city's entertainment district. The video screens are an integral part of the BC Place experience. PavCo is certainly doing everything possible to meet those obligations, while addressing the concerns of its neighbours.

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Mayor Gregor Robertson
Page 2

As for the use of night time lighting, both inside and outside the building, the building lighting systems are now turned off at approximately 10:00 pm each evening, except for event nights.

Like PavCo, I certainly remain open to discussing additional, reasonable solutions that will allow PavCo to operate, while having a minimal impact on residents living nearby.

Finally, please be assured that PavCo is working to respond to the concerns of its neighbours while continuing to operate BC Place as the anchor for one the City's main entertainment districts and as a significant generator of economic activity within the City of Vancouver.

Thank you for bringing the matter to my attention, and I wish to offer every assurance that BC Place intends to be the best neighbour possible.

Sincerely,

Pat Bell
Minister

Minister: file copy Branch: file copy Branch: pending copy ARCS/ORCS#: 0280-30
Date Typed: November 23, 2011 Prepared by: L.Hay/Cheryl Hall
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