

My name is Kal Mahal, residing at 16551 Westminster Hwy, Richmond, B.C.

I am here this evening as a spokesperson for the trucking community in our city to request Council support, without restrictions, for Council to follow its own truck parking policy for the area of River Road from No. 7 Rd., to Kartner Road. Many from our trucking community, who live in Richmond are here with us this evening. I'd ask those drivers to please raise your hands.

This problem is of extreme importance, but is really rather simple to explain. Today, those of us who drive a truck for a living, and live within Richmond, do not have any suitable locations to park our trucks. That has resulted in truckers parking in other cities and driving back home – only to pick up their trucks in the morning and drive back into the city. Less honourable truckers will illegally park their trucks at unsuitable locations within the city. This not only penalizes law abiding citizens, it also creates greater pollution from the movement of trucks from community to community.

That's a major point I don't think should be overlooked. Richmond is always talking about living and working closer to home – and yet we are forcing these residents to commute due to lack of commercial parking.

The facts are clear – the trucking community creates jobs and sustains families in our city. We don't want to move to Surrey or Burnaby, or anywhere else. We live in Richmond, we like Richmond, and we want Richmond to support the jobs created by our industry. As you can see, and is identified in city staff's own report, there is tremendous demand for commercial vehicle parking here in the city.

Another issue identified by city staff is one that's even more pressing. – the limited availability of land to accommodate commercial vehicle parking in Richmond. We know this is a very pressing problem, so where can truckers turn. Based on the city's own report, this stretch of property on River Road is one of very few viable options.

The city has undertaken traffic studies for River Road and No. 7 Road and determined that removal of limitations for this property will not hurt traffic flows and is supportable. Moreover the current Official Community Plan designates this area for Business & Industry, and the 2041 OCP update is proposing to designate this area as Industrial. The proposal for commercial trucks to park and be stored on this property complies with both the current and proposed OCP.

Currently, the interim plan for Mr. VIRDI'S property does allow for up to 40 trucks – but only if they are agricultural in nature. This type of restrictive requirement is very unique to this property in our city. With few to no trucks solely dedicated to agricultural use given the seasonal nature of the industry, it has been very hard to make use of that

designation. In reality, commercial truckers rely on a variety of contracts for their business and that needs to be reflected in the realities of ZONING. If you're talking about reducing our carbon footprint and keeping jobs here in our community the zoning requirements currently in place help nobody.

Given this is the only suitable area available for truck parking in Richmond, and it had received the support of city staff to act as such, our request is to allow truck parking without restrictions on these properties. ONLY IN JANUARY 2012, CITY COUNCIL REITERATED ITS POSITION THAT THIS WAS A GOOD AREA FOR TRUCK PARKING AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO RESTRICTIONS. And yet when Mr. Viridi's re-application to take off the restrictions came forward, Planning Committee referred this matter back to staff for more study.

GIVEN THE PRESSING NATURE OF THIS ISSUE, THE LACK OF AVAILABLE LAND, AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS ISSUE TO THE CITY'S ECONOMY, WE WOULD LIKE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER THIS ISSUE TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE – GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE, SO IT CAN BE ADDRESSED IN A TIMELY MANNER FITTING ITS IMPORTANCE.