

Schedule 90 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: De Whalen <de_whalen@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, 16 December 2018 15:39
To: CityClerk; Mayor and Councillors
Subject: Public Hearing Dec 17, 2018 regarding farm houses on ALR

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

December 16, 2018

Dear Mayor and Councillors:

I am in favour of the recent decision to keep house sizes on Richmond's ALR to the maximum of 400 square metres. I live on the ALR in a modest house. All around us these perfectly good houses are being torn down and monster mansions are being built in their place. Two doors down, the person bought a beautiful hand crafted 4 bedroom house on acreage in July 2017, paying \$2.25 million. Somehow the house burned down three months later but luckily no one had lived in it since it was purchased. This new owner shoveled the house into a dumpster then put the land up for sale at \$2.68 million and the land sat there untended until recently.

About a week after City Council decided to reduce house sizes on ALR, the bulldozers arrived, breaking up the old foundation and shoving it into the acreage, likely to act as fill. Then dump trucks with sand finished the job. I am assuming this is one of the properties that is 'grandparented' in the permits process. As the sand and concrete extend far into the acreage, I expect another 1000 square metre monster house will be built on the site.

There is no need for such large 'farmhouses.' They are not being built and occupied by 'farm families.' If that were so, why don't farm families in other districts such as Delta and Surrey seem to require such large houses?

These large dwellings increase the price of the land so much, they take fertile farmland out of the reach of people who want to grow food for our growing population. Every monster mansion that is allowed, effectively takes the whole acreage out of the ALR without having to go to all the trouble of appealing their case.

I urge Mayor and Council to please stand firm and do not allow the 400 square metres maximum size to be increased again.

Sincerely,

Deirdre and Bruce Whalen
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"Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can quietly become a power no government can suppress, a power that can transform the world." Howard Zinn

"You can't undo the past. You don't have to feel guilty about the past. You don't even have to apologize for the past. All you have to do is say YES. Yes, this happened. We can start there." Richard Wagamese on Reconciliation.