

**Mayor and Councillors**

Schedule 51 to the Minutes of the Public Hearing meeting of Richmond City Council held on Monday, May 15, 2017 and Wednesday, May 17,

To Public Hearing  
Date: MAY 15, 2017  
Item # 7  
Re: BYLAWS 9706, 9707  
9712, 9717

**From:** Webgraphic2017.  
**Sent:** Thursday, 11 May 2017 14:10  
**To:** Mayor and Councillors  
**Subject:** Send a Submission Online (response #1036)

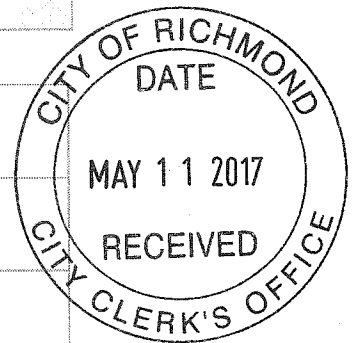
**Send a Submission Online (response #1036)**

**Survey Information**

Site:	City Website
Page Title:	Send a Submission Online
URL:	<a href="http://cms.richmond.ca/Page1793.aspx">http://cms.richmond.ca/Page1793.aspx</a>
Submission Time/Date:	5/11/2017 2:12:25 PM

**Survey Response**

Your Name	Natalie Choy
Your Address	3900 Scotsdale Place
Subject Property Address OR Bylaw Number	9717
Comments	Dear Mayor and Councillors, I am writing in regards to the Public Hearing on Monday, May 15th that will consider amendment bylaws that would allow homes up to 1000 square metres (or 10,764 square feet) on parcels in the Agricultural Land Reserve located within Richmond and significantly increase farm home plates. The bylaws currently under consideration 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). When that much prime agricultural land is being taken to build homes, where does the farming actually take place? I don't know any of the figures or numbers, but I would be curious to find out if every parcel of ALR land has a residence that is up to 1000 square meters, how much ALR land in Richmond will be left for agricultural purposes? I understand that some families have indicated that there are many family members and often multi-



generational family members who live together and work on the farm together. But do you really need a home that is over 1000 square meters? Allowing homes of up to 1000 square meters to be built will weaken Richmond's agricultural land base and our city's commitment to food security. The bylaw currently under consideration will also be precedent setting in neighbouring communities by weakening B.C.'s ALR land base as it will allow more residential development on agricultural lands. Once the precedence is set, more and more farmland will be used for residential development. And realistically, once that land is developed, there is no turning back. I don't see any of these homes being torn down in the future to make for more farmland. So I think it is important to set some limits now in order to protect our farmland. Because that's where our fresh fruits and vegetables and crops come from. When you think about global climate change, the fuel and the food miles that our food incurs to get to our table, the price of fuel and shipping, it makes sense to ensure we have a strong and sustainable local food supply. But when farmland is being used for residential development our local food system takes a big hit. Please take a moment to think about how your children, your grandchildren and the people of Richmond will get their food in the future. What kind of food system do you want your children to live in? A local, economical, fresh, nutritious, vibrant food system with profitable and productive local farmers or a system where all of our food is trucked or flown in from elsewhere with all the benefits to companies, middlemen and farmers overseas? This is not a decision to be made lightly and care should be taken to think of the future, not just the benefits that the city might see right now. Agricultural lands should be kept for farming and not for residential uses. I am writing to ask you to follow 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, Natalie Choy, Richmond