

What is the definition of on site parking space as it relates to RV's + Boats? Is it a driveway?

Date: November 16, 2009-11-16

To: **Richmond City Council**

Re: **Proposed By-Law 6.4.5 – Parking of Travel Trailers or Boats**

SCHEDULE 2 TO THE MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL FOR
PUBLIC HEARINGS HELD ON MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 16, 2009.

I take the position that this Bylaw should not be passed.

- X
1. This bylaw calls for the building of fences or hedges to obstruct the view of Travel Trailers or Boats. There is a field of study called **Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, (CPTED)**. The first principle is to ensure that there are no obstacles that will create an opportunity for a criminal to commit a crime. Building more fences and hedges makes it easier for a criminal to step out of the public view while they commit theft, property damage, or vandalism. Passing this bylaw will create more opportunity to commit ^{Crime} require greater police response, create more victims of crime, create more fear of crime, and increase costs to ICBC and private insurance companies. The best way to protect an RV is to leave it in plain sight. Our subdivision has an active Crime Watch program and we watch our neighbours property. Despite our vigilance we still have vehicle breakins. I would not want property crime to increase.

I feel that I am qualified to speak on CPTED. I served as a police officer and police manager for 31 years with the Vancouver Police Department. During my police service I have used CPTED concepts to great advantage to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

Implementing a Bylaw that provides increased opportunity for criminal activity will increase police calls for service, and will increase the cost of policing in the City of Richmond. Policing is one of the greatest costs to every municipality. Decisions made by council will have an impact on the ability of the RCMP to respond. Lets not make it more difficult for our police.

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2. Building fences and planting hedges **will also present challenges to Richmond Fire Services**. Consider the safety concerns of firefighters responding to a Travel Trailer ablaze with toxic fiberglass and plastic fumes, battery acid, rubber tires and a possible propane tank explosion. Consider the safety concerns of a firefighter trying to fight a fire involving a fiberglass boat. Consider the battery, trailer tires and ~~with~~ plastic fuel tanks full of fuel. Construction of a fence or hedge will obstruct their ability to easily fight the fire from a safe distance, unobstructed and unfettered. Easy and direct access to a burning recreational vehicle will result in it being more quickly extinguished (knocked down), and there will be a greater possibility or preventing the spread of the fire to adjacent structures.

From time to time our community experiences a rash of hedge fires by persons who get a thrill from arson and property damage. Requiring hedges and fences to be built ^{check} to obstruct the view of boats or trailers simply puts more property at risk to arson and vandalism. It facilitates the commission of property damage and puts unnecessary demands on public safety responders.

- R*
3. **I was interesting to see that this proposed bylaw has been routed to a number of City departments however it has not been forwarded to either Police or Fire.** Council should consider routing proposed bylaw proposals through ~~these~~ police and fire to better determine the impact on service delivery and cost of response.

- Island City by*
- R*
4. There are many aspects to consider about RV use in Richmond. We like the label **"Island by Nature"**. Its one of the reasons we like to live here and raise our family. I should point out that we built our house in Richmond 27 years ago. We keep our 16 foot boat power boat in the garage most of the year, but during the summer, we park it on the driveway for several weeks, to make the best use of it. After work and on weekends we hook up, and use the area boat launches to get out on the river, or to travel to the Gulf Islands. One of the many advantages of living in Richmond is that it is so accessible for boating and recreation. When our boat is not in use we use our travel trailer. When the travel trailer is not in use it is parked on the driveway, one side obstructed from view by a cedar hedge.

- R*
5. Having the boat or trailer on the driveway enables my family to get things ready for a trip, to be prepared to use our equipment frequently, and for me to ensure that all of the safety equipment is in top shape. **It allows us to enjoy camping and boating to the best advantage.** If we had to park a boat or RV off site they would be more expensive to store, require more driving to retrieve before use, and to return afterwards to an off site storage area. Stored off site my boat and Travel trailer would be more prone to theft or vandalism. It would require more time and frustration and result in less usage. Constructing a fence around an RV or boat would also restrict its usage.

- R*
6. None of the homes in my subdivision have lane access. In our subdivision there are eighteen families that will be affected by this legislation. These include: two families with tent trailers, four families with utility trailers, five families with boats, three families with travel trailers and two families with snowmobile trailers. Two other trailers can be described as tool trailers and used by neighbours who are self employed. **Passing this bylaw will result in a direct impact on many residents in my subdivision and throughout Richmond.** This bylaw should not be given consideration without the full consultation of affected citizens.

I have never received a complaint, or heard of any negative comment regarding a boat or RV parked on private property in my subdivision. **I do not believe that there is a need for council to enact this bylaw. It is in effect over-governance.**

Richmond should be known for its recreational opportunities, not for its lifestyle restrictions.

This bylaw is counterproductive and I submit that it should not be passed.

Ken and Jan Frail

Richmond, B.C.

4431 CANDLEWOOD DRIVE

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