

Schedule 4 to the Minutes of the  
Public Works and Transportation  
Committee meeting held on  
Wednesday, April 22, 2009.

April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Councillor Greg Halsey-Brandt,  
City of Richmond, 6911 No. 3 Road  
Richmond, BC

Dear Councillor Greg:

Re: Water Metering Program & Inside Water Meters for NW 12  
Glenacres Village Townhouses at 9700 Glenacres Drive.

I spoke to Nelson Liang of Neptune Technologies at the City's Open House last Thursday. His company is the contractor installing the water meters in Richmond. I was given good news!

He advised that inside water meters are available and that, technically, it is possible to install them inside each townhouse near where the main water shut off is located. (In my case under the sink in the small powder room by the front door). He further advised that the installation would take only approx. 1 ½ hours to do and that it was not necessary to determine where the outside shut off from the main water line is in order to install the meter. The inside meters are quite a bit smaller than the current outside meters, approx. 3" x 5" x 5". These meters can be read by remote from a drive-by.

He further advised that at the present time, inside meters are installed and in use in West Vancouver, Kamloops, Kelowna and possibly Gibsons area. However, he said that Richmond's current by-laws do not allow them here and that the Engineering Department needs to recommend changing the existing by-laws in order to allow them.

These inside meters would work well for townhouses, and would eliminate the need for the costly vault of \$75,000 per common meter. Also, it would avoid the implications of the Strata's water bill falling on the first unit #101, as well as liability - however this needs to be confirmed by the Tax Department. Participation could be on an individual basis upon Strata Council approval.

I found this conversation with Nelson very encouraging, and hope you will continue your effort to have individual inside water meters available for Richmond townhouse residents. Nelson can be reached at Neptune, at #604-271-9700 for further discussion.

I hope that if this new By-law does go through, that the City will extend the deadline for free water meters to those affected by the new regulation. Can you see to that, please? Thank you.

Thank you again for taking up this important issue, Mr. Halsey-Brandt.

Moreah Sinclair  
Glenacres Village #126 - 9700 Glenacres Drive Richmond, BC V7A 1Y7  
Tel: #604-241-7009



9280 Railway Ave.  
Richmond, BC V7E 2B6  
April 12, 2009

Mr. Greg Halsey Brandt,  
Richmond City Council,  
Richmond, BC

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Dear Greg,

Apartment Building Water Meter

Thank you for our telephone discussion about this on Tuesday afternoon, April 8. I am a member of the Strata Council of the Garden Glen Apartments, 8391 Bennett Road, Richmond.

After we received our utility bills in the spring of 2007, I made enquiries at City Hall with regard to the possibility of installing a water meter and saving some money with the City installation program. It was not until 2008 that I actively pursued the installation of a water meter with the City once we received AGM approval.

I was in contact with Chris Blackwell in May, 2008 who thought it was possible and promised to send someone to assess the building location. It was mentioned that this had never been done and ours could be the first. Despite calls back and forth, this never happened, however, it always seemed to be ongoing. There never seemed to be the "will" at City Engineering to install a water meter for a multi residential apartment. Mr. Chris Blackwell informed me in February that it could not be done. Following phone calls with Mr. Doug Anderson, Mgr. of Water Services, I was informed in March, 2009 that there was no money left in the budget and all meter installations were halted. If we had been a single family residence requesting a water meter installation anytime in 2007 or 2008, this would have been taken care of within a week. Richmond has no older apartment buildings on water meters to my knowledge because of the reluctance of City Engineering and now with no budget money, it may never happen. When all residences have to have water meters, will this also apply to apartments and at our own cost?

Garden Glen has 48 apartments: 17-2 bedrooms, 24-1 bedrooms and 7 studio units, all paying the same for utilities. It seems to me that as tax paying citizens of Richmond, we should be offered free meter installation as equal to that of residential tax paying citizens. How about a portion of any new water meter budget being set aside for multi family buildings?

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Frank Schmidt

**Mah, Cheryl**

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**From:** Lynne Bigg [lbigg@telus.net]

**Sent:** April 22, 2009 11:35 AM

**To:** Mah, Cheryl

**Subject:** Att'n.Greg.Halsey-Brandt

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Dear Councillor Halsey-Brandt,

I live in a small townhouse complex here in Richmond and I am outraged by the discrimination now present in the water metering situation. As a senior, living alone in a townhouse, my water useage is modest, and yet, I have no way to have that reflected in my bill since Richmond apparently does not allow individual meters in multiple unit complexes. I have heard from a friend, Moreah Sinclair, that the technology exists to allow townhouse metering. Why can we not have that? If the city is truly using the metering program as a way of encouraging conservation, then why not involve the maximum number of people. Otherwise, individuals may begin to behave on the premise that since they are paying for the extra water anyway, they might as well use it more lavishly.

I understand that Moreah Sinclair has sent you a letter that you will be presenting to the appropriate committee. Please add my comments and concerns. I have heard many expressions of frustration from my peers, single seniors on fixed income, as we find ourselves being penalized for our situation. Unfortunately, few of us have the confidence or the skills to voice these concerns. I hope that you will continue to do your best to represent us.

Lynne Bigg  
Victory Wynd Complex  
Richmond, B.C.  
Ph 604-271-9815

**Mah, Cheryl**

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**From:** Tom Moses [tlmoses@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** April 22, 2009 11:18 AM  
**To:** Mah, Cheryl  
**Subject:** Town House Water metering

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Dear Councillor Halsey-Brandt **Water Metering for individual Town Homes**

We understand that you propose to ask council to amend the current city by-laws to allow installation of water meters in individual town home. We wish to support that action as we feel that any means aimed at conservation of a valuable natural asset, is a worth while effort.

In addition, we feel that the current situation is discriminatory toward Town House owners in that they are not offered the same choices as other home owners.

Yours Sincerely,

Tom and Laura Moses  
#7--4411 Williams Road,  
Richmond, V7E 6B5

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**Mah, Cheryl**

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**From:** Pat Gannon [pgannon@smartt.com]

**Sent:** April 22, 2009 11:11 AM

**To:** Mah, Cheryl

**Subject:** Inside water meters for townhouses.

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**Attachments:** "AVG certification"

Dear Councillor Halsey-Brandt,

Representations have already been made to you regarding the changing of the city by-laws to include all taxpayers of Richmond which provides free water meters for those in single family residences but not for those of us who live in townhouses. Since it is technically quite feasible to fit inside water meters to any house, why are town house owners discriminated against? My wife and I are old age pensioners living on a fixed income. We live in a small (16 unit) town house complex. It is patently obvious that some of the residents consume far more water than ourselves, yet we are obliged to pay an equal amount for water service.

We understand that technical details regarding the installation of these meters is already in your hands. Please support the changes in the city by-laws to end this discrimination.

Thank you.

Patricia and Patrick Gannon.(