



Westhampton Merchants Association

www.westhamptonrva.com/

Tonda Arthur

President

tarthur@fbvirginia.com

March 15, 2021

City of Richmond Planning Commission and City Council
c/o Kevin J Vonck – Acting Director of Planning
Planning Department
900 E. Broad St., Room 511
Richmond, VA
23219 USA

RE: 5605 Grove Building Project

Dear Planning Commission and City Council Members:

The Westhampton Merchants Association is comprised of neighborhood businesses in Westhampton, principally along Patterson, Libbie and Grove Avenues. Our mission is to support the vibrancy and health of all businesses in this neighborhood. Westhampton businesses are diverse to include restaurants, banks, offices, retail shops, service businesses, churches, healthcare and commercial property owners. We believe this diversity greatly contributes to the unique experience visitors, businesses and residents enjoy the most in the City of Richmond.

The Westhampton Merchants Association received notice of the request for a SUP for the building at 5605 Grove Avenue that will be designed by Brock Saunders with James River Capital Corporation. Brock has graciously provided detailed plans and met with two board members via zoom to discuss the project. Additionally, we have presented the project to our members at two monthly meetings to solicit feedback from our members.

We initiated a vote for Brocks letter at our March 4 monthly meeting and the association voted in favor of supporting the SUP application. There were many members who reached out directly to Brock expressing support. Of the members that voted, 83% of the members voted to support rezoning, 12% voted not to oppose; only one member voted to oppose the application.

We believe this new property will help our businesses along Grove Avenue bringing additional people who will patronize the Westhampton member businesses. Currently, the vacant Faison building does not help to promote a vibrant and healthy neighborhood. We have faith that Brock Saunders will work with the City, the residents and our members on a thoughtful and well-designed neighborhood-oriented plan for the property.

Sincerely,

Tonda Arthur
President
Westhampton Merchants Association

Cc: Councilman Andreas Addison