

To: City Councilors
Richmond City Hall

Schedule 1 to the Minutes of the
Regular meeting of Richmond
City Council held on Tuesday,
November 13, 2018.

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On behalf of the **2018 Marijuana Concern Group**, I'm here to urge the City of Richmond to reconsider the motion to allow growing marijuana on our valuable farmland.

Richmond is the first city across Canada to say "No" to Marijuana Legalization, and in January 2018, the Council passed a resolution to oppose the use of farmland for cannabis production, With the understanding that the provincial government has higher authority over local governments on this issue, our group still think that City Richmond should maintain its good stand.

Our group thinks that it is not just right to urge the provincial government to allow the City of Richmond to ban growing cannabis on Richmond's farmland, we also believe that **the city has the legal rights to demand such authority.**

Also, there is no reason to adopt the policy that allows growing cannabis for profit. That goes against the reasons for limiting the size of mansion on our farmlands, namely to **stop speculation and to prevent valuable farmland for the purpose of growing food.**

First of all, according to the Federal government's guidelines, quote, "Except for exemptions for personal cultivation, the "lawful" production of cannabis required for section 2(2.5) of the ALR Regulation requires licensing at the federal level. As noted earlier in this information bulletin, producers need to be very careful about taking steps in reliance on section 2 of the ALR Regulation without first ensuring that federal preconditions (as well as preconditions that other governments may impose) are or will be met before production occurs."

The above quotation clearly stated that producers need to ensure that

predictions imposed by other governments are met. Our group believes that “other governments” should include the city governments. In other words, instead of just following instructions from the provincial government, the local governments, the City of Richmond should also have the legal rights to make policy in the best interests of the community, namely to ban any types of marijuana cultivation on Richmond farmland soil.

Furthermore, allowing cannabis cultivation on farmland soil is a concern for other cities as well. According to Interim Committee Report to the Minister of Agriculture prepared by B.C. Minister of Agriculture’s Advisory Committee for Revitalizing the Agricultural Land Reserve and the Agricultural Land Commission, which was presented to the Minister of Agriculture on July 31, 2018, Federal legalization of non-medical cannabis will lead to land use issues not previously contemplated by the B.C. government and its agencies, including the ALC. The potential impacts to the ALR will likely be significant and are not yet fully understood. And, quote, "Advertisements for sale of ALR land and information provided to local governments across B.C. suggest there is currently significant promotion/speculation for cannabis production in the ALR."

Why is that a concern? Quote, "ALR land is cheaper and more expansive than industrial land. Competition for land for cannabis production is already impacting the ALR and compounding other speculative factors that are driving up the price of farmland in B.C.".

The same report even mentioned that, quote, "In early July 2018, the Union of B.C. Municipalities asked the provincial government to put a moratorium on the use of agricultural land to grow cannabis. They have asked that this moratorium remain in place until there is a comprehensive review and consultation with local governments."

Once again, our group urges the City of Richmond to ban growing cannabis on Richmond’s farmland, by urging the Provincial Government to affirm the city's legal right to do so.

During the election, some of the councilors have promised to take action to protect farmlands in order to ensure food security for generations to come; I hope we will gain your support to protect our valuable farmland for food, not cannabis, which is more of an industrial product.

We believe these policies are absolutely essential to the well being of the community. We are more than willing to meet with you to discuss our concerns and suggestions. I can be reached by phone no. 604-961-1091 or email address zenbia@hotmail.com.

From: Zenbia Chan

Spokesperson of 2018 Marijuana Legalization Concern Group