

Thank you Mayor and Council
My name is Jerry Heed.

I LIVE AT

RICHMOND.

I'VE BEEN A RICHMOND RESIDENT FOR THE PAST 43 YEARS

I HAVE A DEGREE IN URBAN GEOGRAPHY FROM THE

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

I'VE WORKED AS A REAL ESTATE AGENT FOR THE

PAST 21 YEARS

I'D LIKE TO PREFACE MY REMARKS BY SAYING FIRST

THANK YOU

TO COUNCILLOR STEVES FOR HIS 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

TO THE CITIZENS OF RICHMOND AND HIS RELENTLESS

EFFORT TO PRESERVE RICHMOND'S AGRICULTURAL ~~LAND~~ BASE

AND WET LANDS HABITAT

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THE CITY OF RICHMOND'S APPLICATION

TO THE AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION

TO HAVE THE GARDEN CITY LANDS EXCLUDED FROM THE

LAND RESERVE BASED UPON A NOTION OF COMMUNITY NEED.

THE COMMUNITY HAS NO NEED FOR THIS LAND EXCEPT FOR AGRICULTURE, WILDLIFE HABITAT, OR NATURAL OPEN GREEN SPACE.

THERE IS NO NEED FOR A TRADE AND CONVENTION CENTRE AT THIS SITE. A BUSINESS PLAN DOES NOT EXIST.

IT'S PROBABLY NOT ECONOMICALLY VIABLE AND IF SUCH A FACILITY WERE BUILT IN RICHMOND, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT A LOCATION NEAR THE RIVER ROCK CASINO WOULD BE BETTER SUITED, IF ONLY BECAUSE OF THE PROXIMITY TO RAPID TRANSIT FACILITIES.

MOREOVER

AND WE HAVE TO QUESTION WHETHER THERE ARE ANY REAL BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY ~~WITH THIS~~ ^{FROM THE CONVENTION CENTRE} PROPOSAL.

^{EXAMPLES LIKE} EXCEPT FOR THE GENTLEMAN WHO SPOKE ON TUESDAY ABOUT HIS 2 HOTELS AND 125 EMPLOYEES. IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO KNOW HOW MANY OF HIS EMPLOYEES ACTUALLY LIVE IN RICHMOND.

I ALSO QUESTION THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL SPORTS FIELDS FOR YOUTH IN RICHMOND.

I DON'T HAVE THE STATISTICS AT MY FINGERTIPS BUT

I AM CONFIDENT THAT ON A PER CAPITAL BASIS THERE IS LESS

YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN NEIGHBOURHOOD OUTDOOR

SPORTS ACITIVITES NOW THAN IN THE 1970'S. DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE IS OBVIOUS IN RICHMOND.

THE FOOTBALL TEAMS ARE GONE. THE BASEBALL TEAMS

HAVE DISAPPEARED. ARE THERE ANY LACROSSE BOXES LEFT

IN RICHMOND??

ALTHOUGH, I HAVE OBSERVED TEAMS FROM OUTSIDE RICHMOND

USING THE COMMUNITY'S FACILITIES, NOTABLY THE

ARTIFICIAL FIELD AT MINORU PARK.

I'VE BEEN PRESENT FOR THE 3 PREVIOUS DAY'S OF HEARINGS

AND WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT ON THE DELEGATIONS THAT

HAVE APPEARED BEFORE YOU.

I CAN'T BEGIN TO TELL YOU MY LEVEL OF DISAPPOINTMENT
WITH
~~ABOUT~~ THE THREATS YOU HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE
MUSQUEAM BAND LAWYERS, CLC LAWYERS, AND ^{PEOPLE LIKE} AGROLOGIST
AND ALLEGED LAND CLAIMS EXPERT DAVE MACARTHUR.

I STRONGLY DENOUNCE THOSE WHO HAVE COME BEFORE
YOU AND ISSUED THREATS OF ABORIGINAL
LAND CLAIM AND TITLE IF YOU DO NOT AGREE TO PLUNDER
THE GARDEN CITY LANDS.

THIS BEHAVIOUR -- AND I'M SURE THERE MUST BE A WORD
FOR IT --- IS IN MY VIEW GENUINELY ABHORANT.

AT A TIME WHEN PEOPLE ALL OTHER THE WORLD ARE
EXPRESSING CONCERNS ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
RELATED TO FARMLAND DEGRADATION, FOOD SCARCITY,
HABITAT & WETLAND DESTRUCTION, URBANIZATION AND
GLOBAL WARMING--- WORDS CAN'T EXPRESS HOW
PROFOUNDLY DISAPPOINTED I AM TO SEE YET ANOTHER
RICHMOND COUNCIL SUPPORT A PLAN TO DESTROY
A LARGE TRACT OF PRISTINE HABITAT.

WETLANDS DESTRUCTION AROUND THE WORLD IS A MAJOR
CONTRIBUTOR TO GLOBAL WARMING. LOOK IT UP.

THE EVERGLADES IN FLORIDA FOR EXAMPLE IS DISAPPEARING.
NOT JUST BECAUSE THE SO CALLED "SWAMPS" HAVE BEEN
DRAINED TO BUILD GOLF COURSES AND RETIREMENT
COMMUNITIES.

DRAMATICALLY
THE ECOSYSTEM HAS BEEN ALTERED WHICH IN TURN HAS
CHANGED THE CLIMATE. THE WATER IS DISAPPEARING. AND
ALONG WITH IT THE WILDLIFE.

HERE IN RICHMOND
LONGTIME
FEW RICHMOND RESIDENTS HAVE FORGOTTEN
THE FIGHT OVER THE TERRA NOVA LANDS.

I REMEMBER COUNCILLORS SAYING THEN DON'T WORRY IT'LL
NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.

SO HERE WE ARE. 2008. RIGHT BACK TO WHERE THEY SAID IT
WOULD NEVER GO.

BUT IT'S EVEN WORSE THIS TIME BECAUSE THE CITY OF RICHMOND IS THE LAND DEVELOPER IN THIS CASE. WITHOUT THE CITY OF RICHMOND THIS SCHEME GOES NO WHERE.

LET'S LOOK AT SOME FACTS

WE HAVE 136 ACRES OF PRISTINE HABITAT
LOOKING PRETTY MUCH LIKE IT HAS FOR 9,000 YEARS
IT HAS BEEN
DEEMED AGRICULTURALLY VIABLE. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT,
OWNERS OF THE LAND, HAS DEEMED IT SURPLUS AND
TRANSFERRED THE LAND TO
THE CANADA LANDS COMPANY, AN AGENT OF
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS AUTHORIZED THE
CANADA LANDS COMPANY, TO SELL THE LAND.

I SUBMIT TO YOU

THAT THE CANADA LANDS COMPANY SHOULD

BE DOING EXACTLY WHAT IT HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DO
SELL 136 ACRES OF SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL LAND.

BUT AS WE LEARN HERE CLC DOESN'T WANT TO DO THAT.

LIKE ANY PRIVATE SECTOR LAND DEVELOPER

CLC WANTS TO REZONE THE LAND FROM AGRICULTURAL

THE LOWEST COST PER SQUARE FOOT

TO HIGH DENSITY URBAN TO MAXIMIZE THEIR PROFIT

AT THE HIGHEST COST PER SQUARE FOOT.

THEN WE HAVE THE MUSQUEAM FIRST NATION.

THE MUSQUEAM HAVE CLAIMED AN INTEREST IN

THE PROPERTY.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THE INTEREST,
ALTHOUGH IT IS UNCERTAIN AS TO WHY.

THE MUSQUEAM ASSERT ABORIGINAL CLAIM AND TITLE

THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THE CLAIM WILL SUCCEED.

BUT AMONG OTHER THINGS THE MUSQUEAM ASSERT

AN AFFINTIY TO THEIR NATIVE

TRIBAL LANDS WHICH THEY HAVE OCCUPIED FOR 9,000
YEARS.

I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THE ENTIRE GARDEN CITY
LANDS BEING DEEDED TO THE MUSQUEAM FOR AGRICULTURAL
PURPOSES.

BUT CHIEF CAMPBELL SAID HERE CLEARLY ON TUESDAY
THE MUSQUEAM ARE NOT INTERESTED IN FARMING THE LAND
HIS EXACT WORDS ARE : "IT'LL NEVER BE FARMED"

HE SUPPORTS CLC'S CALL FOR HIGH DENSITY URBAN
DEVELOPMENT TO MAZIMIZE HIS BAND'S PROFIT.

THE CANADA LANDS COMPANY AND THE

MUSQUEAM BAND ARE NOT INTERESTED IN GLOBAL WARMING

OR ANY OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. THE MUSQUEAM
ARE NOT INTERESTED IN RECOVERING THEIR
TRIBAL LAND.

THEY'RE INTERESTED IN MONEY AND THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT
OF MONEY THEY CAN SQUEEZE OUT OF THE GARDEN CITY LANDS.

AND CHIEF CAMPBELL ISN'T INTERESTED IN JUST ANYONE'S
MONEY

WHEN WE ASK CHIEF CAMPBELL IF HIS BAND IS WILLING
TO SELL ITS INTEREST IN THE LAND TO THE CITIZENS OF
RICHMOND -- HE FLATLY SAYS NO.

LIKE MONEY FROM THE CITIZENS OF RICHMOND IS TAINTED OR
DIRTY.

I GUESS THE IMPLICATION IS THAT THE PEOPLE OF RICHMOND
COULD NEVER MATCH THE ASKING PRICE.

OR MAYBE NAKED GREED IS SIMPLY NOT BECOMING.

BUT, THAT'S SOME KIND OF HISTORIC EXAMPLE OF
CO-OPERATION AND RE CONCILIATION INSTEAD OF
CONFRONTATION, TO USE CHIEF CAMPBELL'S
WORDS.

THEN WE HAVE THE CITY OF RICHMOND.

I
IT'S CLEAR TO ME AND ^I THINK EVERYONE ~~ELSE~~ THAT
THE CANADA LANDS COMPANY AND THE MUSQUEAM BAND

ARE SIMPLY USING THE CITY TO GET SOMETHING
THEY COULDN'T OTHERWISE GET.

THEY KNOW THEY CAN'T GET THE LAND EXCLUDED
FROM THE ALR WITHOUT THE CITY OF RICHMOND CARRYING THE
BALL AND CITING SOME KIND OF COMMUNITY NEED

AS I UNDERSTAND IT 6 COUNCILLORS HAVE ALREADY
ENDORSED THIS ^{ALR EXCLUSION} ~~SORDID~~ SCHEME.

SO, THE CITIZENS OF RICHMOND THAT OPPOSE THE EXCLUSION

APPLICATION KNOW ~~THEY ARE REALLY~~ WHAT THEY ARE
UP AGAINST. IT REMINDS US OF THAT
JUST GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS HERE.

ADAGE FROM THE 60s AND 70's : "YOU
CAN'T FIGHT CITY HALL"

WE KNOW CHANCES OF CHANGING YOUR MINDS ARE SLIM

BUT THERE'S A LOT OF TALK ABOUT HOPE THIS YEAR

PARTICULARLY IN THE UNITED STATES.

SO WE ARE HERE TODAY WITH JUST THE HOPE THAT

WE CAN CHANGE SOMEONES MIND.

CAN WE CHANGE MAYOR BRODIE'S MIND?

NOT LIKELY

CAN WE CHANGE COUNCILLOR HOWARD'S MIND?

NOT LIKELY

CAN WE CHANGE COUNCILLOR DANG'S MIND?

NOT LIKELY, BUT HE HAS YOUNGER CHILDREN TO THINK ABOUT

CAN WE CHANGE COUNCILLOR CHEN'S MIND

NOT LIKELY, BUT SHE IS AN INDEPENDENT THINKER

CAN WE CHANGE COUNCILLOR EVILINA HALSEY BRANDT'S MIND?

SHE SAY SHE HASN'T DECIDED BUT I THINK SHE HAS

SHE IS COMFORTABLE LETTING THE LAND COMMISSION DECIDED,

WHEN REALLY THIS ISSUE SHOULD NEVER GET TO THE LAND

COMMISSION A SECOND TIME.

CAN WE CHANGE COUNCILLOR MCNULTY'S MIND?

NOT LIKELY, BUT HE IS RESPECTED IN THE COMMUNITY AND HAS
A LONG HISTORY OF INVOLVEMENT WITH YOUTH AND THE
UNIVERSITY OF B. C. HE IS A REASONABLE MAN.

I'M HERE TODAY HELPING THOSE CHILDREN THAT WERE HERE
TUESDAY EVENING

IF WE NEED TO MARCH UP AND DOWN GARDEN CITY ROAD
WITH PLACARDS TO STOP THIS LUNACY

I'M HERE TO HELP

AND I WILL BEG MY FRIENDS TO HELP

AND THEIR FRIENDS

AND WE WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE UP COMING ELECTION LIKE
NEVER BEFORE

PRESERVING NATIVE HABITAT

AGRICULTURAL LAND IS FOR THEM AND THEIR

CHILDREN ---- NOT US.

THE SHORT SIGHTEDNESS OF OUR
POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN THIS COUNTRY IS NOTHING SHORT
OF MIND NUMBING.

THERE'S A LOT OF TALK ABOUT HOPE THIS YEAR.

AND IT'S MY HOPE THAT THE AGRICULTURAL LAND
COMMISSION REJECTS THIS PROPOSAL FOR A SECOND TIME AND
BY DOING SO SENDS A MESSAGE TO OUR POLITICAL LEADERSHIP
THAT GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ARE IMPORTANT
AND NEED TO BE ADDRESSED SERIOUSLY SO THAT FUTURE
GENERATIONS ARE NOT IMPERILED.

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME SPEAK.

Respectfully Submitted,

