

Attn: City Clerk, City of Richmond, Agricultural Land Commission.

Subject: Opposition to remove Garden City Lands, 5555 No.4 Road, from the Agricultural Land Reserves.

I oppose to the remove the garden city lands from the ALR. I am a resident of Richmond and have been for 11 years now. I am one of the young residents in Richmond who is concerned about the future of our city if the removal application goes through. After reading about the Garden City land issue in the newspaper, I am disappointed at the city's decision to remove the land from ALR. This plot of land was designated as ALR to set a boundary for urban growth and prioritizes agricultural practices. This application to remove the garden city lands is not only contradictory to the city's Official Community plan and also contradictory to the goal of Livable Regional Strategic Plan. The city's state of the environment publication in 2005 has also stated the need to preserve our agricultural land within the city boundary and the city's support to ~~do so~~. *acknowledges the value of agriculture in our city.*

*PUT  
EXACT  
QUOTES*

I would like the applicants to understand the full cost of removing the Garden City Lands, it must take historical, political, economical, social and cultural dimensions of the issue into consideration. Historically, the land has been in the ALR for about 30 years now. I do not want be part of the history where the lands is paved for pure economic benefits of a private developer. Economically, an agricultural site would be more profitable in the future when our city is capable of providing food for our community. Environmentally, we need the land in the middle of the city to provide the CO2 sequestration. By building and developing in the middle of land the long term effect of emitting CO2 into the air would affect our city's air quality. Nevertheless, by putting in more residential buildings in the area would only increase the traffic congestion on Garden City roads, Westminster HWY and Alderbridge. *posing danger for cyclists and pedestrians.* ~~Politically~~, in various city publications, *the city has agreed upon the importance of agricultural land in our city. By having a piece of agricultural land in the middle of the city not only brings environmental benefits but so much more.*

The city must also understand the social and environmental values of how and where food is grown. The strategic location of the Garden City Lands will make food grown on this land accessible to residents and also nearby municipalities. The 100 mile diet would be possible for

*Citizens will be able to  
purchase organically, locally produced  
vegetables + fruits*

In Richmond.

all residents to participate in. The short term profit of developing the Garden City lands is desirable when we're looking at the short term housing crisis. Have we looked at other industrial lands and brown fields in the city? Is it purely the market mechanisms that are driving the sale of lands? Please consider the true cost of building on <sup>But!</sup> that <sup>The Garden City</sup> piece of land. The long term projection, <sup>benefits</sup> please do more studies by credited scholars and researchers, and not only taking advice from someone who is not familiar with Richmond's unique character.

It seems ironic to me that the city has clearly identified its support for agricultural lands, but failed to put in practice. This is where tensions arise; when policies and actual practices are put together, we see the contradiction. ~~When this happens, citizens will start to lose faith in the democratic process.~~ <sup>I acknowledge</sup> The city's plan has included some sustainable agriculture site, but not the ~~entire~~ <sup>part</sup> of Garden City Lands. The Garden City Lands is an Agricultural Land reserve; it's not meant for high rises and paved grounds. I do ~~not~~ <sup>want a developer to come</sup> explain into my city, and tell me I am a member of this community, and I would like to ~~tell~~ <sup>you</sup> my definition of "community need". <sup>this is what my city will like!</sup> We need green space, we need clean air, we need better transit systems, we need fresh and healthy food, we need clean water, and we need a safe shelter we need to educate our children the diverse ecosystem of our city. Help them explore the city through the historical, environmental and social lens.

<sup>I would like to quote Deborah McGregor who is a professor @ Aboriginal Studies @ Univ of Toronto.</sup> Garden city lands, is not just a physical structure, it has biodiversity; it has environmental value it also has a spiritual value to it. The scientific term that can most closely define the word "land" would be Ecosystem. The Garden City Ecosystem.

Richmond's ecosystem should not have been a negotiation for development in the first place. I would to make my position clear once again, I oppose to the removal <sup>of</sup> the Garden City

Ecosystem from the ALR. Thank you for listening.

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Sustainable Food ~~System~~ Ecosystems Park.

In her article, ~~the~~ <sup>Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Urban dev. Towards Co-existence.</sup>

In <sup>\* Empowerment</sup> <sup>\* and educating our children</sup> <sup>of the history of farm + fish.</sup> <sup>1000 years of</sup> <sup>in the history of the museum.</sup>

Also, I would like to answer Councilor Evelina's question on Aboriginal Food Security

buy food, cheap food? 1.79 \$ bags of potato chips? ~~you need~~ <sup>defn'</sup> of food security → This is an opportunity to change that's why we're ~~to~~ <sup>adopting</sup> an education center.