

**Son, Joshua L. - PDR**

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**From:** Bryan Connolly <bkconnolly0@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 8, 2017 9:13 AM  
**To:** Son, Joshua L. - PDR  
**Subject:** Opposition to Laurel St Venue

Dear UDC,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed Laurel St Venue at Monroe Park. Other venue options should be considered to avoid cutting down two more mature trees and further damaging Monroe Park.

Thank you,  
Bryan Connolly

## Son, Joshua L. - PDR

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**From:** King, Charley <mking@richmond.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 7, 2017 3:03 PM  
**To:** Son, Joshua L. - PDR  
**Subject:** Please don't destroy 2 more beautiful trees in Monroe Park

**Importance:** High

The UDC,

Too many trees have been destroyed already in Monroe Park. I am opposed to the Laurel Street Venue proposal as presented by the city of Richmond and in particular the destruction of two mature trees to facilitate corporate events in the park. There are many city owned venues which could be used instead. Damaging Monroe Park as well as displacing community park users for extended periods of times is not a good use of this park. It is for the people of Richmond not a money making venture.

Thank you,

Mary F. King

## Son, Joshua L. - PDR

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**From:** Bruce Terrell <bruce.terrell@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 7, 2017 12:46 PM  
**To:** Son, Joshua L. - PDR  
**Subject:** Monroe Park Laurel Street Venue Proposal

Dear UDC

I am opposed to the Laurel Street Venue proposal as presented by the city of Richmond and in particular the destruction of two mature trees to facilitate corporate events in the park. There are many great alternatives of city owned venues which should be considered before damaging Monroe Park as well as displacing community park users for extended periods.

Thank you,

Bruce G. Terrell (Richmond native and future retiree to Richmond)

5240 11th St. N

Arlington, VA 22205

703-807-0235

## Son, Joshua L. - PDR

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**From:** Ray Bonis <rbonis@vcu.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 7, 2017 12:41 PM  
**To:** Son, Joshua L. - PDR  
**Subject:** Laurel Street Venue

Dear UDC

I am a long time resident of the city and very fond of Monroe Park. I am opposed to the Laurel Street Venue proposal as presented by the city of Richmond and in particular the destruction of two mature trees to facilitate corporate events in the park. **There are many great alternatives of city owned venues which should be considered before damaging Monroe Park** as well as displacing community park users for extended periods.

I've spoken to many of my co-workers at VCU and they agree and are also opposed to the Venue idea.

Please don't be on the wrong side of history. Do the right thing.

Thanks,

Ray

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"More Barn!" - Neil Young, late 1971.

Ray Bonis  
Senior Research Associate  
Special Collections and Archives  
James Branch Cabell Library  
VCU Libraries  
901 Park Ave. VCU Box 842033  
Richmond, VA 23284-2033

## Son, Joshua L. - PDR

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**From:** Robert Farley <farbob53@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 7, 2017 12:14 PM  
**To:** Son, Joshua L. - PDR  
**Cc:** candylandmusic@earthlink.net  
**Subject:** Laurel Street Venue Proposal

Dear UDC

I'm am opposed to the Laurel Street Venue proposal as presented by the city of Richmond and in particular the destruction of two mature trees to facilitate corporate events in the park. There are many great alternatives of city owned venues which should be considered before damaging Monroe Park as well as displacing community park users for extended periods.

Quite frankly I fine the heretofore destruction of healthy trees in the Monroe Park site to be short sighted, clumsy, and an irrevocable blight to the park that I have grown up with and love.

Thank you,

Robert M. Farley

## Son, Joshua L. - PDR

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**From:** Kelly Royall <klroyall@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 7, 2017 12:55 PM  
**To:** Son, Joshua L. - PDR  
**Subject:** Laurel Street Venue proposal

Dear UDC:

I am very much opposed to the Laurel Street Venue proposal as presented by the City of Richmond.

I have a problem in particular the destruction of two mature trees to facilitate corporate events in the park. Too many trees have already been removed from this historic park! There are many great alternatives of city owned venues for corporate tented events that need to be considered before further damaging Monroe Park, as well as displacing community park users for extended periods.

Thank you,

Kelly Royall

## Son, Joshua L. - PDR

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**From:** Jennifer H <stateofbook@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 7, 2017 11:25 AM  
**To:** Son, Joshua L. - PDR; Agelasto, Parker C. - City Council; Robins, Amy E. - City Council Office; Stoney, Levar M. - Mayor; Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council  
**Subject:** OHNA: Comments on Laurel Street Event Venue and Portland Loo

Dear UDC Secretary Son and Members of the Urban Design Committee,

The Oregon Hill Neighborhood Association had previously released a statement on the proposal for the Laurel Street Event Venue. Included below is a copy of our statement.

We have had no contact with the Monroe Park Conservancy or DPW on the subject of the Portland Loos. Per OHNA's usual practice, in cases where we have received no information from the applicant, we ask the UDC to reject the proposal.

Thank you for your time  
Jennifer Hancock  
OHNA, President

Dear UDC Secretary Son and Members of the Urban Design Committee,

The Oregon Hill Neighborhood Association (OHNA) met on Tuesday, March 28th to hear a presentation from 3North on the Laurel Street Event Venue.

After lengthy discussion, the neighborhood association voted to oppose the proposed project for the following reasons:

The extent of the proposed tenting is grossly out of scale with the park:

The length of Altria Theater fronting Laurel Street is 200 feet. The largest tent size proposed will be 295 feet in length, well in excess of the length of the Altria Theater

The Monroe Park Master Plan states that the target density for Monroe Park is 100 people per acre, yet the 295 foot tent would cover 2/3 of an acre and hold 3000 persons, over 30 times the target density.

The location of the proposed tenting conflicts with the arboreal resources and pathways of the park.

The location of the proposed tenting conflicts with the area of the park dedicated to children's resources, as approved in the Monroe Park Master Plan. We are unaware that the Monroe Park Master Plan was modified to remove the children's resources and replaced with an event venue.

The proposed pavilion conflicts with the character of the Victorian park and does not reflect the period of significance (1876-1907) of Monroe Park, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The pavilion's location and setting is flawed in that it orients to the Altria Theater rather than the historic park.

The application claims that the pavilion builds upon “the architectural language of both the [Altria] Theater and the original Monroe Park Checker's [sic] House...” The combining of the 1925 Moorish Revival design elements of the Altria Theater with the Art Deco design elements of the 1939 Checkers House does not fit the Victorian character of Monroe Park.

The proposal has been rushed with little public input.

In addition, the public is still waiting for the diversification of the Monroe Park Conservancy Board to include representatives from the surrounding communities.

In conclusion, we urge the members of the Urban Design Committee to vote against this proposal in its current form.

Thank you  
Jennifer Hancock  
OHNA, President



## Son, Joshua L. - PDR

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**From:** John Moser <jmoser@moser-productions.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 7, 2017 1:02 PM  
**To:** Son, Joshua L. - PDR  
**Subject:** Monroe Park Laurel Street Venue

Dear UDC:

I would greatly appreciate it if existing trees in Monroe Park could be preserved. I believe that the current plan for the "Laurel Street Venue" calls for the removal of mature trees for the purpose of creating a site where large tents will be erected for short term events. Therefore I am against the current plan. I appreciate your consideration of my views as you evaluate this project.

Best regards,

John Moser  
Westbrook Ave.,  
Richmond.

## Son, Joshua L. - PDR

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**From:** Charles Pool <Charles\_Pool@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 6, 2017 8:42 PM  
**To:** Son, Joshua L. - PDR  
**Subject:** Re: Monroe Park projects

Hello Mr. Son,

I hope that you will please convey to the Urban Design Committee members our great disappointment that the Oregon Hill neighborhood did not receive a presentation for the three Monroe Park issues scheduled to be considered by the UDC on Thursday June 8th.

As you know, this is a park that is much used by our neighborhood, and we have been closely involved and concerned with the developments in the park and with the implementation of the Monroe Park Master Plan. I know that it is the UDC's policy to recommend that the applicants present to the neighbors in advance of the meeting.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Charles Pool

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**From:** Charles Pool  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 24, 2017 4:24 PM  
**To:** Son, Joshua L. - PDR  
**Cc:** Jennifer Hancock; Todd Woodson; wmccormick804@gmail.com; Scott Burger; caroline cox; Parker Agelasto; Mark Olinger -- City of Richmond; Matthew Ebinger; donald.summers@richmondgov.com; KIMBERLY.GRAY@RICHMONDGOV.COM  
**Subject:** Monroe Park projects

Hello Mr. Son,

I hope that you are doing well.

I understand that there are three items on the upcoming UDC agenda relating to Monroe Park: Laurel St. Venue; Monroe Park furnishings; and Portland Loo.

The Oregon Hill Neighborhood Assoc. (OHNA) has not received any presentations on these three issues, and, as you know, we have repeatedly requested that the Monroe Park issues be presented to the neighborhood in advance of the UDC hearings. I know that it is the UDC's policy to recommend that the applicants present to the neighbors in advance of the meeting.

I assume that the city is the applicant for these three projects (since I understand that the Conservancy does not take over until after the renovation). Would it be possible for the city to please defer these three issues related to our park so that the neighborhood association can receive a presentation from the city or its architect? OHNA meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month, and I am copying this e-mail to the OHNA officers.

In the meantime, could you please forward any information that you have on these three projects? (For some reason, I am still not getting the distribution, and I appreciate that you have tried to correct this.)

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Charles Pool

## Son, Joshua L. - PDR

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**From:** charles woodson <candylandmusic@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 7, 2017 6:24 AM  
**To:** Son, Joshua L. - PDR  
**Subject:** Laurel Street Venue, Portland loos

Dear Mr Son, esteemed members of the UDC and Richmond Planning Commission,

On Thursday, June 8, 2017, the UDC will hear the final application for the "Laurel Street Venue" and preliminary applications for the furnishings in Monroe Park as well as the placement of a "Portland Loo" in the general vicinity.

As a 9 year member of the Richmond City Council appointed Monroe Park Advisory Council - the group which crafted the Monroe Park Master Plan with much public input, I can attest to the fact that there were many many compromises involved in settling on a master plan in order to come up with a vision that was, at the same time, historically respectful and relevant to the needs of modern park users. The entire concept of the "Laurel Street Venue" is a profound departure from the approved master plan and contradicts the nature of the period of significance, circa 1904. Only in the last few years have wealthy corporations rented out an area of Monroe Park for massive events held in large tents for around 3 weeks at a time. As you can see by the attached photos, extensive damage occurred from the installation, maintenance and removal of these tents. This type of damage- ruts and deep holes and sprinkler damage, take longer than a season to repair so essentially, the applicant is requesting that the park, even after a 7 million dollar renovation, remain in a constant state of repair from these annual events which exclude the community from enjoying this area for an extended period. For that reason and for the aesthetic incompatibility of the "gazebo" proposed, I respectfully request that you vote against the venue proposal. It is most unfortunate that the applicant has chosen not to update the neighborhood associations regarding any changes in venue design or present in any way the portland loo or furnishings proposals to the community, even though requested.

As an opponent of the current proposals, I respectfully request that the applicant be referred back to the approved master plan and make more concessions toward respecting the period of significance of the park and the rights and interests of the community stakeholders who care very deeply for this, our oldest and most historic park. I also request that no more trees be removed from the park and that tree canopy restoration be taken seriously as was the directive of the Master plan.

The pictures below were taken in May of 2017 and are the result of a corporate event.

Thank you,

Charles Todd Woodson  
302 S Cherry St  
Richmond Va 23220

















## Son, Joshua L. - PDR

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**From:** June Vranian <junebug5@me.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 7, 2017 3:46 PM  
**To:** Son, Joshua L. - PDR  
**Subject:** Laurel Street venue

Dear UDC:

I am opposed to the Laurel Street Venue proposal as presented by the city of Richmond and in particular the destruction of mature trees to facilitate corporate events in the park. There are many great alternatives of city owned venues which should be considered before damaging Monroe Park as well as displacing community park users for extended periods. This shouts corporate greed and government corruption at the expense of Richmond citizens.

Thank you for your attention.  
June Vranian

Sent from my iPad

## Son, Joshua L. - PDR

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**From:** Laura Pharis <lpharis@sbc.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 7, 2017 10:06 PM  
**To:** Son, Joshua L. - PDR  
**Subject:** Bring back Monroe Park

Dear UDC

I'm opposed to the Laurel Street Venue proposal as presented by the city of Richmond. How can the destruction of two beautiful healthy mature trees be justified? It is a poor trade to do this to "facilitate corporate events in the park". People hate this proposal. There are many great alternatives of city owned venues which should be considered for corporate events before damaging historic Monroe Park as well as displacing community park users for extended periods. The proposal would ruin any chance Monroe Park has at becoming a historic, scenic, regenerative destination for human beings.

Thank you,  
Laura Pharis

## Son, Joshua L. - PDR

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**From:** Paige Harvey <pharvey1952@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 7, 2017 9:14 PM  
**To:** Son, Joshua L. - PDR  
**Subject:** Laurel Street Venue Proposal

Dear UDC

I'm strongly opposed to the Laurel Street Venue proposal as presented by the city of Richmond and in particular the destruction of two more mature trees to facilitate corporate events in the park. There are many great alternatives of city owned venues which should be considered before damaging Monroe Park any more than it has already been damaged as well as displacing community park users for extended periods. Please, please try to preserve the history of this once beautiful park. Do NOT destroy more healthy trees for the sake of corporate dollars!

Thank you,

Paige Harvey  
4716 Cutshaw Ave.  
Richmond, VA 23230