

## Malcolm D. Brodie Mayor

6911 No. 3 Road Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1 Telephone: 604-276-4123 Fax No: 604-276-4332 www.richmond.ca

Honourable Norm Letnick BC Minister of Agriculture PO Box 9043, Stn Prov Govt Victoria, BC, V8W 9E2

Dear Honourable Norm Letnick,

July 27, 2016

SECTION 2 COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE City Manager Deputy City Manager Dir. Planning & Building Planning & Development Committee (Sept. 20)

### Re: Request to Limit Large Homes in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)

This is to advise that Richmond City Council, at its Regular meeting held on Monday, July 11, 2016, considered the above matter and adopted the following resolution:

# That a letter be sent to the Agricultural Land Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture, with copies to neighbouring municipalities, requesting that they introduce Provincial regulations to control the maximum house size and house location on properties within the ALR.

Since its inception, the Richmond Council has been committed to supporting the Province in protecting and enhancing the viability of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), and avoiding uses which jeopardize farming.

In recent years, Council has become concerned about a disturbing trend - that house sizes in the ALR have been increasing to the point where they are becoming too large and do not support agricultural viability. For example, in Richmond, in 2010, the average built ALR house size was 678 m<sup>2</sup> (7,300 ft<sup>2</sup>), in 2015, it was an average of 1,114 m<sup>2</sup> (12,000 ft<sup>2</sup>) and lately some have been in excess of 2,230m<sup>2</sup> (24,000 ft<sup>2</sup>). Recently, Richmond staff turned down a Building Permit application for a house in the ALR which proposed 41,000 sq. ft. (0.94 acres), as it did not have the characteristics of an ALR single-family house, but rather of a hotel or a multi-family building. Attachments 1, 2 and 3 provide examples. These types of mega houses / buildings were never envisioned in the ALR, as they do not support agricultural viability and detract from achieving it. Richmond Council in discussions with other municipalities has noticed that they too are facing similar unacceptable large house size proposals in the ALR.

The Ministry's 2015 'Guide for Bylaw Development in Farming Areas' was a good step in the right direction; however, as this issue is province-wide, to better protect the ALR, the Richmond Council requests that the BC Ministry of Agriculture work with the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC), to establish uniform ALR regulations to limit the maximum house size and



house location (e.g., floorplate). This next step would better achieve the provincial ALR vision and agricultural viability.

Your consideration of this matter is appreciated. A similar letter has been sent to Frank Leonard, ALC Chair (attached).

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Terry Crowe, Manager, Policy Planning at 604-276-4139.

Yours truly,

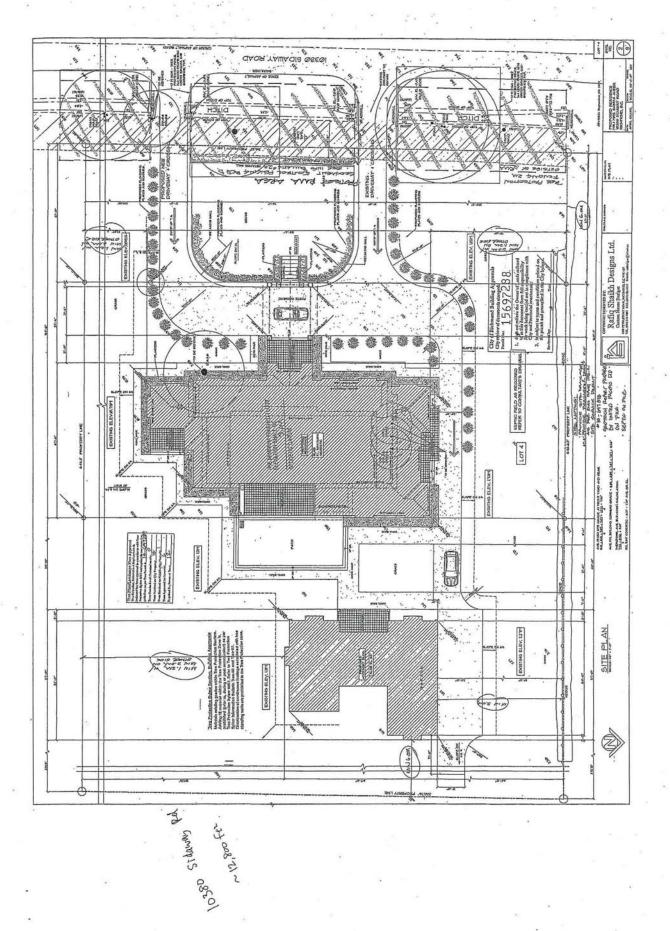
Malcolm D. Brodie Mayor

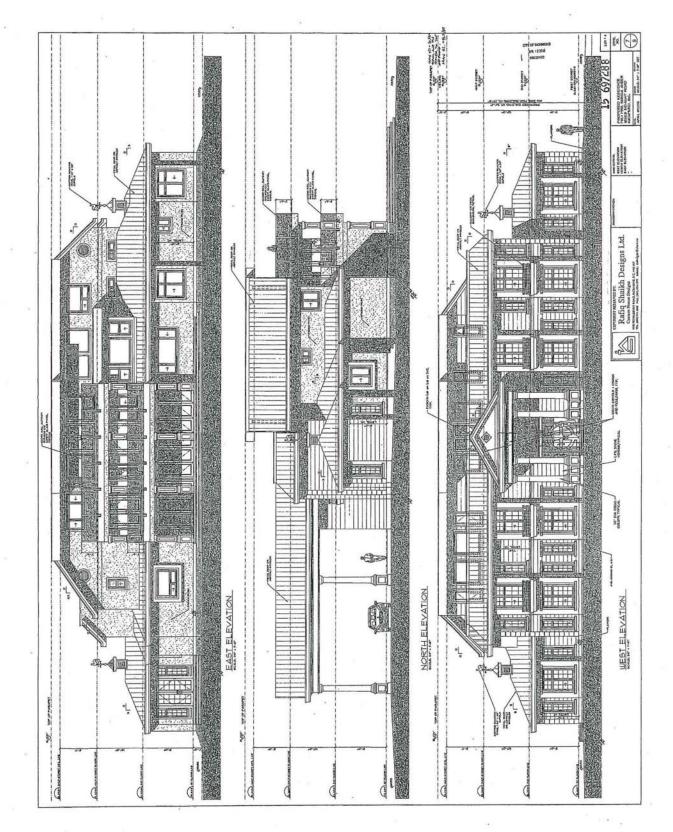
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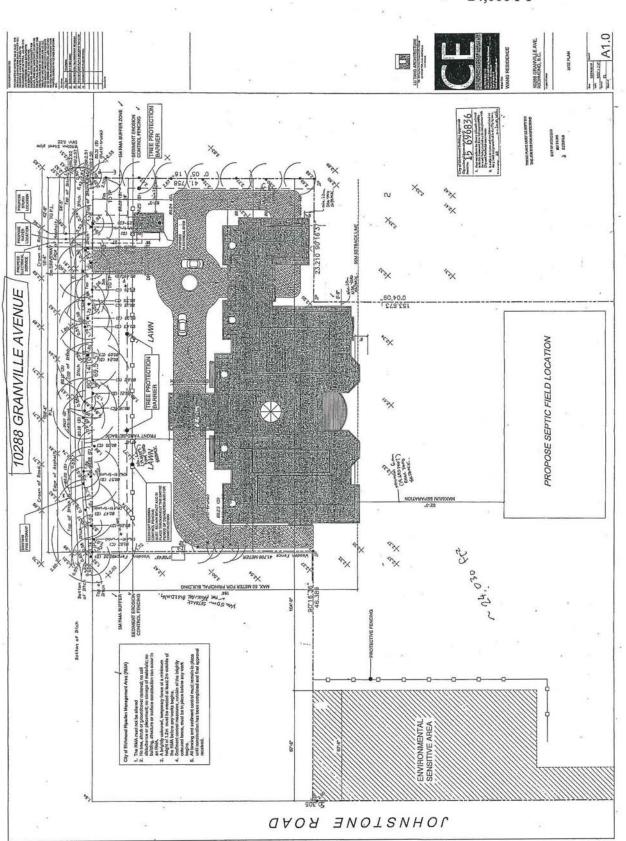
cc:

- Frank Leonard, Chair, Provincial Agricultural Land Commission
- Kim Grout, CAO, Provincial Agricultural Land Commission
- Metro Vancouver Board and municipalities

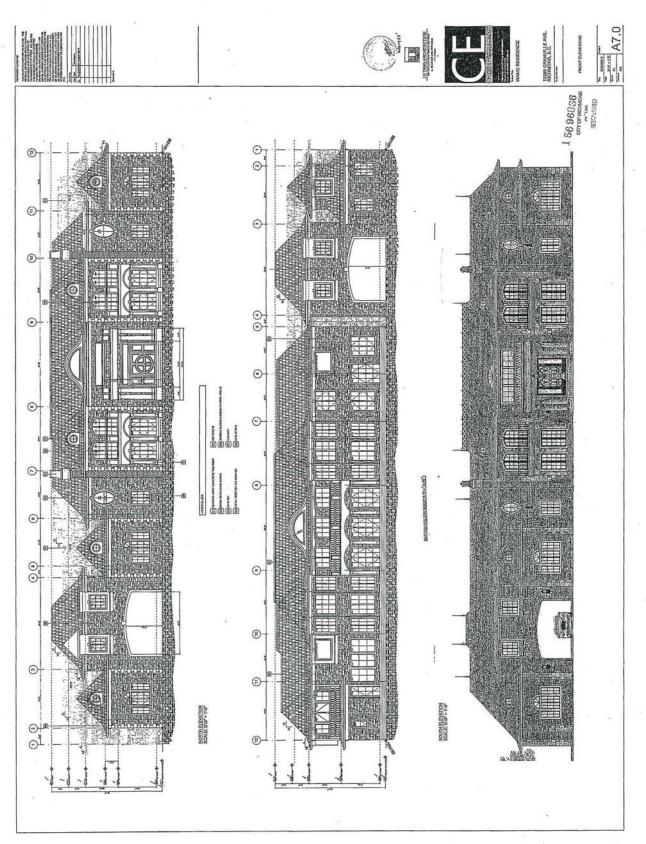
### ATTACHMENT 1 2015 BUILT SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSE 12,800 FT<sup>2</sup>

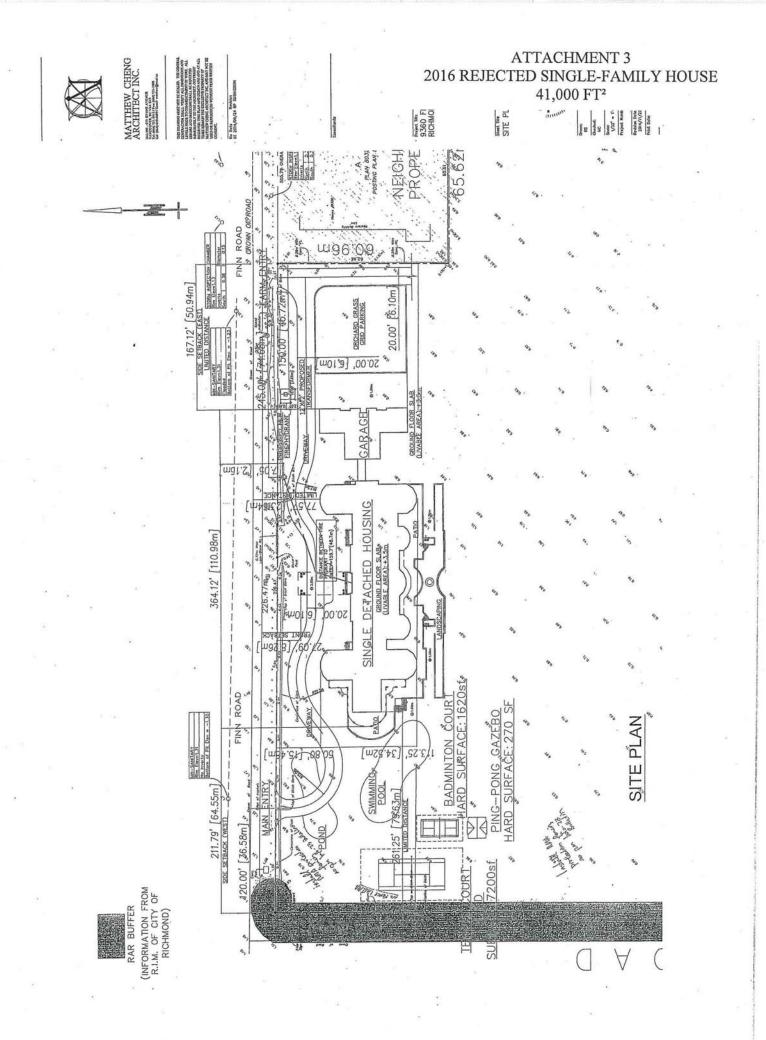


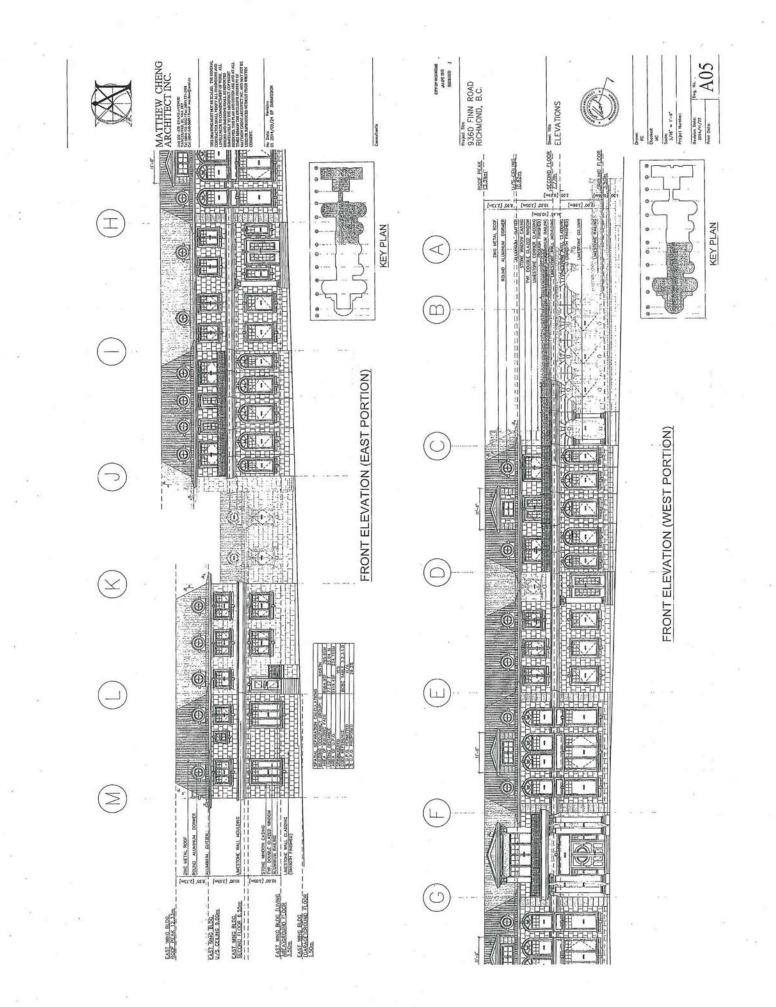




ATTACHMENT 2 2015 BUILT SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSE 24,000 FT<sup>2</sup>









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Frank Leonard, Chair, Provincial Agricultural Land Commission 133-4940 Canada Way Burnaby, BC, Canada V5G 4K6

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1 1

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Malcolm D/Brodie Mayor

Att 4

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Honourable Norm Letnick, BC Minister of Agriculture, Kim Grout, CAO, Provincial Agricultural Land Commission Metro Vancouver Board and municipalities