

MOTION ON NOTICE

B.1

At the Regular Council meeting on October 8, 2013, Councillor Reimer submitted the following Notice of Motion.

1. Preservation and Enhancement of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)

MOVER: Councillor Andrea Reimer

SECONDER: Councillor Geoff Meggs

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver has a long history of supporting the preservation of BC's farmland, starting with the adoption and reaffirmation of an Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) Policy (November 20, 1979, March 8, 1988) which supports the preservation of farmland in the region's ALR designated lands;
2. The Vancouver Food Charter, adopted unanimously by City Council in February 2007, encourages personal, business and government food practices that foster local production and protect our natural and human resources;
3. The Greenest City Action Plan adopted by City Council in July 2011 acknowledges that despite an increase in local food assets, Vancouver will continue to have a strong dependence on food grown outside city boundaries and calls for continued advocacy for food-growing capacity in the Lower Mainland's ALR and other areas;
4. The Vancouver Food Strategy unanimously adopted in January 2013 recognizes the importance of local agricultural food producing lands, with an identified action to "advocate for the preservation and enhancement of the Agricultural Land Reserve to protect sustainable food production and to support local economic development";
5. The BC Minister Responsible for Core Review, Honourable Bill Bennett, has announced that a review of the ALR and its governing body, the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) is a top priority, despite recent government reviews including a 2010 Auditor General review which concluded that the ALC already lacked the resources to fulfil its mandate, especially as it relates to coordinating with local governments;

6. A recent government press release from September 24, 2013, indicated that public input into the Core Review process would be through the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services that was already underway, including a session in Vancouver that was before the date of the press release, and concluding by October 16, 2013.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council reaffirms its support for the preservation of farmland in the Province's Agricultural Land Reserve.
- B. THAT Council work with Metro Vancouver and other municipalities to advocate for the Province of British Columbia to identify further opportunities to enhance the viability of farming in the Province.
- C. THAT Council advocate that, if another review of the Agricultural Land Reserve and Agricultural Land Commission is deemed important by the provincial government, a substantially longer period for input be afforded to the public.

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