

March 16, 2006

The Mayor and Councillors,
City of Richmond
6911 No.3 Road
Richmond BC V6Y 2C1

To Public Hearing	
Date:	March 20
Item #:	6
Re:	Bylaw 8029

Dear Mayor Brodie and Councillors:

I am a family physician who has lived and worked in Richmond for the last 25 years. I am an active member of the staff at the Hospital, and was introduced to medical practice in Richmond as the partner of such pioneers as the late Dr. (Dick) Talmey, and Dr. John Varley.

I have been following the developments in the West Cambie Area planning process with great interest. I have attended the Open Houses put on by the City and have provided my feedback where appropriate. I support the mixed uses outlined in the Plan, and commend the Council and staff for the excellent work done, including the exhaustive consultation carried out with the community at large.

I am also a member of the Ismaili Community in Richmond, and have served in a variety of volunteer positions, both inside and outside of the community. I have been attending the existing Jamatkhana (place of prayer and congregation) on Alderbridge Way for the past 25 years. This is a leased facility – effectively a converted warehouse – and there has been a deeply felt desire inside the community to have a more suitable and dignified Jamatkhana for many years now. The community has reacted with delight to the news that the plans for a Jamatkhana have reached an advanced phase, and we hope to have a Jamatkhana that the entire Richmond population will be proud of.

However, after having recently reviewed the Implementation Plan presented by staff, I learned that there is a road that will run from north to south along the west side of the property that has been optioned for the purposes of building the Jamatkhana. I also understand that the Ismaili community would have to pay for the road, in addition to losing a portion of their land to build the road without compensation, even though the road will be for all to use (as it should be).

I hope that the City is aware that our community is a non-profit organization that has no ability to recoup the costs associated with building the road or giving up of part of the land. I am given to understand that the City staff will be recommending a change to the implementation strategy to compensate others and us for the land and the building costs for the road by sharing them with **everyone** in the area. That would certainly be more equitable, and I request you support that recommendation and rectify this obvious inequity.

I look forward to your assistance in this regard.

Yours truly,

Dr. Zahir Vellani
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Richmond BC
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