

Mayor and Councillors

Schedule 72 to the Minutes of the Public Hearing meeting of Richmond City Council held on Monday, May 15, 2017 and, Wednesday, May 17, 2017.

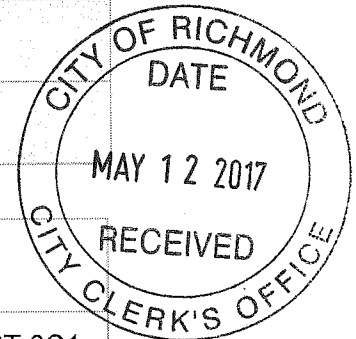
To Public Hearing
Date: May 15, 2017
Item # 7
Re: Bylaws 9706, 9707, 9712, 9717

From: Webgra
Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 09:03
To: Mayor and Councillors
Subject: Send a Submission Online (response #1064)

Send a Submission Online (response #1064)

Survey Information

Site:	City Website
Page Title:	Send a Submission Online
URL:	http://cms.richmond.ca/Page1793.aspx
Submission Time/Date:	5/12/2017 9:03:48 AM



Survey Response

Your Name	Keeley Nixon
Your Address	104-6385 Hawthorn Lane Vancouver BC V6T 0C1
Subject Property Address OR Bylaw Number	9017
Comments	Dear Mayor Brodie and Councillors, I am writing in regards to the Public Hearing on Monday, May 15th that will consider amendment zoning bylaw No. 9017 that would allow homes up to 1000 square metres (or 10,764 square feet) on parcels in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) located within Richmond and significantly increase farm home plates. The bylaw currently under consideration will allow homes to be built on agricultural land that are nearly double the size of the Ministry of Agriculture maximum guidelines for the city's ALR land, which are set at 500 square metres (or 5,382 square feet). The concern is to how this modification will weaken Richmond's agricultural land base and the city's commitment to food security. As a new resident to the Lower Mainland and a project coordinator around food security and land access, I was delighted to see the city's recent endorsement of the Richmond Food Charter. I was however dismayed when I saw the proposed zoning amendment bylaw for how it contradicts the

community commitment of the charter to “preserve and strengthen land and water resources that support food production”; weakening the ALR land base will only enhance residential development not food cultivation. I understand firsthand the how building regulations for additional dwelling units can be crucial to accommodate farm labour, however ballooning floor areas of a principal dwelling unit is the issue at the heart of the matter. With less than 5% of BC’s land base made up of agricultural land, we all have a role in better protecting and utilizing that which we still have - once gone farmland is gone forever. As a young person engaged in agriculture and who often references the City of Richmond as a model municipality for positive food and land sustainability initiatives and priorities, I do hope deep deliberation and engagement has gone into any discussion of changing bylaw 9017. Please consider continued regulation based on the Ministry of Agriculture’s 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. Thank you for your time, Sincerely, Keeley Nixon, BA, Vancouver, BC