

NEWS & ANALYSIS

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CSL dealing with litter, noise problem: Erdelyi

By Joel Goldenberg
The Suburban

Côte St. Luc is dealing with an ongoing litter and noise problem emanating from a commercial building at Westminster north of Côte St. Luc Road, says area councillor Steven Erdelyi.

The Suburban received a complaint from Chateau Kingsley resident Attila Farkas, who said he was speaking on behalf of half of the residents of the condominium complex who directly face the Westminster building. Farkas said there is graffiti, a dirty wall, "a lot of garbage" and leftover vegetables.

"It gives us a terrible view and smell that we have to 'enjoy' for many weeks," Farkas wrote in an e-mail. "The regular garbage removal takes care only of emp-

tying the containers but the excess material is left. It would be nice to see some improvements in our area of Côte St. Luc, even only because of the high taxes we have to pay."

Erdelyi confirmed to The Suburban that complaints have been received about the building. "As a follow-up to these complaints, the building has received several fines regarding the alleyway," he explained. "It seems they clean up the back of the building and then allow it to get dirty again. The city has also been focusing on dealing with the situation regarding the sound created by a new ventilation/refrigeration unit on the roof. We are doing tests at different times of the day to calculate whether the noise created is over the legal limit set in our bylaws."



JOEL GOLDENBERG/THE SUBURBAN

Erdelyi said the city has had a mixed response from the owners over the years, "but we are very persistent. In 2007, there was a safety issue with the parking lot on Baily across from the shopping centre next to Fletcher Park. After personally lobbying them, they agreed to partner to put up three spotlights, for which the building owner paid and the city did the work.

"In 2008 there were also issues with garbage left in the parking lot and man-hole covers that were not properly attached. Again the city and I personally lobbied them to clean it up and keep it in

proper order which they generally have since then.

"Trying to keep district 4 clean is one of my continued priorities," the councillor added. "I personally contact building owners and ask them to clean up their properties or improve their lighting. If they are not responsive, then the city urban planning and public security departments get involved until the area is improved. I also regularly patrol and ensure that city signs are free of graffiti and am working now again on lobbying Canada Post, the STM, and Bell to clean the graffiti off their installations." ■

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Pharmaprix responds to MoWest residents' concerns

By Joel Goldenberg
The Suburban

Shopper's Drug Mart recently responded to concerns from Montreal West residents about a planned Pharmaprix on Westminster Avenue's commercial district.

At the late September council meeting, several residents — including local pharmacist Carole Budning — protested the prospect of a "big box store" on a street that contains small, mom and pop-type stores that are very familiar to residents. Town council members said it had previously rejected a minor exemption requested by Pharmaprix for the store, but could not do much more if all bylaws are respected. Plans call for the Pharmaprix to replace a garage and medical clinic. A new medical clinic would be integrated above the pharmacy.

Pharmaprix stores have lately been enlarged and modernized.

The Suburban contacted Lisa Gibson, director of communications and corporate affairs for Shoppers Drug Mart (Pharmaprix's mother company) in Toronto last week. She said in an e-mail that the store is now in the planning stages and "we really want to work with the community and the borough to find a

project that is a good fit for the community. The proposed new store would replace the existing store so it would not be an incremental store in the community.

Gibson added that "Pharmaprix is committed to providing its customers with conveniently located stores that offer a full range of healthcare and convenience products and services.

"As you may know, there is an existing Pharmaprix a few blocks away from the proposed new site so Pharmaprix is already present in this community," she added. "In addition to providing customers with enhanced products and services, we believe the new store will also solidify and strengthen commercial activities along Westminster Avenue and create new jobs for the area."

Regarding local concerns about the look of the town's commercial area, "Pharmaprix understands the unique charm of Westminster and has, and will continue to, work with Montreal West to ensure the proposed new store is compatible with the existing architecture. We are preparing a full submission that will include architectural and landscaping drawings, as well as a traffic and parking study in support of the proposed new store." ■