

Mayor and Councillors

Schedule 61 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 # 7
Re: Bylaws 9706, 9707, 9712, 9717

From: Webgraphics
Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 22:20
To: Mayor and Councillors
Subject: Send a Submission Online (response #1058)

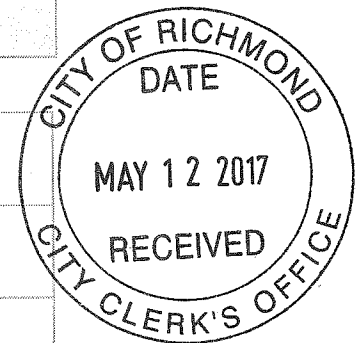
Send a Submission Online (response #1058)

Survey Information

Site:	City Website
Page Title:	Send a Submission Online
URL:	http://cms.richmond.ca/Page1793.aspx
Submission Time/Date:	5/11/2017 10:20:20 PM

Survey Response

Your Name	Cheryl Thomas
Your Address	68 Cameron Road, Clearwater, BC
Subject Property Address OR Bylaw Number	Re Bylaw 9717
Comments	<p>May 11, 2017 Dear Mayor and Councilors, Regarding: BYLAW 9717 As a member of the BC Food Systems Network, I am very concerned about the bylaws changes proposed for Richmond. Therefore, 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 meters (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 meters (or 5,382 square feet). Is this not a time for a 'sober second thought'? In the days when those who put the ALR together, people were anticipating that the humans population might grow and require food to sustain themselves and others. Thus the ALR. It seems</p>



that many 'elected' officials forget that they are representing the present and future generations of the communities, provinces and countries in which they have been elected and have sworn to govern to the best of their abilities and in the best interest of the population that elected them. Sadly, changing this bylaw will weaken Richmond's agricultural land base and your 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. Agricultural lands need to be kept for farming and not for luxurious residential uses. There are still many hillsides that haven't been built on in the lower mainland. Indeed, I doubt very much that people feel the need to live on a flood plane and chance not being covered by insurance. It is your responsibility to protect them with the bylaws, is it not? Why would investors not develop those hillside areas instead, thus saving prospective homeowners the embarrassment of waking up to situations like I'm seeing in our Premier's home riding of Kelowna on the news this evening? I bet she is not to happy with their Mayor and Council for allowing homes to be built in those areas! Even if insurance does 'cover' their losses, they will always live with the knowledge that they might never be able to sell And, that they could face more flooding in the future. Neither of these possibilities need to happen. YOU have all the power. Think carefully before you fall for whatever it is you feel your community will gain with these proposed changes. I can assure you, the present and future homeowners will appreciate it. I speak from experience - every few years the flood waters enter my basement. I am old and can handle seeing all the furniture sitting on stilts that I've constructed out of paint cans and blocks of wood. There is a sump-pump in a hole in the middle of the floor - how many people would live with that? Do you seriously think the younger generations would even know to put their couch and TV up on a stilts? Do you think that they would know to unplug 'everything' till the place dried out? Do you think they would know to plug in several fans and open the windows for a couple of weeks to dry things out? I know that we will never be able to sell, and that saddens me, for I'm sure the children would appreciate the funds. It will be a shock for them. Do you have the funds set aside to educate these residents on 'how' to prepare for and recover from flooding? Do you have a plan to put aside the resources to put people into Hotels and feed them.

meals? – OR are you counting on Provincial Emergency Social Services to provide those services? If that is your hope/plan – then shame on you! That is my why for my 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, Cheryl Thomas, PO Box 417, 68 Cameron Road, Clearwater, BC VOE 1N0