



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services  
Committee

**Date:** June 8, 2016

**From:** Mike Redpath  
Senior Manager, Parks

**File:** 11-7000-01/2016-Vol  
01

**Re:** Richmond Food Charter

### Staff Recommendation

That the Richmond Food Charter, as detailed in the staff report titled "Richmond Food Charter," dated June 8, 2016, from the Senior Manager, Parks, be endorsed.

Mike Redpath  
Senior Manager, Parks  
(604-247-4942)

Att. 3

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
<b>ROUTED TO:</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>
Sustainability Community Social Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b> DW	<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b> 

## Staff Report

### Origin

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term 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.*

4.1. *Continued implementation of the sustainability framework.*

4.2. *Innovative projects and initiatives to advance sustainability.*

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term 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.*

5.2. *Strengthened strategic partnerships that help advance City priorities.*

On June 8, 2016, Mayor and Council received a letter (Attachment 1) from the Richmond Food Charter Working Group seeking endorsement of the Richmond Food Charter (Charter) (Attachment 2).

### Analysis

#### Food Charters and the Food Security Movement

A food charter is a non-binding set of principles which articulates a community's values concerning the production, processing, distribution, consumption and disposal of their food.

In recent years, a growing awareness of the need for sustainable and healthy food has sparked a grassroots movement calling for food system reform. This movement has led to the development and adoption of food charters in many communities in Canada including Toronto, Vancouver, Waterloo, Squamish and Victoria.

#### Richmond Food Charter

Work on the Charter began in 2013 with the establishment of a working group comprised of members of the Richmond Food Security Society, the Richmond Poverty Response Committee, Vancouver Coastal Health and the Canadian Federation of University Women. The working group began by exploring the role of food charters in helping to create food-secure communities where all people at all times have access to nutritious, safe food, produced in ways that are environmentally sound and socially just.

After conducting research into best practices across Canada, the working group realized that Richmond needed a charter developed by their community for their community. The working

group coordinated a series of “Kitchen Table Talks” to better understand the needs and aspirations of Richmond residents regarding food security and the local food system. Hundreds of residents representing a variety of local organizations participated in these dialogue sessions (Attachment 3).

The Richmond Food Charter emerged from this process and reflects the needs and aspirations of Richmond residents for their community. The Charter outlines Richmond’s values and commitments concerning the production, processing, distribution, consumption and disposal of food. These values and commitments are tied to the numerous ways the food system impacts the lives of people who live, work and play in Richmond. They are linked to themes of social justice, health and well-being, culture, education, healthy environment, economic development and responsible government (Attachment 2).

#### Rationale and Civic Policy Directives in Support of Endorsing the Richmond Food Charter

At the regular open Council meeting held on June 11, 2012, Council unanimously endorsed the Richmond Children’s Charter as a first step in launching that Charter into the broader community. The rationale and process for endorsing the Richmond Food Charter is similar.

In addition to supporting Council Term Goals, the endorsement of the Food Charter supports the goals of Council-endorsed policies and plans including the Agricultural Viability Strategy, Sustainability Framework, Garden City Lands Legacy Landscape Plan, Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, Building our Social Future, the Richmond Wellness Strategy and the 2041 Official Community Plan – Moving Towards Sustainability.

Specifically, the Charter supports the OCP objectives:

- 7.2.1 – To support and increase the range of urban agriculture and strengthen the food system beyond production;
- 7.2.2 – Strengthen the local food system to contribute to the economic, ecological and social well-being of the City;
- 7.2.3 – Support locally grown food;
- 7.2.4 – Increase access to affordable, healthy food for residents; and
- 7.2.5 – Find ways to recover food waste.

By endorsing the Charter, Council could further demonstrate the City of Richmond’s commitment to supporting urban agriculture, strengthening the local food system, increasing access to affordable and healthy food and promoting environmentally sustainable practices related to food production, distribution and disposal.

The Food Charter Working Group is seeking endorsement from the City of Richmond first. Should Council choose to endorse the Charter, the Working Group will take the Charter back to the community to seek endorsement from other organizations. As stated in the letter from the Working Group, “Your commitment will launch the Richmond Food Charter in Richmond. We

believe building a food secure community is a collective responsibility, and are committed to engage Richmond's organizations and citizens to endorse and action the Charter" (Attachment 1).

### Metro Vancouver Regional Food System Action Plan

On April 29, 2016, the Metro Vancouver Board of Directors endorsed the Regional Food System Action Plan as a collaborative approach through which local governments can jointly advance a sustainable, resilient and healthy regional food system. The Plan was conveyed to member municipalities on June 2, 2016 for consideration for endorsement. Staff are currently preparing a report with additional background information and recommendations for Council's consideration. While endorsing the Charter does not commit the City to any specific actions at this time, should Council choose to endorse the Regional Food System Action Plan, staff will explore opportunities to advance the values of the Charter in the context of the Regional Food System Action Plan. The Richmond Food Charter is consistent with and supports the directions of the Action Plan.

### Next Steps

Should Council choose to endorse the Charter, the next steps would be:

1. The Food Charter Working Group will take the Charter back into the Community for endorsement by other organizations; and
2. Staff will consider options to action the charter within the context of the Metro Vancouver Regional Food System Action Plan and report back.

### **Financial Impact**

None.

### **Conclusion**

The Richmond Food Charter provides a set of principles to guide future food system policy and planning. Its endorsement will strengthen the City of Richmond's reputation as a leader in the food security movement and support the vision to be "the most appealing, liveable, and well-managed community in Canada."



Marie Fenwick  
Manager, Parks Programs  
(604-244-1275)

- Att. 1: Letter to Mayor and Council from Richmond Food Security Society and Vancouver Coastal Health  
2: Richmond Food Charter  
3: Richmond Food Charter Working Group and Community Partners

June 7, 2016

Mayor and Council  
City of Richmond  
6911 No. 3 Road  
Richmond, BC

Dear Mayor and Council,

On behalf of the Richmond Food Charter Working Group, we are pleased to present to you, for endorsement, the Richmond Food Charter.

Food Charters remind the community of the primary importance of adequate food for all. In a food secure world, all people will, at all times, have access to food that is nutritious, safe, personally acceptable and culturally appropriate and produced in ways that are environmentally sound and socially just. Food Charters address the food system holistically from production through processing, consumption and waste, and guide for policy planning, and program development.

Food Charters have been endorsed in Canadian cities such as Toronto, Vancouver, Squamish, Kamloops, and Victoria. The City of Richmond has a strong commitment to a healthy food system. Examples include the Official Community Plan, Council Term Goals, Community Wellness Strategy, and preservation of agricultural lands.

This Richmond Food Charter captures and expresses the community's shared values and commitments towards creating a healthy food system and a food secure Richmond. Your endorsement will launch the Richmond Food Charter in Richmond. We believe that building a food secure community is a collective responsibility, and are committed to engage Richmond's organizations and citizens to endorse and action the Charter. We look forward to the release of the Metro Vancouver Regional Food System Action Plan and the potential to advance commitments of both documents through a Richmond food strategy working group.

Sincerely,



Anita Georgy  
Executive Director  
Richmond Food Security Society



Anne Swann  
Public Health Dietitian  
Vancouver Coastal Health

Appendix 1: Richmond Food Charter

Appendix 2: Richmond Food Charter Working Group Member Organizations and Community Partners Hosting Kitchen Table Talks

# RICHMOND FOOD CHARTER

*Food security exists when all members of our community, at all times, have access to nutritious, safe, personally acceptable and culturally appropriate foods, produced in ways that are environmentally sound and socially just.*

## Community Values

## Community Commitment

Food is a basic human need and right

**Social Justice**

Work continually to improve access to food for all

Safe and nutritious foods are essential for good health

**Health & Wellbeing**

Ensure our food supply is safe and healthy

Farming and food are important parts of Richmond's culture

**Culture**

Celebrate our diversity by supporting and sharing food traditions

Food-related education contributes to community wellbeing

**Education**

Provide education and support for food skills training, including gardening, healthy cooking, and safe food handling

Ecologically sound practices are the basis of a sustainable food system

**Healthy Environment**

Preserve and strengthen land and water resources that support food production. Promote food industry practices that reduce environmental impacts and greenhouse gas emissions

Local farms and food processors strengthen Richmond's economy

**Economic Development**

Foster a culture that values and supports farmers and farm workers

Policies and regulations strengthen community food security

**Responsible Government**

Collaborate with community groups, businesses, & all levels of governments to ensure a food secure future



<b>Richmond Food Charter Working Group Member Organizations</b>
Canadian Federation of University Women- Richmond
City of Richmond
Richmond Poverty Response Committee
Richmond Food Security Society
Vancouver Coastal Health

<b>Community Partners Hosting Kitchen Table Talks</b>	
Vancouver Coastal Health Bariatric Program Nutrition and Cooking Class	Richmond Family Place Society (4 groups)
Canadian Federation of University Women- Richmond	Richmond Food Bank Society
City of Richmond Advisory Committee on the Environment	Richmond Multicultural Community Services (2 groups)
City of Richmond Agricultural Advisory Committee	Richmond Poverty Response Committee
Family Services of Greater Vancouver	Richmond Public Library
Feeding A Healthy Richmond Forum Break Out Group	Richmond Women's Resource Centre
Foster Parents Support Group	Richmond Youth Service Agency
MILAP (Indo-Canadian Women's Group)	Somali Women's Group
Minoru Place Activity Centre	Stir It Up Youth Community Kitchen
Richmond Centre for Disability (2 groups)	Touchstone Family Association
Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee	