

June 8, 2003

To the Richmond City Council,

My name is Joe Goncalves. I was born and raised in Richmond and my family has been farming in the Steveston Region for my entire life. I have witnessed many changes in Steveston and participated in the many celebrations and events that it has to offer.

The biggest factor that makes Steveston, Steveston, are not the great shopping spots or the fresh fish, but the people who live and shop in the community. Without the deep family values and traditions, we would be no different than any other community. Many communities have experienced the negatives of excess expansion for the thought of quick profits. Fortunately money cannot buy values, which takes time and has to be passed down from generation to generation. This makes Steveston very special and very difficult to duplicate.

To keep Steveston unique, we need to continually promote our family values and have this recipe for an ideal community to replicate itself. Loren and Janie Slye are proud examples for Steveston. Both are very active in their community and sacrifice their time and energy to make a difference. They are also excellent examples of being proud parents and grandparents and want to be around their family whenever possible.

Loren has proposed to build a 2nd home on his double-lot, not for a quick profit but so his daughter, son in law and his new grand son can live next door. Due to a by-law his hopes are being threatened without tearing down his long-time family home. The by-law may have been created for a good reason but it cannot foresee every situation and every home location. Exceptions could be made for special circumstances and still keep the by-law intact.

I fully support their proposal to divide their double lot because I support their family values and want the Steveston community to have more people like them, not less.

Thank You,



Joe and Jodi Goncalves
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