

RANDOLF RICHARDSON - ITEM 22, BYLAW AMENDMENT

2017-JUN-12

The bylaw proposed is illegal because it unjustly restricts and violates our fundamental rights which are protected under our Charter of Rights and Freedoms, particularly freedom of expression and the freedom to use signage in so doing. As is the case with any city in any confederated Province, the City of Richmond does not possess the authority to merely dismiss our rights using bylaws or otherwise.

To make matters worse, any bylaw that compels someone to present their business using a particular language is also forcing them to risk violating the Competition Act, particularly sections 52 and 74 which proscribe against the practice of misleading the public about services provided. There is also a serious element of danger because violating these sections has the potential to yield fines of up to \$200,000 or a prison sentence as long as 14 years.

One of the many roles of a city councillor is to ensure that bylaws and other regulations are not illegal, and community harmony is stifled when freedom of expression is inhibited, regardless of whether censorship or compulsion is the form in which a community is oppressed. Here in Canada we have a long-standing history of freedom and inclusiveness, and rejecting the proposed bylaw is a necessary means of continuing to support this wonderful character of diversity of which our national identity is comprised.

PLEASE REMOVE THE AMENDMENT THAT VIOLATES OUR CHARTER RIGHTS.

Schedule 1 to the Minutes of the Regular meeting of Richmond City Council held on Monday, June 12, 2017.