

Schedule 10 to the Minutes of the Public Hearing meeting of Richmond City Council held on Monday, June 18, 2018.

**CityClerk**

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**From:** CityClerk  
**Sent:** Monday, 4 June 2018 14:25  
**To:** 'info@richmondfoa.ca'  
**Subject:** FW: Written Submission - June 18 Public Hearing  
**Attachments:** Letter to Mayor and Coucil - June 18 Public Hearing.pdf

Good afternoon,

This is to acknowledge and thank you for your email. Please be advised that copies of your email will be forwarded to the Mayor and each Councillor, and will be included as part of the June 18<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing Agenda materials. In addition, your email has been forwarded to staff in the Planning and Development Division.

Thank you again for taking the time to share your views with Richmond City Council.

**Hanieh Berg | Acting Manager, Legislative Services**  
City Clerk's Office | City of Richmond  
6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

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**From:** Gunraj Gill [<mailto:info@richmondfoa.ca>]  
**Sent:** Monday, 4 June 2018 12:14  
**To:** CityClerk  
**Subject:** Written Submission - June 18 Public Hearing

City of Richmond  
City Clerk's Office  
6911 No. 3 Road  
Richmond, British Columbia

Please see attached a written submission from the Richmond Farmland Owners Association for the June 18 Public Hearing.

Please confirm receipt of this email.

Sincerely,





June 4, 2018

City of Richmond Mayor & Council  
6911 No. 3 Road  
Richmond, British Columbia  
V6Y 2C1 Canada

Dear City of Richmond Mayor & Council:

The Richmond Farmland Owners Association is passionately dedicated to the agricultural integrity of the place we call home, and are dedicated to the sustainable and pragmatic stewardship of both Richmond's farmland, and its farmers.

The City of Richmond is once again attempting to make it more difficult for Richmond Farmers to sustain and grow their farming operations by attempting to regulate large farm buildings and greenhouses by prohibiting the use of concrete slab floors in agricultural buildings over 300 sqm and in greenhouses of any size.

The City seems to think this is necessary to "preserve high-quality agricultural soils", believing concrete eliminates any possibility that a site can be used for soil-based agriculture again. This matter was discussed by Council on May 14. The report and minutes of that meeting can be viewed [HERE](#). Richmond's Agricultural Advisory Committee subsequently expressed its opposition, as have many others.

There is a long history of farming in this country, and we often cling to romanticized notions of simplicity, struggle, and sacrifice. In today's modern world, this idealized image of farming is no longer true, nor is it feasible.

We all believe the future for many agricultural commodities is in modern technology and innovative farming that supports investments in greenhouses, vertical farming operations and not just in soil-based farming.

The most efficient and effective greenhouses are those with concrete floors and imposing a ban on concrete will unfairly prejudice Richmond farmers and undermine the economic viability of their businesses, families, workers and local suppliers who serve them:

- (1) Many large food distributors require concrete floors before they'll accept a farmer as a supplier,
- (2) Concrete floors provide a higher degree of worker safety than dirt or other surfaces,
- (3) They are the best form of flooring for bio-security, productivity and food safety reasons,
- (4) They do not require the same level of maintenance and repair as dirt or other surfaces,
- (5) Several regulatory bodies have made concrete floors mandatory for certain products,
- (6) Concrete floors reduce wear and tear on farm machinery,
- (7) Concrete contributes to water use efficiency through better rates of recapture, and
- (8) Concrete prevents pesticides and herbicides from leaching into the soil.



We also believe such a ban is completely contrary to the policies of the Provincial government which encourage farming and support investment in large buildings and greenhouses.

This debate was sparked by concerns of food security and stability and we whole-heartedly support measures and policies that will increase food security and sustainability, especially with the current economic uncertainty that has been created with a looming trade-war with our biggest trading partner. Greenhouses and controlled environments supported by modern farming technologies will ensure sustainable and year-round production of disease free food.

We believe that Council and Staff have dangerously expedited this issue while ignoring the farmer's right to farm, ignoring the recommendations of the City's Agricultural Advisory Committee and not consulting with experts and stakeholders who will be directly impacted by the proposed changes.

By engaging in a defensive approach to law making which is not based on evidence, Council's actions are directly affecting farmers by creating economic uncertainty within the local farming community, and putting it's long-term sustainability at risk.

Thank you for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Richmond Farmland Owners Association