

May 31, 2023

EICS, June 1, 2023

ES-05-23

Good morning.

Correspondence from Leslie Barbetta

I am in support of ANY measures which will improve community safety, which has become increasingly impacted by careless and improper construction practices. I can point to dozens of issues within a short radius of my home that I have both endured and witnessed as a result of negligence on the part of contractors, builders, "investors" and indifferent homeowners. As a small evidence sample, please see the series of messages below sent to the Mayor and Councillor Stolte in September 2022:

**9/23/22**

*Good morning Shawna, Marianne,*

*I just left a voice message for Florin Patrau, whom I've also cc'd on this message. I wanted to share some photos of what has now been a 2-day safety concern.*

*Photo 1 - taken 9/22/2022. Not only is this truck parked facing the wrong way, but it is also blocking the fire hydrant, and is parked right up to the intersection that also serves as a school bus stop. There are also many children in this area who walk, ride bikes or get a drive to school. Turning eastbound from Goodram to Spruce means you are pretty much risking your life (and to clarify from our conversation yesterday, there is a marked crosswalk, which appears to be blocked in this photo.*

*Photo 2 - taken 9/23/2022. Parked in the right direction, but again blocking the fire hydrant and parked too close to the intersection. I advised the fellow driving the bobcat that they needed to move the truck at least 9m away from the intersection (I understand that 9m is the bylaw). His response was "the driver is in the truck". Well, the truck is parked, with the motor off. They did move it, but barely. There is now another truck in its place, also parked like the one in the first photo.*

*I am sympathetic to the awkward location for this work but this is extremely unsafe. This is only the start of the work and I will continue to report every vehicle that parks in an unsafe manner. They pose a greater risk than coyotes do. I hope someone is able to come out here asap.*



**9/24/22**

*Hello once again*

*I have cc'd Cary Clark on this message this time. I am sending photos taken Friday afternoon and this morning. They continue to ignore my request to move their vehicles ahead to a safer spot. I have now contacted the Site Supervisors for the project and have given him til noon to fix this safety issue. My next call will be to Halton Police and the Fire Dept.*

*This is a complete lack of concern for the safety of the community. Drivers facing south on Goodram and turning eastbound cannot get a clear view of Spruce without encroaching the crosswalk. Cyclists on Spruce can't see cars stopped at the stop sign. On a good day we already have issues at this intersection, so this has only made the situation worse. Are we waiting for someone to get hit here? If an accident occurs as a result of this construction, I can guarantee the outcome will be much worse than anything committed by a coyote.*

***Bylaws being broken (correct me if I'm wrong):***

*Not parked 9m from the intersection*

*Blocking a fire hydrant*

*Parked facing the wrong way*

*Unsuitable tree protections - construction trucks are driving over the root zone of trees (as luck would have it, a Forestry rep was in the neighbourhood yesterday and witnessed this). It is clear from the path being used for dirt removal that proper protections are not being used.*

*Going to keep sending these messages until someone is held accountable for community safety.*





9/25/22

*So as a result of this “blind spot”, we just about had the first accident yesterday around 4:30, involving a young person on a bike (who was partially at fault for not paying better attention). This contractor claimed his part of the job was finished now, however I anticipate similar challenges with any other large trucks/contractors working on this site. I understand it’s an awkward location, but that’s their problem to work around. The builder/site supervisor needs to have better precautions in place. It is a busy intersection in the morning, acting as a bus stop for several schools, plus other kids walking/biking, or getting rides to school.*

*And while I’m at it, I really hope someone is paying close attention to 304 Appleby Line... their trucks have blocked their stretch of sidewalk - a necessary route for kids who walk to school - on at least one occasion. The City has already received other messages from nearby homeowners expressing concern about parking & other issues related to this site.*

*Why does Burlington not have a Bylaw officer working on the weekend? Or Tues-Sat? Many of the infractions around here seem to occur on Fri/Sat when we can't get a hold of anyone.*

**9/26/22 - Response from Transportation Services:**

*Good morning all,*

*I am also very sadden to find out about this situation and the fully preventable crash that took place. [NOTE - I responded to say that a crash did NOT occur]*

*With regards to the road occupancy, I can confirm that it was **not approved** by Transportation Services as there was no application received for it. Should have there been a **Road Occupancy Permit** application for this site , staff would have had the opportunity to asses it and impose conditions to ensure road safety is not compromised. Unfortunately the contractor/ builder conducted the operations without a permit.*

*Moving forward, the location will be inspected by staff this morning to ensure that the road occupancy will end and intersection visibility is restored.*

*I have copied Parking Services, Bylaw, Building and Forestry for all other concerns expressed.*

*Sincerely,*

*Florin Patrau  
Traffic Technologist  
Transportation Services  
(905) 335-7671 ext 7838*

### **Post-Script**

I had no further communication with the contractors at this job site following the above correspondence, despite the fact that they continued to work in contradiction to bylaws. On **Feb 1/23**, one of the contractors began what seemed like passive-aggressive “intimidation” tactics, parking so as to slightly block a portion of my driveway and speaking to me in a threatening tone when I explained why he was not allowed to park in such a manner. After he refused to move, I spoke to the homeowner, who then asked him to comply, but not before he passed off some other inappropriate comments my way. My belief is that he and other contractors had been recently reprimanded by City staff due to their parking infractions and/or improper tree protection measures, and the contractors felt that it was me who reported them, so decided to carry out little forms of retaliation.

I have only provided one recent example of a local project that impaired residents’ safety. Our community has submitted dozens more over the last few years and I would embrace the opportunity to meet with City staff and discuss these experiences and our concerns. We must see improved accountability from the construction industry and developers/builders. Education is important for workers, who should know their responsibilities from the moment a permit application, or grading clearance, etc, is submitted, and for residents, who should be aware of their safety rights. **This Committee and Council is asked to please support any recommendations which will improve public safety.**

Sincerely,  
Leslie Barbeta