

## MayorandCouncillors

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**From:** George [19sydney86@telus.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 15 January 2009 9:12 PM  
**To:** MayorandCouncillors  
**Cc:** Dhaliwal, Shanan  
**Subject:** Letter for Mayor / Councillors and submission as agenda item to Parks Committee for Jan 27 09  
**Attachments:** Letter Jan 14 09.doc

Attn. City Clerk,

Please find attached a letter that I wish to have delivered (distributed as indicated in letter header) to the Mayor and all Councillors including Harold Steves as Chair of the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee.

I would also like to make the letter a submission to the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee meeting agenda on January 27 2009. I would like to have the opportunity to attend the meeting and speak to the content of my letter. (as a delegation)

Please confirm your receipt of my attached letter and the individual distribution as requested. Also please confirm its addition as an agenda item for the January 27 2009 Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee and my attendance at the meeting to speak to my agenda item.

You can reply to my e-mail and / or call me.

Thank-you for your attention to this matter,

George Struk

604-970-9453

Mayor and Councillors  
City of Richmond  
6911 No. 3 Rd  
Richmond, British Columbia  
V6Y-2C1

January 14 2009

Attn: Harold Steves, Chair - Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee

I have been a resident home owner in Richmond since 1978 and have owned and lived at 9600 Cambie Road since 1986. Unfortunately, I am extremely dissatisfied with my current living situation in the City of Richmond.

West Cambie OCP Bylaw 8029 was adopted by the City of Richmond on July 24 2006. Amongst other things, OCP Bylaw 8029 altered the designated future use of my property and adjacent properties. The properties immediately to the east were changed from residential to institutional (proposed fire hall) and the properties immediately to the west were changed from residential to institutional (proposed Ismaili assembly). By adopting OCP Bylaw 8029, the City knowingly chose to orphan my property between these two institutional designated assemblies. Further more the OCP Bylaw changed the designation of my property and the Waldens property immediately to the south of me ( 9611 Odlin ) from residential to Park. This was a particularly disappointing result after all the effort spent participating in the Cambie West Planning open house sessions only to find the opportunity to participate in a higher density assembly was denied.

This decision by the City to adopt OCP Bylaw 8029 and thereby designate my property as Park (sandwiched between two institutional assemblies) created the situation wherein the City is the only interested party in acquiring my Property. This decision clearly placed both a moral and an ethical responsibility on the City to respond in a positive and timely manner to the acquisition of my Property. The City has failed to meet these responsibilities despite my repeated and urgent requests for acquisition procedures to commence. This feels like an expropriation with no compensation.

Since the Bylaw adoption in July 2006 I have been left to watch the neighbourhood disintegrate around me. My quality of life at this location has been substantially reduced. I have experienced the loss of two neighbours to the west where the Ismaili development is planned and three neighbours to the east where the City of Richmond Fire hall is planned. With dismay, I witnessed the deterioration of these five neighbouring empty homes. The homes were left empty for many months as looters, vandals and vagrants wreaked havoc on the neighbourhood until the homes were eventually demolished. Construction fences have been installed in front of these neighbouring properties for months and even years in the case of the Ismaili properties. The only adjoining property with residents, is the Waldens to the south of me at a distance of approximately 800 feet.

Additional erosion to the quality of life in the neighbourhood has occurred (since the adoption of OCP Bylaw 8029) due to construction noise, particulates in the air and ground vibration from development activity on Cambie and Odlin. Development of both the Fire hall and Ismaili sites will cause even further deterioration. I am concerned that structural damage will occur to my house, garage and aged septic system as a result of construction ground vibrations when the Fire hall and Ismaili

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developments proceed. My home was built in the 1950's and as such is well below road grade. The elevation of these adjacent developments will leave my property as the low point of the neighbourhood and therefore more susceptible to drainage related issues. I do not wish to endure the stress of this construction activity and resulting further deterioration in the quality of my life.

My requests for commencement of acquisition action by the City has not generated any acknowledgement of imminent purchase plans from the City of Richmond staff. The only information obtainable by Brian Dagneault (the Professional Planner that the Waldens and myself found necessary to hire in an attempt to deal with City staff) is that there is an unpublished Parks acquisition priority list that is in a perpetual state of change. In April 2008 Brian advised the Waldens and myself that he was informed we were considered a high priority on the list but as of December 2008 has been informed we are now on the bottom end of the list. Apparently the City of Richmond staff viewpoint is that the Park designation carries with it no obligation or responsibility to the wishes, concerns or health issues of myself, the long term resident home owner.

Instead of proceeding with acquisition, City staff have done nothing whatsoever to resolve my untenable situation. By not purchasing my property in a timely fashion, the City has stripped me (a long term resident home owner) of the ability to make decisions in the present or plan for the future. Meanwhile the City of Richmond, the Ismalis and the developers in West Cambie are free to proceed with their present and future plans.

I have foregone my eligible retirement since October 2006 as the thought of retiring and spending time as a hostage in this environment at this location is not palatable. A pretty sad situation for me as February 4<sup>th</sup> 2009 marks my 35<sup>th</sup> year of employment at BC Tel / Telus, and I can't peacefully retire thanks to the City of Richmond.

Since May 2006 I have requested that the City of Richmond proceed with the acquisition of my Property. The Park designation by the City has deprived me of the demand side of the real estate market and thus the ability to seek fair market value in the conventional manner. Instead I am beholden to an unsympathetic City that does not respond to my concerns. The fundamental right to freedom of movement has been stripped from me thanks to the City of Richmond.

I am respectfully requesting that the Mayor and Council carefully consider my situation and respond with a swift and decisive directive to Staff to immediately initiate the acquisition process so I can be relieved of the burden and stress created by this situation and thus be allowed to carry on with my life.

Yours truly,

George Struk  
9600 Cambie Rd  
Richmond B