

CITY OF WILLIAMS LAKE

Schedule 1 to the Minutes of the Community Safety Committee meeting of Richmond City Council held on Tuesday, February 10, 2026.



February 9, 2026

File No. 2-9-13A / 0530-08

Mayor Malcolm Brodie and Council
City of Richmond
6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond, BC
V6Y 2C1

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



Sent via email: mayorandcouncillors@richmond.ca

Dear Mayor Brodie and Council:

Re: City of Richmond's Public Safety Camera System Program

At its Regular meeting on January 27, 2026, City of Williams Lake Council received information regarding the City of Richmond's public safety camera system program. Our understanding is that in May 2025, the BC Information and Privacy Commissioner commenced an investigation into whether the City of Richmond's pilot project to install high-resolution cameras at select intersections complied with privacy provisions set out in the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. In January 2026, the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) issued an order to the City of Richmond to remove the high-resolution intersection cameras, which the City is currently challenging.

With threats to public safety escalating, local governments must have the tools to be able to respond quickly to serious incidents that threaten the safety and security of their communities. They must have the ability to be creative and innovative, recognizing that local governments cannot always count on senior levels of government for immediate funding and support. Advancing the targeted use of public cameras in Richmond and comparable communities in BC is a critical tool to help ensure public safety.

Strategic camera use can assist in deterring and addressing criminal activity, accelerate investigations, and increase safety without eroding individual privacy rights. Local governments are constantly responding to ongoing and increasing challenges with vandalism, theft, illegal dumping, violence, and public disorder, the revolving door of the justice system and the ongoing need for bail reform, among other issues.

The option to implement security cameras to address specific safety issues is extremely important. When implemented with strict privacy protection measures in place, cameras are a proven tool to target illegal activity and can deliver meaningful reductions in crime, assist RCMP investigations, and improve community safety and confidence. This is not just the view of local governments, but is also supported by the RCMP for their investigative purposes.

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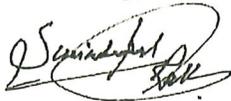
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There is no doubt that the OIPC's investigation and resulting order does not address the very real threats to public safety that exist across the province. It is local governments that must respond to issues in their communities proactively and quickly. The inability to implement a system that is effective and used judiciously only enables those acting outside the law to continue their activities, to the detriment of the public as a whole.

City of Williams Lake Council supports the City of Richmond's Public Safety Camera System Program, and urges senior levels of government to reconsider the outdated and unnecessarily restrictive approach to collecting data for public safety. Downloading the responsibility for public safety to local governments without the power to implement proactive and effective measures puts our communities at ever-increasing risk, and we must be able to use reasonable methods to help ensure our residents' safety, including the targeted use of public cameras.

Yours truly,



Mayor Surinderpal Rathor

c: Premier David Eby Premier@gov.bc.ca
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North Central Local Government Association admin@nclga.ca

