

Re Bylaw 9717

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

Schedule 79 to the Minutes of the Public Hearing meeting of Richmond City Council held on Monday, May 15, 2017 and Wednesday, May 17, 2017.

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).

This 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.

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,

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