

Schedule 61 to the Minutes of the Public Hearing meeting of Richmond City Council held on Monday, December 17, 2018.

ON TABLE ITEM

Date: December 17, 2018
Meeting: Public Hearing
Item: #5

Mayor and Councillors

From: Michelle Li <michelleli@shaw.ca>
Sent: Sunday, 16 December 2018 10:58
To: Mayor and Councillors
Subject: Farmhouse size on ALR

Categories: - TO: MAYOR & EACH COUNCILLOR / FROM: CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

After the last meeting regarding farmhouse size on ALR, I was encouraged and hopeful about the future of farmland in Richmond.

As someone whose family owns land in the ALR, I realize the pressures on farmland, the use of tax incentives, and the desire to capitalize on investments; however, mansion-building on prime farmland is an inappropriate use of the ALR to achieve these ends.

I cannot reiterate enough that when people buy into the ALR, it is clearly stated on their title and that comes with the understanding that the priority land use is agricultural, not residential use. There are also allowances for legitimate farmers to apply for larger residences if needed for their family through the ALC. This should be utilized by our farming families instead of opening the floodgates to speculation.

Not only did Wozny suggest 400 m² would decrease the pressures on ALR, Richmond has smaller lot sizes than most ALR lots across BC, which is why 400 m² is the right number for Richmond. We cannot sell out the future to a few loud voices that drown out common sense and reason.

There was a resounding mandate to protect farmland in the last election. Anything less than full support of 400 m² is selling out our city to continued speculation.

I am hopeful that you will all continue with this good work to protect farmland and preserve our agricultural heritage that will usher us into a more sustainable future.

Yours in farmland preservation,
Michelle Li

