

**Mayor and Councillors**

Schedule 53 to the Minutes of the Public Hearing meeting of Richmond City Council held on Tuesday, September 8, 2015.

To Public Hearing	
Date:	SEPT. 8 2015
Item #	6
Re:	KYLAWS 9280 + 9281

**From:** Mary Phillips <mmphillips52@telus.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, 7 September 2015 08:16  
**To:** Mayor and Councillors  
**Subject:** Public Hearing Sept 8th and Neighbourhoods

**Categories:** 12-8060-20-9280

I enjoyed the World Day celebrations on Saturday at Minoru which were attended by people of all ages and cultures. What a wonderful community Richmond is!

As you contemplate the issues of changing neighbourhoods and the effect of new mansion style houses in our single family dwelling areas, I would ask you to consider the results of this trend for the city community as a whole.

I have lived in Richmond since 1985 and moved from a single family home to an apartment in 2007 so am not immediately affected by the new buildings. I do see the effects on the neighbourhoods and people's sense of community however. "Neighbourhood" means "neighbourly feeling or conduct" as well as "nearness". It cannot be neighbourly to block the neighbour's access to sunlight. Even worse it cannot be good for neighbourhoods to build an enormous house and leave it empty.

All levels of government need to tackle the Elephant in the Room of foreign investment in real estate simply as a means of parking excess cash. The myriad trickle-down effects of this phenomenon are eroding our ability to have mixed income neighbourhoods that form the backbone of our communities.

Please consider carefully what your decisions will mean around zoning and by-laws. Do you favour the changes you see all around you? Or are you as concerned as many of your neighbours? Do you favour the few who benefit – the builders, realtors, and wealthy homebuyers or do you side with protecting our neighbourhoods from changes that erode the sense of community and neighbourliness we have enjoyed for many years.

Like many residents, I have not always liked the changes I've seen over the last 30 years in Richmond but I can accept the densification in the downtown and along the Canada Line. This attack on the single family neighbourhoods is harder to bear.

Sincerely,

Mary Phillips

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