

Item 6

**Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR**

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**From:** Cyane Crump [ccrump@HistoricRichmond.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 29, 2018 11:22 AM  
**To:** Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR  
**Cc:** Dave Meyers; Danielle Worthing Porter  
**Subject:** ORD 2018-181 Proposed City O&H District Boundary Reduction  
**Attachments:** image001.png

Matthew –

We are writing to oppose ORD 2018-181 relating to the proposed boundary reduction of the City Old & Historic District for the John Brockenbrough House/White House of the Confederacy.

City Old & Historic Districts are a zoning overlay providing protections to historic resources, such as buildings and neighborhoods, throughout the City. The Commission of Architectural Review reviews any exterior changes to structures in City Old & Historic Districts visible from a public right of way. There is a rigorous process set forth in City Code Section 30-930.4 for the creation of such districts. Over the years, 31 single parcel City Old & Historic Districts and 16 multi-property districts have been designated.

The John Brockenbrough House, later known as the White House of the Confederacy, is one of the City's oldest historic and architectural resources, attributed to an architect of national stature (Robert Mills) and with a long and varied history of cultural uses (as a private residence, a public residence, one of Richmond's earliest public schools, and a museum). The City Old & Historic District boundaries are the same as those applied to this resource in its listing on the National Register of Historic Places and as a National Historic Landmark. It is of note that this property is a National Historic Landmark, the highest designation of historic significance on a national level.

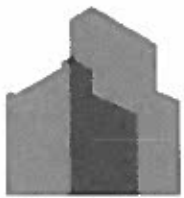
To our knowledge, never before has the City reduced such boundaries. A boundary reductions for a previously designated City Old & Historic District sets a dangerous precedent and places all of Richmond's previously designated historic, architectural and cultural resources at risk. It is important to note that development is not prohibited within City Old & Historic Districts, it is merely subject to a public review process.

Planning Department staff recommended against this boundary reduction. The Commission of Architectural Review unanimously opposed this boundary reduction.

We respectfully concur with the recommendations of both the Planning Department staff and the Commission of Architectural Review, and as a matter of principle, oppose any boundary reductions to City Old & Historic Districts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cyane



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RICHMOND**

Cyane Crump  
Executive Director