

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

Schedule 2 to the Minutes of the Community Safety Committee meeting of Richmond City Council held on Tuesday, February 10, 2026.



City of Richmond

Memorandum Law & Community Safety Division

To: Mayor and Councillors
From: Mark Corrado
Director, Community Bylaws and Licencing
Re: **Oak Street Bridge – Clean Up Overview**
Date: February 9, 2026
File: 12-8060-01/2025-Vol 01

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide Council with an update regarding the City's coordinated response to the accumulation of abandoned structures, debris, and materials located on Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT) lands beneath the Oak Street Bridge.

From January 27 through February 3, 2026, the City oversaw a carefully planned and phased clean-up operation of abandoned structures and discarded materials located beneath the Oak Street Bridge, between Van Horne Way and Bridgeport Road. Acting under authorities provided to the Fire Chief under the Fire Protection and Life Safety Bylaw No. 8306, the clean-up operation was led by Community Bylaws and conducted in close coordination with Joint Operations Team (JOT) members including, Richmond Fire-Rescue, City Homelessness Outreach staff, Environmental Programs, Richmond RCMP and Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (MSDPR) staff.

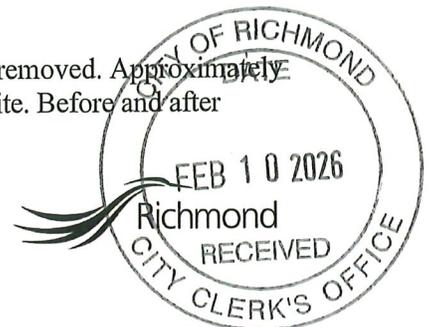
This multi-agency approach ensured the work was conducted safely, lawfully, and with appropriate consideration for both environmental and human impacts. The clean-up was conducted in phases, beginning at the southernmost portion of the bridge deck and progressing northward. This phased approach allowed crews to systematically address hazards while minimizing disruption and maintaining situational awareness.

For several months prior to the cleanup, multiple social service agencies worked to connect individuals residing under the bridge deck with housing, treatment, and detox services. These efforts reduced occupancy from a peak of 12 individuals to three. At the time of the cleanup, the three individuals still regularly occupying portions of the area were well known to City staff and partner agencies. In these cases, services had either been declined or engagement and support remained ongoing.

In accordance with jurisdictional authority limitations, no individuals were decamped or directed to vacate the site, and the clean-up was limited to abandoned structures, debris, and unsafe materials. Prior to removal, items identified for disposal were screened for personal effects such as ID or wallets. The remaining individuals were informed of the work in advance and, in some cases, assisted crews by sorting materials and identifying items for removal.

In total, 14 previously identified sites of structures and dumping sites were removed. Approximately 15 commercial truckloads of debris and materials were removed from the site. Before and after images are provided in Attachment 1.

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Where feasible, contractors made reasonable efforts to sort materials for appropriate recycling. The total contractor cost of the operation was \$18,678, exclusive of applicable taxes. This does not include internal or external staffing costs.

MOTT did not participate in the clean-up operation. MOTT policy requires that sites be fully vacated of all persons before a clean-up can take place. As the clean-up was conducted while individuals were still occupying the area, MOTT's procedural requirements could not be met at the time to enable their participation. As a result, the City advanced the clean-up using its own resources and inter-agency partnerships to address immediate safety, environmental, and public interest concerns.

Should you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.



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MC:gb

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Jim Wishlove, Fire Chief
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Kim Somerville, Director, Community Social Development
Geoffrey Bramhill, Manager, Community Bylaw Operations
Chris Duggan, Manager, Community Social Development
Kristina Grozdanich, Manager, Recycling & Waste Recovery

Att. 1

Selection Of Before and After Photos of Oak Street Bridge Clean Up



