

Mayor and Councillors

Schedule 125 to the Minutes of the Public Hearing meeting of Richmond City Council held on Monday, May 15, 2017 and Wednesday, May 17, 2017.

To Public Hearing	
Date:	MAY 15 2017
Item #	3
Re:	BYLAWS 9706, 9707, 9712, 9717

From: Angela Burnett <amfb@shaw.ca>
Sent: Monday, 15 May 2017 10:33
To: Mayor and Councillors
Subject: Public hearing Bylaw 9717-- Issues that need attention

To Mayor Brodie and Councillors

I wish to raise some issues regarding the proposed amendments to allow homes up to 1000 square metres (or 10,764 square feet) on Agricultural Land Reserve in Richmond and to permit significantly bigger farm home plates.

The proposed bylaws will allow homes to be built on agricultural land that are nearly twice as large as Ministry of Agriculture maximum guidelines for the city's Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) land, which are set at 500 square metres (or 5,382 square feet).

The changes are a compromise that weakens Richmond's agricultural land base and are contrary to our city's commitment to food security.

There are two issues directly arising out of this by-law that do not seem to have been addressed:

1). Has Council attempted to quantify how many acres of farmland are being taken out of production

due to people buying up ALR land with no apparent intention of ever farming it?

2) Has Council conducted inspections to determine whether very large residences are in fact being occupied on a permanent basis by the owner's family?

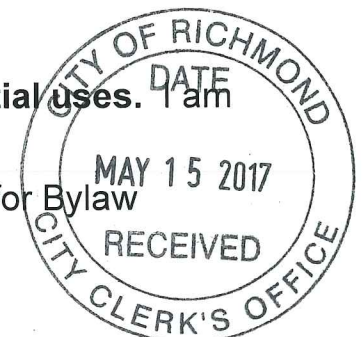
Has it checked to see whether these very large "homes" are in fact hotels or are being used for some other non-agricultural purpose?

Both of these issues demand attention and appropriate action, reinforced if necessary by representations to the provincial government.

In addition to these two issues, the bylaw currently under consideration will set a bad precedent for neighbouring communities.

Agricultural lands should be kept for farming and not for residential uses. I am writing at this time to ask you to get on the right track

by following Ministry of Agriculture guidelines, as set out in the Guide for Bylaw Development in Farming Areas,



and ensure long-term food security for Richmond, the Lower Mainland, and British Columbia.

Sincerely,

Angela Burnett, Richmond