



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee
From: Lani Schultz
Corporate Programs Consultant

Date: July 11, 2017
File: 01-0105-07-01/2017-
Vol 01

Re: Addition to Council Term Goals 2014-2018

Staff Recommendation

That the Council Term Goals for 2014-2018 be updated to include an added priority under Goal 8: Supportive Economic Development Environment, as outlined in the report titled "Addition to Council Term Goals 2014-2018" dated July 11, 2017 from the Corporate Programs Consultant, to more clearly reflect Council's shared interests in ensuring a viable agricultural sector in Richmond.

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REPORT CONCURRENCE	
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE
Economic Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Policy Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: CS
APPROVED BY CAO 	

Staff Report

Origin

On June 26, 2017 Council received and endorsed an update on Council Term Goals for the 2014-2017 term of office. This report responds to a referral emanating from this process, “that staff draft a new priority under Goal 8: Supportive Economic Development Environment that supports the City’s agricultural sector to ensure it remains viable and part of the City’s economic development vision.”

This report supports the following Council 2014-2018 Term Goals:

Goal #3 A Well-Planned Community:

Adhere to effective planning and growth management practices to maintain and enhance the livability, sustainability and desirability of our City and its neighbourhoods, and to ensure the results match the intentions of our policies and bylaws.

Goal #4 Leadership in Sustainability:

Continue advancement of the City’s sustainability framework and initiatives to improve the short and long term livability of our City, and that maintain Richmond’s position as a leader in sustainable programs, practices and innovations.

Goal #5 Partnerships and Collaboration:

Continue development and utilization of collaborative approaches and partnerships with intergovernmental and other agencies to help meet the needs of the Richmond community.

Goal #8 Supportive Economic Development Environment:

Review, develop and implement plans, policies, programs and practices to increase business and visitor appeal and promote local economic growth and resiliency.

Analysis

Richmond has a rich agricultural history that remains an important part of the City. Approximately 39% (or 12,338 acres) of land in Richmond is part of the Agricultural Land Reserve and a total of 13,746 acres of land in Richmond is zoned for agricultural use. Farming represents an important part of Richmond’s diverse economy and community, and continuing to support the agricultural sector in Richmond is a common objective for Council.

The agricultural sector is experiencing some specific and unique pressures and challenges as the City undergoes growth and change. To this end, there have been numerous recent public discussions related to agricultural issues, and Council has recently directed staff to “update the Agriculture Viability Study to ensure that it remains effective and important part of the City’s economic development vision”. Members of Council recognize current initiatives aimed at

supporting agriculture and farming (food system policy planning principles, initiatives to raise awareness of our local farming industry, infrastructure/drainage improvements, etc.), but feel the matter is not adequately represented in their Term Goals, and would like to see it have more prominence. At the June 26, 2017 Council meeting, Council directed staff to develop a third priority under the Supportive Economic Development goal to more clearly articulate Council's shared objective of "supporting the City's agricultural sector to ensure it remains viable and part of Richmond's economic development vision". Council's Term Goal 8, Supportive Economic Development Environment, is to *"Review, develop and implement plans, policies, programs and practices to increase business and visitor appeal and promote local economic growth and resiliency"*. The two current priorities under this goal are:

8.1 Richmond's policies, programs and processes are business friendly.

8.2 Opportunities for economic growth and development are enhanced.

Recognizing the important role that agriculture plays in the City's history, character, livability and local economy, staff are recommending the following priority statement be added under the Supportive Economic Development goal for Council's consideration:

8.3 The City's agricultural sector is supported, remains viable and continues to be an important part of the City's character, livability, and economic development vision.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Council's Term Goals identify the shared goals and priorities for Council that guide the City's work programs for the 2014-2018 term of Council. Each year, these goals are reviewed to ensure they are current and reflective of community needs and to provide an update to Council on work that has been done towards achieving their goals. Based on the most recent review of these goals, Council has requested the addition of a third priority under Council's Term Goal 8: A Supporting Economic Development Environment, to better reflect their shared interest in a viable agricultural sector in our economic development vision. Staff are recommending the following new priority be added:

8.3 The City's agricultural sector is supported, remains viable and continues to be an important part of the City's character, livability, and economic development vision.



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CA:ca