

ON THE BARRICADES

with Stop the Pave

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BALACLAVA!

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UNCEDCED COAST SALISH TERRITORY

Kerry Jang's five Part-time Jobs

by Joseph Jones

VANCOUVER - If you occupied an elected position that paid more than \$60,000 a year, would you think you had a full-time job? Vancouver City Councillor Kerry Jang thinks he doesn't.

In the fall of 2010, Jang surprised me by describing his City Council work as only a part-time job. A bit of digging shows that his perspective is in fact encouraged by his apparent primary employer - UBC.



Jang's 2011 Statement of Disclosure shows five sources of earned income. Besides remuneration received from the City of Vancouver and University of British Columbia, as detailed above, further unspecified income attaches to work as director alternate of Metro Vancouver Board, as board member of EasyPark, and as associate editor of Elsevier Publications.

The analysis of Jang's employment and income raises many questions:

- How many Vancouver voters thought they were electing Jang to a part-time job?
- How many other Vancouver city councillors regard their positions as a part-time job?
- Is it possible for such a double-employed-plus person to allocate to either the City or to UBC adequate attention and commitment?
- When many able people are underemployed or unemployed, should Jang be hauling down two big salaries (plus whatever his three other positions provide)?
- Are UBC policies on leave for municipal government and for conflict of commitment in need of revision?

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City had crews and police shut down emergency shelters. *photos: murray bush*

Heat Shelters Shut

VANCOUVER - Four out of five of Vancouver's low-barrier emergency shelters have been closed down by the City and BC Housing (the fifth shelter got a temporary extension).

Activists and residents tried to keep at least three of the shelters open. The last stand was the Fraser and Broadway

Shelter - until police arrested eight people - holding them in jail for 18 hours. Tents set up in a parking lot behind the shelter were torn down by City works crews and police.

Housing action groups are now launching a direct action campaign to pressure government to commit to affordable housing and reopen the shelters.



Chinatown Loses Battle Against Towers

by Rider Cooley

VANCOUVER - The hearings on the Vision City Council's plan to relax the historic building height restrictions in Chinatown to allow high-rise towers are finally over.

Buried by the City's announcement of a smaller than-anticipated casino project in False Creek, the City sided with developers over residents to allow 15-storey luxury condos in the historic low-rise neighbourhood. By the end of the debate, 112 speakers had been heard over five

nights. Speaker after speaker from the Downtown Eastside and surrounding neighbourhoods spoke against the City plan - saying allowing high-rise condos will destroy their community. Realtors and land speculators spoke in favour.

At the first meeting, developers had every seat filled. At the final meeting, the proceedings were enlivened when DNC organizer Ivan Drury turned the tables on the mayor and Council by directly addressing the audience, not Council, from the 'wrong' side of the lectern.

Barricades Back in Earth Day

Stop the Pave Protection Camp steps up pressure on proposed highway

by Dawn Paley

More than 120 people gathered in North Delta to reclaim a contentious section of land. The site along the Fraser River is where the provincial and federal governments plan to build the South Fraser Perimeter Road.

From their perch above the Fraser, demonstrators set up barricades, planted trees and pitched tents in an effort to hold the space and keep the highway contractors out.

“I guess I would call it a liberated zone,” said Cathy Wilnder, an organizer with Stop the Pave, the group that called today’s action. “People are going against the government and corporate agenda of turning our community into an industrial zone,” she said.

The action was the third such targeted action by the coalition against the SFPR, a project some local residents say will increase pollution and traffic.

“People here don’t know they plan to triple the amount of trucks,” said Richelle Giberson, a North Delta resident who lives three houses down from the proposed highway expansion.

But it’s not only increased traffic and pollution that’s cause for concern, says Giberson, there’s also the fact that if it’s built, the new highway will destroy an Indigenous burial ground.

“Archeologists say it is one of the most important archeology sites along the Fraser River,” said Giberson. “Its older than Stonehedge, older than the Egyptian pyramids.”

For Harold Steves, a long time activist who helped set up the Agricultural Land Reserve, today’s actions brought him back to his generation’s successful efforts to prevent a second crossing from Stanley Park in the 1950s.

“The floodgates are open, the dike at Delta has been breached,” said Steves, looking over at the barricades with approval. “The industrial port activities threaten 2,600 acres of farmland,” he said. “The writing is on the wall, a highway like this will have a limited life span.”

As the afternoon turned to evening, some folks began to drift away from the site, and new faces continue to show up. Campers plan to stay the night, and say everyone - except cops and political candidates.

At Press time for this issue of Balaclava, the Stop The Pave campers have decided to dismantle the camp on River Road in Delta and plan for further actions elsewhere. The decision came in the light of an impending injunction against the camp after 14 days of continuous occupation at the site.

Vigil Held in Memory of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

by Isaac Oommen

On 13th April, 1919 the supporters of passive resistance movement were brutally murdered by the British troops at the Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar. The massacre on the Vaisakhi day became a turning point in the freedom struggle.

A group of 50 people gathered on the evening of 13 April 2011 at Holland Park in Surrey to mark the day, holding a candle-light vigil as speakers drew parallels with the massacre and the current situation facing Sikhs and all migrants to Turtle Island.



photos: Sandra Cuffe and murray bush



Upcoming Events

Sunday May 8 2pm

Rally Against the Militarization of Mexico
Mexican Consulate 1177 W Hastings

Friday May 13 7pm

Town Hall Meeting
Impact of Civic Planning Policy
949 West 49th Avenue free

Saturday May 14 1pm

Libel Law Workshop for grassroots journalists & media makers by Leo McGrady
Dogwood Centre 706 Clark Dr \$5 suggested

Saturday May 14-19

Mining Justice Week - Various events including GoldCorp and First Majestic AGM protests
info at: miningjusticealliance.wordpress.com

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