



## City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Richmond City Council  
**From:** Terry Crowe, Manager, Policy Planning  
**Re:** Placement of Religious Symbols In City Hall

**Date:** September 30, 2005

**File:** 4055-01

### Staff Recommendation

That staff and the Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee be directed to revise Policy 2013, with the objective of better demonstrating intercultural inclusiveness, by allowing, upon request, the placement of religious symbols, with an educational component, in City Hall, which is a community gathering and celebration place, during appropriate religious events (e.g., Christmas).

Terry Crowe,  
Manager Policy Planning  
Att. 3

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY			
		CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	REVIEWED BY CAO
			YES  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			NO <input type="checkbox"/>

## Staff Report

### Origin

At the General Purposes Meeting of November 1, 2004, the following motion was passed:

*That the request of the Lubavtich BC [Attachment 1] be forwarded to the Intercultural Advisory Committee and to staff to review the current policy.*

### Findings Of Fact

❑ Lubavtich BC

On October 21, 2005, Lubavtich BC requested Council to enable the placement of a Chanukah Menorah, a religious symbol, in City Hall, from December 7 – 15, each year.

❑ Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee

At the January 20, 2005 meeting, RIAC passed the following motion: *Acknowledging that Christmas is a traditional Canadian Holiday, we support keeping current practices and that all religious symbols are placed at the Cultural Centre as per City Policy (Policy 2013) (Attachment 2).*

❑ TAG

In September 2005, The Administrators Group (TAG) considered two options:

1. Retaining the existing Policy 2013 (see **Attachment 3**), or
2. Changing Policy 2013, to enable, upon request, religious symbols, with an educational component, to be displayed in City Hall, during religious events (e.g., Christmas).

TAG considers that Option 2 may be timely, considering that Richmond is a very diverse community, in 2003 Council adopted an Intercultural Strategy to better support intercultural inclusiveness, and City Hall is a community gathering and celebration place.

The implementation of such a revised policy would continue to require written applications and a staff review and authorization, to ensure safe and protected symbol placement, display and removal, and co-ordination with other City Hall activities.

### Financial Considerations – None.

As now, no fee would be charged and the religious organizations would be responsible for all symbol placement costs.

### Conclusion

At the request from Lubavtich BC to place its religious symbol in City Hall from Dec 7 – 15, each year, TAG considers that it may be appropriate and timely to revise Policy 2013 with the objective of better demonstrating intercultural inclusiveness, by allowing, upon request, the placement of religious symbols, with an educational component, in City Hall, which is a community gathering and celebration place, during appropriate religious events (e.g., Christmas).



Lesley Sherlock, Social Planner (4220)  
TTC:ttc



Terry Crowe, Manager, Policy Planning (4139)



October 21, 2004

SENT VIA FAX: 604.276.4332

Mayor Malcolm Brodie  
City of Richmond  
6911 No. 3 Road  
Richmond BC V6Y 2C1

Dear Mayor Brodie,

I am writing regarding placement of a Chanukah Menorah in Richmond City Hall, for this years Chanukah celebration which begins December 7<sup>th</sup> 2004 and concludes on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

5757 Oak Street

Vancouver, BC V6M 2V9

Tel (604) 266-1313

Fax (604) 263-7934

E-mail info@lubavitchbc.com

The Lubavitch Movement in B.C. is responsible for placing more than 30 Chanukah Menorahs in key public locations, thru out the Lower Mainland.

These Menorah displays foster tolerance and integration, and serve to bring about greater awareness of the many and various cultures that make up the fabric of our multi cultural Canadian society.

We also look forward to hosting a lighting ceremony, in the presence of the Mayor, Members of City Council, and city staff. This ceremony will be coordinated with your office to make it as accessible as possible for the city hall guests, and the public.

Most of the larger cities in Canada have a Menorah and lighting ceremony in or in front of City Halls and other government buildings. These include Vancouver, Surrey, North Vancouver, City Halls. There are also Menorahs at the Parliament buildings in Victoria, Queens Park - Ontario Legislative Buildings, Calgary, Winnipeg City Hall, Manitoba Legislative Building, Halifax City Hall, Hamilton City Hall, Montreal City Hall, Cote St. Luc, and hundreds of cities across the USA and the globe.

Kindly reply at your earliest convenience so that we may be able to make the appropriate arrangements well in advance. I thank you for your consideration, and look forward to meeting with you very soon.

Sincerely,  
Lubavitch of Richmond

Rabbi Yechiel Baitelman  
Director

c.c.: City of Richmond, Councillors' Office  
Original to follow by mail.

*Central Organization for Jewish Education British Columbia*

**Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee**

c/o Richmond City Hall  
6911 No. 3 Road  
Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

February 10, 2005

File:

**Urban Development Division**  
Fax: (604) 276-4052

Mayor and Council  
Richmond City Hall  
6911 No. 3 Road  
Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

Dear Mayor and Council:

**Re: Religious Symbols - Site for Placement (City Policy 2013)**

At the General Purposes Meeting of November 1, 2004, the following motion was passed:

*That the request of the Lubavitch BC be forwarded to the Intercultural Advisory Committee and to staff to review the current policy.*

The Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC) discussed this referral at length at its November, 2004 and January, 2005 meetings. The experience of Parks, Culture and Recreation staff in respect to such requests was conveyed through our Staff Liaison. Other City's policies (e.g., Vancouver, Surrey) were reviewed.

At the January 20, 2005 meeting, RIAC passed the following motion:

*Acknowledging that Christmas is a traditional Canadian Holiday, we support keeping current practices and that all religious symbols are placed at the Cultural Centre as per City Policy.*

Please contact me at 604-241-3153, or RIAC through Lesley Sherlock, Social Planner, at 604-276-4220 if you have any questions.

Thank you for consulting RIAC regarding this policy matter.

Yours truly,

Chak Au  
*Chair, Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee*

pc Cathy Volkering Carlile, General Manager - Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services  
Joe Erceg, MCIP, General Manager, Urban Development  
Terry Crowe, Manager, Policy Planning  
Lesley Sherlock, Social Planner

LS:ls



# City of Richmond

# Policy Manual

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Adopted by Council: Nov. 8/93

**POLICY 2013**

File Ref: 7400-00

**RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS – SITE FOR PLACEMENT****POLICY 2013:**

It is Council policy that:

The Library/Cultural Centre be designated as the site for placement of religious symbols for a period not to exceed 14 days.

(Note: applications should be made in writing to Parks and Leisure Services, for coordination with Civic Properties Department.)

(City Administrator's Office)