

ON TABLE ITEM

Date: DECEMBER 17, 2018
Meeting: PUBLIC HEARING
Item: 5

Schedule 71 to the Minutes of the Public Hearing meeting of Richmond City Council held on Monday, December 17, 2018.

MayorandCouncillors

From: Marie Murtagh <illawarra@shaw.ca>
Sent: Monday, 17 December 2018 11:41
To: MayorandCouncillors
Subject: House Size on Farm Land Decision

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

Monday, December 17, 2018

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I have been a Richmond resident for almost 25 years. Words cannot adequately describe the heartache and disappointment I continue to experience in the every growing issue of Richmond's latest ALR crop: the mega mansions.

As you are undoubtedly aware, permitting oversized mansions is not a prudent use of limited prime farmland, but it has also significantly increased speculative development. In turn, we can confirm that this has led to illegal activities in these mansions, and it continues to be the driving source of skyrocketing land values for agriculturally zoned land.

I am writing to respectfully ask that at Monday night's Public Hearing, you vote for 400 m2 (over 4,300 sq ft) as the maximum house size on ALR properties in Richmond.

Those of us who have been doing our best to protect ALR lands in Richmond, already know that 400 m2 was determined by Richard Wozny to be THE APPROPRIATE FARMHOUSE SIZE FOR RICHMOND (to reduce speculation on agricultural land and to divert residential uses to city lots) as it is in line with the maximum house sizes on Richmond's city lots.

It is essential that Richmond takes this step. Our community needs to be seen as a leader in farmland preservation. No longer shall we be beholden to developer and real estate interests. There is no need to allow all ALR land owners to build a mansion, as bonafide farmers have always had the option to apply for a larger home through the Agricultural Land Commission.

Each day on my way to work, I travel along a section of Blundell Road for 1 mile: from Number 5 Road to Number 4 Road. I am sickened by the number of mega homes that are built and horrified that there are currently 17 properties under development that will no doubt be sporting a ridiculous oversized 'farmhouse' in 2019. This is but one small portion of a road that has ALR lands....I shudder to think of how many other streets are in the same state.

House size is one of the largest determinants of the cost of farmland, and by taking this step you will reverse a dangerous course. Please continue to do the right thing, and vote for 400 square metres.

Sincerely,

Marie Murtagh
4771 Dumont Street
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Richmond, BC