

Schedule 85 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: Marina szijarto <marinaszjarto@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 17 December 2018 10:31
To: Mayor and Councillors
Subject: Monday public hearing re max house size on ALR land in Richmond.

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

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

As a Richmond resident, I have been very worried to see the growing issue of mega mansions on Richmond's ALR lots. Not only is this an inappropriate use of prime farmland (that has and will become more of an issue for food security, something our elected officials should be very concerned about), it has also increased speculative development here in Richmond. Many of these giant building projects have led to illegal activities within the mansions (as I observed first hand on 4 Road area south of Steveston Highway, where drugs, gambling and sex trafficking was taking place).

The unrestrained house sizes continues to be the driving source of skyrocketing land values for agriculturally zoned land, and this is an issue that affects all of us and this communities future.

I am writing to 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.

400 m2 has been determined to be the appropriate 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 to be seen as a leader in farmland preservation, no longer bowing to developer and real estate interests and the few "farmers" who are actually wanting to develop and subdivide their land, possibly under false pretences. 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.

House size is one of the largest determinants of the cost of farmland, and ultimately food security for us and our children - we need to encourage more land to be used for healthy food production and enable hardworking farmers to have access to land. By taking this step in reducing house sizes on farmland you will reverse a dangerous course. Please do the right thing and vote for 400 m2.

Thank you

Sincerely,
Marina Szijarto
Richmond, BC

