
TO: CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2011 May 04

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

SUBJECT: KEEPING OF PIGEONS ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES
8637 11th Avenue, R10 Residential District

PURPOSE: To respond to a correspondent's request to review a proposal to permit the keeping of pigeons on residential properties.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** a copy of this report be sent to Mr. Sergio Batista at 8637 11th Avenue, Burnaby, BC V3N 2P9

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report is in response to the 2011 March 03 letter from Mr. Sergio Batista regarding the keeping of pigeons for domestic purposes (e.g. hobby and sports-recreation), which appears on the 2011 May 06 Council Correspondence Package. The correspondent proposed that an amendment be made to the Burnaby Zoning Bylaw to permit this practice on residential lots, such that he would be able to keep pigeons at the subject R10 District residential property at 8637 11th Avenue.

Licence Office staff have previously advised the correspondent that the keeping of pigeons is not permitted on residential lots and note that a Bylaw infraction is pending for the subject property which is before the courts.

2.0 DISCUSSION

2.1 *Current Bylaws and Regulations Regarding the Keeping of Pigeons*

In Burnaby, the keeping of pigeons, is permitted for domestic or commercial purposes in the A1 Agricultural and A2 Small Holding Districts, which also permits single family dwellings, provided that all buildings, structures, cages, pens or runs related to the keeping of pigeons be located at a distance of not less than 24.5 m (80.38 ft.) from all street or lot lines, nor a distance of not less than less than 9.0 m (29.53 ft.) from a dwelling situated on the same lot. It is noted that there are about 255 privately-owned parcels of land in the City, with a combined total area of approximately 169.3 ha (418 acres) which have the appropriate A1 or A2 District zoning on larger lots to permit the keeping of pigeons. The majority of these lands are located within the Big Bend area,

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wherein similar agricultural land uses would be compatible or not impacted by this activity.

In addition to the above referenced Zoning Bylaw regulations, the keeping of pigeons is subject to the Animal Control Bylaw 1991 and Health Bylaw 1926 which regulates the manner in which they are kept in the above noted agricultural properties.

The keeping of pigeons, in Burnaby's residential districts is not permitted.

2.2 *Advisability of Keeping Pigeons in Urban Residential Areas*

This report responds to the request of the correspondent regarding the keeping of pigeons on a residential lot. Staff review of this request has determined that while the keeping of pigeons may be of interest to some residents, the activity raises some concerns within an urban residential environment (i.e. noise and odour; pests; disease; abandoned or at-large pigeons). The activity collectively presents a number of concerns and challenges for the protection of the interests of all property owners/residents from the impacts arising from this activity. In view of the above, it is staff's opinion that the keeping of pigeons should remain limited to Burnaby's A1 and A2 Agricultural Districts, as these districts permit similar agricultural land uses and have an appropriate lot area to mitigate impacts on the property and on adjacent land uses.

3.0 CONCLUSION

This report responds to the request of the correspondent regarding the keeping of pigeons on a residential lot. Within Burnaby, the keeping of pigeons is permitted in the A1 and A2 Agricultural Districts, which also permits single family dwellings on larger lots. Staff are unable to support the keeping of pigeons in the R Residential Districts, given the impact such activities may have on the property, and adjacent residential land uses and residents. As such, it is considered appropriate that the keeping of pigeons remain limited to the A1 and A2 Agricultural Districts.

It is recommended that a copy of this report be sent to Mr. Sergio Batista at 8637 11th Avenue, Burnaby, BC V3N 2P9.



B. Luksun, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

ZM:spf

cc: Chief Licence Inspector
City Clerk
City Solicitor