

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: monica glave [monicauglave@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 10:03 AM
To: Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR
Subject: The Camel/Rand Burgess

Charles and Daniel,

I would like to show support for Rand Burgess who has be a great neighbor and supporter for the Grace Street community.

I understand that he has to shut down his business at 11pm which makes it difficult for him to generate the income that he needs to keep the Camel open. My daughter, who attends Maggie Walker recently met her friends at The Camel to watch a group of students who were performing. The Camel not only attracts adults but young students as well. I feel that it's a safe creative place for many people in the city and the surrounding counties. Thank you.

Monica Glave'

2019 W Grace St

Richmond VA 23220

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Joey Elswick [elswick@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 2:36 PM
To: lawmanchem@yahoo.com; Ferrara, Jane C. - ECD; Graziano, Kathy C. - Council Member; Pitts, Marianne G. - Council Chief of Staff Office; jefsadler@gmail.com; lynn.mcateer@betterhousingcoalition.org; dcole@cite-design.com; amy.howard@richmond.edu; daniel.thompson@richmondgov.edu; Rodney@thewiltonco.com; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Subject: The Camel and Live Entertainment

Hello everyone,

My name is Joey Elswick and I am an avid supporter of the Camel, a resident of the city's Second District, and most importantly, a tax payer. I am writing to express my displeasure with the fact that the Camel may become the victim of a party who wants an excessive luxury in regards to their live music and the sound it creates. When I chose to move into the city of Richmond, I knew there were certain things I would have to deal with in my living environment on a daily basis. Parking on the street, a more condensed population, the noise of the city, VCU students, etc. While not all of these are things I necessarily enjoy, I think these sacrifices are worth it for the other conveniences of living within walking distance of markets, restaurants, music halls, art spaces and other local business that I support. I like the idea of a community and the city provides that with a lot of business owned and operated by my neighbors.

I live across the street from Binford Middle School. In the mornings, it is loud and there is a lot of bus traffic. In the afternoons, the kids make a lot of noise when they are leaving and waiting to be picked up. This is not breaking news. I knew when I moved to this block that would be the case. For me to request the school to keep it quiet or take some sort of legal injunction to the city would not only be a waste of time and taxpayer resources, it would be ignorant and ridiculous. Unlike those who are looking to undermine The Camel, I don't expect the city to be something it isn't. I adapt to living in the city. We all do.

I am sorry, but whoever is requesting their permit be changed is not someone who wants to see Richmond succeed or can celebrate the success. When you open a business on the largest thoroughfare in the greater Richmond area, you should accept that it will be noisy. From the traffic of cars, trucks, emergency service vehicles, foot traffic and even in it's proximity to a major railroad, things are going to get loud. Is it the train's job to be quiet? Should the police not sound their sirens? If you want a quiet area away from noise, then there is plenty of other parts of the city these people could reside or open their businesses. This is part of city life, especially in an area that is zoned almost primarily for business.

The Camel is a great contributor to the arts, music, and the Richmond food scene. It is a huge supporter of other local business in the city and the Commonwealth. To shut down or limit it's ability to sustain itself and stifle one of the most flourishing parts of it's business model would not only be the incorrect action to take, but would be utterly ignorant. The Camel has survived the down economy and been able to maintain itself as a staple in the community providing jobs, purchasing goods and services, and offering entertainment to the city and the non-residents it brings in for live music. Any of you who would vote or make a motion to hurt a thriving business in this economy are not people who want to be a part of Richmond's success either.

I work in video production. Media is a powerful tool of communication. I don't want to have to do this, but I will make it my mission to see that each and everyone of you who oppose The Camel's permit is publicly shamed via videos that tell your woeful story through social media. I will reach out to all of my contacts in the

local media (and I have amassed quite a few in my 15+ years in the business here in Richmond) and make sure they know you chose someone's excessive luxury over a thriving business in a city that has been hurt for more than forty years with businesses leaving because of an inept government. I will scream from every hilltop the names of all of you who try to hurt our community. I don't want to do that, but I will if I have to.

I think you all know better though. I have faith in you that you realize our citizenry has already spoken with it's support of the Camel even in the hardest of economic times. There is no question where the people lie. Richmond supports itself to make sure it succeeds even when the government can't provide that. Please don't make this mistake. Don't let this be the first stone in another exodus of great businesses from our community. Henrico and Chesterfield have eaten our lunch for too long. Keep this business here so I can be proud of the government I think you all are and can be. Give me a good story to tell instead of a bad one.

I have heard new, progressive, forward thinking voices in this city government both on the council and in city hall. Richmond is moving in the right direction. Don't give our city another black eye. We are finally healing. Don't take another step back and discredit all the steps forward. I trust you will make the right decision, but I will gather as many bodies as I can to hold you publicly accountable if you don't. To all the members of the council and city government involved in this, the right choice is yours to make. This is an easy one. Don't let the petty cries of a small minority with an axe to grind and a suspected personal vendetta hurt the many who have already shown how they feel about The Camel. Let them have their permit under their terms to be a live music hall and continue to be a bright spot in a city that needs as many of them as it can get.

To those of you who read this or to your staff who read this in your stead, I thank you for your time.

God Bless,

Joey Elswick
1722 Floyd Ave
Richmond, VA
23220

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Paulo Franco [pefjr1964@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 2:10 PM
To: Graziano, Kathy C. - Council Member; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR; lawmanchem@yahoo.com; whutchins@tcva.com; Ferrara, Jane C. - ECD; lynn.mcateer@betterhousingcoalition.org; dcole@cite-design.com; CWray@BCWH.com; Rodney@thewiltonco.com; Amy.Howard@richmond.edu
Subject: Support for Application of The Camel for Special Use Permit

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I write to you today to urge you to adopt the Special Use Permit sought by the Camel to extend its hours of operation beyond the proffers currently in place. The matter is currently set to be heard by the City Planning Commission this Monday.

Since its inception, the Camel has been a responsible corporate citizen. It's owner, Rand Burgess, has invested a lot of time and money to create an environment that fosters original live music and so much more. He has created a business that has thrived, which in turn creates a resource for bringing money into the City's coffers by way of collecting city taxes. More importantly, he has run his establishment free from the incidents that have destroyed the nightlife in other areas of our City.

Mr. Burgess has run his business for several years now past the established hours without any complaints until recently. There is no reason not to extend those hours by formally adopting the requested special use permit. The Camel does not front a residential area. In fact, it resides in a heavy commercial use area.

In a time when revenue is in short supply, this simple act will allow the City to collect more revenue without having to spend a penny. Denying this application will immediately cost the city in declining revenue. Perhaps the lost revenue from Mr. Burgess's ability to extend his hours of operation may not constitute a king's ransom to the City, but it does impact the bottom line of a businessman who believes in the City. And it will send a message to others seeking to business here that perhaps Richmond might not be the best place to operate. In today's economy, can the City really afford to say "no" to more revenue when it won't cost it anything?

At a time when Mr. Burgess could have quit on Richmond, he doubled down and opened another music venue. Show Mr. Burgess the support he shown this City, its musicians and its artists.

I urge you to pass this application as expediently as possible and send a message that Richmond is open for business.

Very truly yours,

Paulo E. Franco, Jr.
Citizen of the City of Richmond, VA

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Dan Zimmerman [danzimmer95@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 1:51 PM
To: lawmanchem@yahoo.com; Ferrara, Jane C. - ECD; Graziano, Kathy C. - Council Member; Pitts, Marianne G. - Council Chief of Staff Office; jefsadler@gmail.com; lynn.mcateer@betterhousingcoalition.org; dcole@cite-design.com; amy.howard@richmond.edu; daniel.thompson@richmondgov.edu; Rodney@thewiltonco.com; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Subject: Camel's special use permit

Hello,

I am emailing in support of The Camel and its efforts to have its current noise restrictions lifted. I see many great shows and The Camel and would like to see their potential fulfilled.

Thank you,
Dan Zimmerman

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Alyse Marshall-Auernheimer [designadventures@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 10:45 AM
To: Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR
Subject: personal response to Rex Scudder regarding the Camel.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Alyse Marshall-Auernheimer** <designadventures@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, May 29, 2014 at 10:37 AM
Subject: Fwd: rex is killing me
To: jane.ferrara@richmondgov.com, kathy.graziano@richmondgov.com, "Marianne G. - Council Chief of Staff Office Pitts" <marianne.pitts@richmondgov.com>, jefsadler@gmail.com, lynn.mcateer@betterhousingcoalition.org, dcole@cite-design.com, amy.howard@richmond.edu, daniel.thompson@richmondgov.edu, Charles.Samuels@richmondgov.com, "Agelasto, Parker C. - Council Member" <parker.agelasto@richmondgov.com>, Rex Scudder <rscurder@cavtel.net>

Good Morning Richmond,

I would like to personally respond to Mr. Scudder's letter below.

The West Grace Street Association has already sent two letters of support for the changes to The Camel's' SUP, as did the FDA. We're done. We are all just beating the same dead horse at this point.

I would like to address some of these complaints because most of them have nothing to do with the change in hours and most of these go back many years yet the person complaining here had nothing to add to the WGSA discussion for six months and other than to request the employees not prop the door open as the noise would penetrate the back of the building and could be heard from the alley. I immediately addressed with Mr. Burgess and he has distributed keys to employees to use when recycling and removing trash so they don't have to prop the door open. No mention was ever made of the trash issues by this resident. Another resident asked if he could keep the garbage behind the fence. In this conversation we discovered Mr. Shorkey had circulated a flyer with photos of overfull garbage cans, behind the fence but he could see from his second floor window; welcome to the city Mr. Shorkey, we can all see trash cans from the back of our buildings, most of them overflowing from multi-family dwellings that don't buy their own cans so they fill everyone else's, it stinks but doesn't make you special. We also discovered from the photos that half the trash in the cans was not even from The Camel, the neighboring buildings were filling his cans. Mr. Burgess has engaged a private company to do multiple pickups and is working on making the rear of the property better. The reference to rats is just blustery rhetoric as the health department report says no evidence of rodents. You can't allow a resident who had no issues for years, to suddenly decide he has had an issue for years, it just doesn't work that way. All of the issues here are fixable and have nothing to do with the request to change the hours. This should be an opportunity to discuss how we do business in the city of Richmond. I am not in any way trying to disparage Mr. Scudder. He has been a good neighbor. I believe he is unnecessarily fearful and part of this fear stems from YOUR action; when you decided to have one designation for all late night food/music businesses, the "Nightclub" designation, you created a new kind of fear. Mr. Burgess doesn't consider himself to be a nightclub, the neighborhood doesn't consider his business a nightclub, Tom Griffin put it best when he said, it's a music hall, plain and simple. I believe Mr. Scudder is worried the label nightclub will hurt his property values.

As a real estate professional, I totally disagree, and we have the market activity and comparables to prove that, but Mr. Scudder and I simply disagree and we are both entitled to our opinions. RICHMOND CITY: Perhaps when you are considering future designations, you would be smart to not try to group everything into one category....a duck is not an orange. All of the issues described by Mr. Scudder are part of urban commercial activity and are going to be part of our landscape from now on so yes, we should be having a continuing conversation about how to make changes and improvements. We can continue to allow and encourage individual property owners to constantly halt the process or we can have a productive discussion about how to not arrive at this reality over and as we see West Broad Street continue to become a destination; most folks are excited about the changes but there will always be a few people that are scared to death of any kind of development or change and unfortunately, those folks have occasionally held us back. One property owner shouldn't get to NOT have any issue or complaints for YEARS and then suddenly claim you have actually had years of issues, it's disingenuous and totally unproductive. RICHMOND CITY: YOU are a huge part of the problem. Rex is right

about one thing, enforcement has been sporadic at best and that applies everywhere including the residential side where multi family properties are more often the problem with garbage, parking, and noise issues, though that too is changing and has gotten better. Also, VCU Police enforcement activity is AWESOME and has really assisted in the transformation of West Grace Street so it is totally possible to make reasonable rules and enforce them. I have had lots of homeowners that would like to see a new requirement added to O&H requiring multi-family properties to convert to single family when a sale or transfer of title occurs but that would be unfair and would likely mean many multi-family owners would be unable to easily sell their properties due to the economic burden of returning multi family to single family; we SHOULD NOT make policy that harms individual owners either residential OR commercial, it's discriminatory and leads to unequal application of the laws that should protect everyone. There are plenty of uses that are prohibited by zoning, this isn't one of them and we have allowed EXACTLY this accommodation at other locations on West Broad, many before the Camel, some after. West Grace Street hasn't approached change with a gentrification mindset; we appreciate all our residents whether they are single family owners, tenants, or residents of group homes. It doesn't matter whether you have lived here 40 years or 40 days, everyone's opinion matters. We're not here to eliminate anyone from the neighborhood and feel everyone has something positive to offer our community and the greater community does include West Broad Street. As a neighborhood, we are not too happy that Mr. Shorkey didn't ask for approval to change from a tanning salon to a "hot yoga" provider as the parking need is decidedly different for yoga classes than for the single folks that park and walk up to tan. However, if that is what Mr. Shorkey needs to do to generate income, we'll not likely attack him as we understand the need to have adequate income, regardless of what the parking requirements might be. We're getting ready to discuss some multi use development on Broad and Lombardy, same deal with parking but we recognized the need to be reasonable.

What can we do differently? RICHMOND CITY: When you permit restaurant businesses, please make multiple day trash pickup mandatory. Waste management is totally incapable of serving commercial customers adequately and as we have space issues, the number of cans actually needed to serve these customers often won't fit into the alley. The photo of Mr. Burgess trash is a joke as I once sent a photo of what is now the amazing Pig & Pearl (two dumpsters) but was the not so amazing Cabo's and they had dumped 40 bags of maggot infested trash onto the ground in the alley and the health department said there wasn't much they could do about it so Mr. Bruggess full cans, behind a fence (now addressed) were far superior to the rest of the city and will now hopefully cease to be a recurring issue. I took a drive down the alley behind WG, all the way downtown and what I saw was block after block of garbage cans over full, many kicked over and garbage all over the alleys,. This is a city waste problem that should be addressed on a large scale, not as a gun to the head of individual business owners when their residential neighbors have an issue.

When you permit residential development in a commercial district, have guidelines for noise insulation so you don't have residents complaining. It will be more expensive but guess what, so is replacing your windows in an O&H district. Personally, if you choose to live in a commercial district, you shouldn't complain but as we see, there is always one angry person who will ruin it for everyone else. Also, please address the parking issues in Richmond or just admit it is a problem and move on. If parking is going to be the go-to complaint for EVERYTHING, you should cease the permitting of anything else, residential or commercial and we should just turn off the lights and leave town but you SHOULD NOT punish one business or resident for parking issues as that is a reality in everyone's bag of nails; we are either going to permit or just be happy with vacant buildings.

We had fifty or so residents show up at our last porch party and one homeowner had a thought and some advice to relay to Mr. Burgess. He said maybe Rand should play the same get even game, forget about the change to the SUP, just stay with the current one, don't break the rules and open a Biker Bar, it's allowed, no changes needed. Personally, I would rather not have a biker bar and would like to create rules and guidelines under which he can be successful in his current capacity and continue to be an asset to the neighborhood. Reasonable rules and guidelines, enforcement, and voila, awesome options for the neighborhood, issues addressed, a commercial neighbor that wants to be a part of the neighborhood and cooperate, doesn't get much better than that!

Last (and I am so done with this issue), a single land baron, neighbor, or developer should not get to decide for everyone else, nor should a man with a personal vendetta. This is a city. If you want to live in a neighborhood where the sidewalks roll up at 10pm and your neighbors tiptoe through the tulips, move to Ashland where you get that reality. However, don't go to Ashland and then complain about the train as that would be idiotic, just as moving to West Broad Street and complaining about restaurant, traffic, and street noise would be. If we all work together we really can solve these issues as a city; if we keep making policy based on single location, we will constantly be needing to have these mindless discussions about how much noise the angels dancing on the head of a pin, can actually hear. This is no way to run a city.

Still supporting the change in SUP

Moving on now...

With kind regards,

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Alyse Marshall-Auernheimer [designadventures@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 4:40 PM
To: Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Pitts, Marianne G. - Council Chief of Staff Office; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Rand Burgess; Pam Embrey
Cc: Scott Stuart; Elle Daub; Chris Baum; Elsa Woodaman; Joyce Handy; Kelly Griffin; Kerthy Hearn; Sandra Leibowitz; Sarah Hodges; Shelley Stuart; Jon Marcus
Subject: Fwd: Camel SUP - letter of support Pam Embrey

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Pam Embrey <pam.embrey@yahoo.com>
Date: Sat, May 31, 2014 at 7:17 AM
Subject: Camel SUP - How's this?
To: Alyse Auernheimer <designadventures@gmail.com>

Dear City Officials,

I am a West Grace Street resident in support of Rand Burgess and The Camel's SUP change. We have lived on West Grace Street since 1995 and have seen many changes, for the better, to our street and Broad street which backs up to us. I have been on the West Grace Street Association for over 8 years and have gotten to know Mr. Burgess well during this time period. He has attended our meetings on occasion and has supported our big annual fund raiser "Candlelight Home Tour" by being a featured restaurant and donating his time and food to our event. He has been continuously responsive to neighborhood concerns and suggestions. Our children go with us to eat at The Camel and we never feel unwelcome with them. We even trick-or-treat at the Camel during Halloween and Mr. Burgess has candy for the children. The Camel has been a positive addition to Broad Street. Not only has Mr. Burgess "cleaned up" his block of Broad Street but he has offered us Fan residents a good restaurant and a fun and entertaining place to go within walking distance.

In all this time I have know Mr. Burgess and The Camel has been on Broad Street, **not once** have I heard any complaints from any of the neighbors during our neighborhood association meetings, or at our picnics or at our events. I agree with other residents who have said that his establishment is unfairly targeted due to personal conflicts. Mr. Burgess continues to respond positively to all issues. It is clear he wants to maintain accountability and remain in good standing with his neighbors.

We live on Grace Street and in the City for a reason - We enjoy the close proximity of restaurants, stores, banks and all of the shops that are within walking distance. We are used to the ambulance and fire truck noises and the students who live amongst us. It's part of the city experience.

Mr. Burgess is exactly the kind of neighbor we need on West Grace, and The Camel should be treated the same as other establishments. He does a better job than any other restaurant and shop around us by responding immediately to any concerns in a fair and open minded way. He is here to stay and needs his SUP amended to be in fair standing with the other similar establishments around us. Please help us support this kind and neighborly restaurant owner.

Sincerely,

Pamela Embrey
1820 W. Grace Street



**The Fan District Association of Richmond, Virginia
208 N. Strawberry Street, Richmond, Virginia 23220**

April 2, 2014

Rand Burgess, Owner/Operator
The Camel
1621 West Broad St.
Richmond VA 23220

Dear Madam:

Subject: SUP Application to Extend Operating Hours

The Fan District Association of Richmond, VA, Inc., (FDA) Board of Directors (Board) has voted not to oppose your Special Use Permit (SUP) application to extend your hours of operation. The Board notes that the West Grace Street Association (WGSA) and neighbors support your application.

According to the information presented, the Camel is located in a commercial district, the only difference being that the building included a shared occupancy with a radio station. Otherwise, the application would not be necessary. The owner says he intends to maintain ownership and has worked hard to win the support of neighbors and neighborhood association, both of which have spoken in support of the application.

The FDA Board appreciates your bringing this matter to its attention. Please feel free to contact me if you have additional questions, concerns, or issues.

Sincerely,

Bennette D. Burks
On Behalf of
Bill Montgomery
President

ATTN: Willy Thompson

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City of Richmond
Department of Community Development

LAND USE PROPOSAL RESPONSE FORM

Proposal / Address: 1621 West Broad Street

Association Name: West Grace St. Assoc.

Please Check Appropriate Boxes:

The Association's (check one) Membership or Board met on 1/20/14
and voted to Oppose Support Take no position on this proposal.

This Association does not intend to consider this issue because: _____

Other comments: We support a fair and equal application of zoning standards & regulations please see attached letters of support from WGSA neighbors + association board

Ause Auernheimer
Print Name
[Signature]
Signature

President
Title
04/11/14
Date

Please fax to (804) 646-5789, Attention Willy Thompson

Or mail to:
Willy Thompson, Senior Planner
City of Richmond
Land Use Administration Division
900 East Broad Street, Room 511
Richmond, VA 23219

2/4



City of Richmond Dept of Planning & Development Review
Land Use Administration
900 East Broad St, Room 511
Richmond, VA 23219
April 1, 2014

RE: Special Use Permit for The Camel, 1621 West Broad Street

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the requested changes to the Camel's SUP. I have also spoken to those residents that back up to Rand that are in the WGSA and there are additional letters of support coming directly from those residents accompanying this letter. Some neighboring residents have asked to speak on his behalf at any future hearing. If we can't be flexible and fair, we will never be successful. The current SUP was crafted many years ago when most of WB was empty, derelict buildings so I understand why there were extra precautions taken. However, those days are over and the current SUP places a decidedly discriminatory and burdensome set of restrictions on Mr. Burgess that are not uniformly applied to other similar venues on West Broad Street. Some of these requirements actually pose a hazard as Mr. Burgess is required to take his patio fencing down every night so it is not secured to the ground (nobody else is required to do this). We should have a single standard for everyone that is in a like-kind location with specific requirements for differing building types and corner properties. We should enforce the rules in an equitable, uniform manner and protect every resident and business. If someone is breaking the rules there should indeed be a punishment but we can't have different standards for every block and sometimes even every address. There is no difference between the 1600 block of West Broad and the 2000 Block of West Broad yet the Republic had an SUP that allowed live music and a 2am closing time. Emilio's has is a music centered venue that is another huge asset tot he neighborhood and they have a 2am closing time. The Camel goes to great lengths to ensure music doesn't bother the neighbors, the business is appropriately operated and the owner present most of the time, but he is required to close early...it doesn't make much sense. If Mr. Burgess is allowing noise to disturb the quiet of the neighborhood I would be the first person to call him and tell him to make it stop, and as he has exhibited in the past, he listens and comes up with strategies to fix issues. I am not suggesting we allow nonsense, just be fair and stop operating our city through squeaky wheel politics and procedures.

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Mr. Burgess has created a unique model at this location that provides a forum for local up and coming musicians to perform and is an excellent option for good food AND music for the neighborhood; many of our residents have even taken their kids and grandparents to Bluegrass Friday nights from 6-8pm as this is actually a pretty family friendly venue during the early hours.

West Broad Street is commercial, period. We would definitely draw swords over any kind of car lot, pornography or strip club but we strongly encourage positive development and well run options for the neighborhood. Rand Burgess has always supported the neighborhood and the association and we all have a vested interest in appropriately run, successful business ventures landing and staying on West Broad. Let's not put Rand out of business only to give permission to the next tenant/owner (which is a likely scenario). Let's try to create an atmosphere that leads to success for everyone!

Regards,

Alyse Auernheimer, President
West Grace Street Association
2038 West Grace Street
804.426.2888

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Alyse Marshall-Auernheimer [designadventures@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2014 11:18 AM
To: Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Baliles, Jonathan T. - Council Member; ellen.roberston@richmondgov.com; Mosby, Michelle R. - Council Member; Graziano, Kathy C. - Council Member; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR; matthew.parrish; Hilbert, Chris A. - Council Member; Trammell, Reva M. - Council Member; Newbille, Cynthia I. - Council Member; Agelasto, Parker C. - Council Member; fdaboard@googlegroups.com; Jackson, James A. - DPW
Subject: WGSA support of The Camel's Change in SUP Richmond City Council

From: West Grace Street Association

Regarding The Camel's SUP application

I am writing in support of the requested changes to The Camel's SUP. I have spoken to those residents that back up to The Camel that are in the WGSA and there have been additional letters of support that have been sent to planning directly from those residents. After 6 months and many conversations and emails with one owner, Rex Scudder, who initially had only a couple of minor issues, not related to the SUP change that he wanted me to address with Mr. Burgess (as was done) Mr. Scudder has, in the last two weeks, decided to work with Mr. Shorkey, the owner of Fan Tan and of course he has every right to do so. On Monday May 19th, we gave Mr. Scudder the opportunity to share his personal concerns as well as to act as agent for Mr. Shorkey at the May WGSA board meeting. Several 1600 block neighbors some of whom have offered support for The Camel's change in SUP were present as well as the always present representatives from VCU police, Greg Felton and RPD, Officer Ward Kuper. Mr. Scudder was to have 10 minutes to share and we allowed him an hour and a half but he was unable to share any compelling concerns related to the SUP change so the WGSA a second time voted to support The Camel's requested changes. Some neighboring residents have asked to speak on behalf of the Camel at the planning hearing in June. This is in no way meant to be disrespectful to Mr. Scudder, he is a good neighbor and we appreciate his input and will continue to work on other issues in tandem and on his behalf.

If we can't be flexible and fair, we will never be successful. The current SUP was crafted many years ago when most of W Broad consisted of empty, derelict buildings so I understand why there were extra precautions taken. However, those days are over and the current SUP places a decidedly discriminatory and burdensome set of restrictions on Mr. Burgess that are not uniformly applied to other similar venues on West Broad Street. Some of these requirements actually pose a hazard as Mr. Burgess is required to take his patio fencing down every night so it is not secured to the ground (nobody else is required to do this). We should have a single standard for everyone that is in a like-kind location. We should enforce the rules in an equitable, uniform manner and protect every resident and business. If someone is breaking the rules there should indeed be a punishment but we can't have different standards for every block and sometimes even every address. There is no difference between the 1600 block of West Broad and the 2000 Block of West Broad yet the Republic had an SUP that allowed live music and a 2am closing time and there are residences above and next to what was The Republic and is now The Pig and Pearl. Emilio's has is a music centered venue that is another huge asset tot he neighborhood and they have a 2am closing time, with residences above and adjacent, AND is located on a corner. The Camel goes to great lengths to ensure music doesn't bother the neighbors, the business is appropriately operated and the owner present most of the time, but he is required to close early...it doesn't make much sense. If Mr. Burgess is allowing noise to disturb the quiet of the neighborhood I would be the first person to call him and tell him to make it

stop, and as he has exhibited in the past, he listens and comes up with strategies to fix issues. I am not suggesting we allow nonsense, just be fair and stop operating our city through squeaky wheel politics and procedures not to mention the often very personal attacks on local business owners. The most negative impact on property values in this commercial block is not The Camel, it is the many vacant buildings located in this block so let's not go backwards and put Mr. Burgess out of business and create one more empty building. Let's encourage the owners of those vacant buildings to get moving and finish the decade long renovations next door so they too are an asset to the block. I speak not just as the association president but also as a resident of the 2000 block and I personally back up two three immediate restaurant/night clubs, The Pig & Pearl, The Savory Grain, and Fieldings, as well as a 4th at the other end of this block, Level. All are amazing venues for food and/or some music as well. We have gratefully had the former Julian's developed into a lovely mixed use location with Italian food and a bar option, Pane E Vino at ground level and residential space above. All good neighbors. When we have an issue with noise or trash, we address it directly with the owners and they all want to be good neighbors, just as Mr. Burgess so they address concerns immediately. The restaurants are rarely an issue, the multi-family buildings on W Grace and West Broad, chronically an issue and nobody is suggesting we put those owners out of business. There will always be a few residents that approach all change from a fearful perspective...that any change is scary and bad and I occasionally have a resident that wants boarded up buildings to remain boarded up because the idea of change is simply too overwhelming. That is no way to run a city and certainly no way to build outstanding urban neighborhoods.

Mr. Burgess has created a unique model at this location that provides a forum for local up and coming musicians to perform and is an excellent option for good food AND music for the neighborhood; many of our residents have even taken their kids and grandparents to Bluegrass Friday nights from 6-8pm as this is actually a pretty family friendly venue during the early hours. He has also received many accolades from the greater community as a venue for great music and food so he brings positive attention to the neighborhood as a whole.

The Camel is located at 1621 West Broad Street which is arguably one of the most commercial locations in Richmond city. Traffic noise will likely violate the noise ordinance most of the time as there is a bus stop at the corner here and heavy traffic pretty much 24 hours a day. The association and neighborhood would definitely draw swords over any kind of car lot, pornography or strip club but we strongly encourage positive development and well run options for the neighborhood. Mr. Burgess has never received an ABC warning much less a violation, I have received a copy of his most recent health inspection, and as an added bonus provides Richmond City with significant tax revenue at least in terms of small businesses revenue; while this isn't totally relevant to the neighborhood, definitely a nice bonus. There was an issue with his garbage cans as the unofficial Fraternity house behind The Camel does not have a single can and has been filling The Camel's cans but I have contacted James Jackson at DPW regarding this issue and he is always amazingly responsive so I am looking for this to be resolved quickly. Also, Mr. Burgess has changed to a private waste collection provider so he will have 6 cans and Monday and Friday pickup so I think the garbage issue has been addressed fully. Mr. Burgess has always supported the neighborhood and the association and we all have a vested interest in appropriately run, successful business ventures landing and staying on West Broad. Let's not put Rand out of business only to give permission to the next tenant/owner (which is a likely scenario). Let's try to create an atmosphere that leads to success for everyone!

With Kind Regards,

Alyse Auernheimer, President

West Grace Street Association
804.426.2888

Gerald Peters

1649B West Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23220
804.357.3595 cell
jerry@mucho-gusto.org

Honorable Charles Samuels
Councilman
City of Richmond
(Delivered via email)

May 28, 2014

Dear Mr. Samuels,

This letter expresses strong support for the application to modify the terms of the Special Use Permit (SUP) submitted by The Camel and its owner Rand Burgess.

I am a property owner and neighbor of the Camel. I own and live in the mixed-use building at 1649 W. Broad. I am also a real estate developer and have extensive experience and respect for the SUP process and for the underlying zoning policy. I understand the need to manage the use of property and for the need to respect mutual rights and responsibilities of the various stakeholders in each of the city's neighborhoods.

The 1600 block of West Broad Street supports a diverse set of uses. In addition to the "big box" retail use represented by Lowe's on the north side of the street, we have retail, office, residential, warehouse and entertainment uses on the south side. I believe this diversity should be encouraged on Broad St - one of the main urban thoroughfares of the city. I invested in and live in the area precisely because of the diversity.

The Camel is an excellent neighbor. They are respectful and encourage cooperation among the property owners and tenants of the neighborhood. They bring a rich and varied set of patrons to the area. They, along with the Firehouse Theatre, create a cultural milieu which inures to the benefit of this neighborhood and the entire city. Any inconvenience that I occasionally experience from the entertainment activity on the block is more than compensated by its contribution to the creative fabric of the area.

The Camel believes the requested SUP modifications are required for its continued survival. We cannot afford to lose this valuable resource.

I strongly support approval of the Camel's request.

Sincerely,


Jerry Peters

CC: City Council, Planning Commission and Staff

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: kelly hughes [k.rene.hughes@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 12:32 PM
To: Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR
Subject: Camel's special permit

Good afternoon, my name is Kelly Hughes and I work at The Camel. We are petitioning for a special use permit to play music late just like other venues around us do. Personally speaking as this is my job and it helps me to support my three very amazing daughters who also see how important music can be to people. Not just to who plays it but who listens to it. It is a tragic event to watch a very bored, perverse, and angry man such as "fan tan dan" be so put off by people enjoying music together. We had him banned from the bar for being a man who touched other people without permission and genuinely made our guests feel uncomfortable. This is his fight. His revenge. It is a sure sign to see how ugly this world can be because of one unhappy man. I speak from personal experience that I have served this neighbor for some time before I became employed with the camel. His reputation in the adult entertainment industry alone should give a hint to how this lowly man really operates. I cannot guess why our other neighbors wouldn't want to help us but I will assume by serving some of them, its quite the same. People expecting to act and treat people how they want and we do not condone that. I am a working mother who demands the same respect that I show and needs the extra three hours of music so I can provide for my family. We protect our guests, show them a good time, and give them a memory. Please do not take that away from Richmond.

With great sincerity,
Kelly Hughes

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Taylor Barnett [taylorbarnett@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 12:38 PM
To: Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Subject: The Camel Special Use Permit

Hi,

My name is Taylor Barnett. I am a professor at VCU and a professional musician in Richmond. I am writing in support of Rand Burgess and The Camel. Please consider approving their request for a special permit to have music nightly until 2:00 a.m.

The Camel is an integral part of the arts community and is one of the most thriving businesses on that area of Broad Street. The Camel relies financially on hosting music performances until nearly closing time, and despite any slight inconvenience that this music may cause a few homeowners who chose to live adjacent to Broad Street, these nightly events contribute to the revitalization of downtown Richmond. I hope you will choose to support this important local business as you serve our city.

All the best,
Dr. Taylor Barnett

--

Taylor R. Barnett, DMA
ph: 804.306.6806
e-mail: taylorbarnett@gmail.com
website: www.taylorbarnett.com

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Taylor Barnett [taylorbarnett@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 12:28 PM
To: Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR
Subject: The Camel Special Use Permit

Hi,

My name is Taylor Barnett. I am a professor at VCU and a professional musician in Richmond. I am writing in support of Rand Burgess and The Camel. Please consider approving their request for a special permit.

The Camel is an integral part of the arts community and is one of the most thriving businesses on that area of Broad Street. It would be a loss to the city if The Camel was not allowed to continue to contribute to the revitalization of downtown Richmond.

All the best,
Dr. Taylor Barnett

Taylor Barnett, DMA
804.306.6806

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Cameron [camandjewels@verizon.net]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 12:41 PM
To: kathy.grazino@richmondgov.com; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Subject: The Camel

Hello,

I am writing this to you in show of support of the Camel being granted its special use permit so that it may continue to be a beacon of arts and culture in our beloved city.

Thank you,
Cameron Britland

Sent from my iPhone

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Jason Bruner [jason@moremusicgroup.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 12:44 PM
To: kathy.grazino@richmondgov.com; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Subject: The Camel Special Use Permit

Hello

I am writing this to you in show of support of The Camel being granted it's special use permit so that it may continue to be a beacon of arts and culture in the beloved city of Richmond.

Thank you,
Jason Bruner

Jason Bruner, Agent
More Music Group
520 S. Independence Blvd
Virginia Beach, VA 23452
757-463-1940 ext 107

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: John A. Giglia [jagiglia@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 12:45 PM
To: kathy.grazino@richmondgov.com; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Subject: The Camel

To My Government Representatives,

The Camel has been a big draw for Richmond since it opened. I've been able to hear great music there in a safe, affordable environment. I've had the opportunity to meet people from as far away as Baltimore and Charlotte who have come to RVA to hear the music.

If the city doesn't grant the Camel a special use permit, you will be hurting the city economically as well as the city's reputation for being a mecca for good music.

John A Giglia

--

John A. Giglia

"Where there is a will, there is a way." Sicilian Proverb

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: John Bradberry [bradberryjr@mymail.vcu.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 12:48 PM
To: kathy.grazino@richmondgov.com; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Subject: Regarding the zoning appeal for the Camel (1621 W Broad)

Hi, I am writing in hopes that the council will consider lifting the current sound restrictions at the Camel. I haven't heard a good reason for why they are in place at all, and the reasons for lifting them are many. The Camel is an important place for art and culture in our city and that same city is strangling them right now. If you have a moment to share your thoughts on the matter with me, I'd love to further discuss why the Camel is so important to the city, and why the city would be so much better off if local government wasn't making it so absurdly difficult for small business owners.

Thank you,

John Bradberry, resident of the City of Richmond since 2009.
2113 Hanover Ave, 23220

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: zatkulakbw@mymail.vcu.edu on behalf of Benjamin Zatkulak [zatkulakbw@vcu.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 12:48 PM
To: kathy.grazino@richmondgov.com; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Subject: Regarding the Camel

Hello,

I am writing this to you in show of support of the Camel being granted its special use permit so that it may continue to be a beacon of arts and culture in our beloved city.

Signed,
VCU Student,
Ben Zatkulak

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Jolinda Smithson [jolinda.smithson@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 12:52 PM
To: kathy.grazino@richmondgov.com; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Subject: The Camel's SUP for music lasting until 2am

Hello,

As a regular patron of The Camel and a long-time resident of the Richmond area, I would like to request that you grant The Camel their SUP for music to go until 2am. They are a great business that offers a small venue for touring bands plus local acts. The establishment is very well-run and encourages the local arts and music community. Knowing how that section of Broad used to look, I feel that The Camel has brought a lot of good activity to make the area more safe and economically viable.

Please allow them to host music until 2am like any other area bar or music venue.

Thanks for your consideration,

--

Jolinda Smithson
804-840-8615

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Alex McArthur [alex.mcarthur9@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 1:01 PM
To: kathy.grazino@richmondgov.com; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Subject: Support Richmond Live Music! Save the Camel!

Councilmen and Councilwomen,

Please take a minute to read the following support letter for live music in Richmond and to help the Camel keep providing to the city.

I am a local artist who has created a business based off of the culture in this fine city. I do light shows, and have expanded to the point of national talent and find myself travelling often, but always call Richmond my home, representing the 804 as often and as loudly as possible.

Spaces such as the Camel are the hotbed of our culture, as well as my personal income. It has become a fixture in the city, a beacon of light and magic for the citizens, a creative space that accepts anyone and everyone to share in good times. To have any restriction beyond state legislature on this space is not only wrong and detrimental, but it stunts our creative culture.

This time restriction has not only taken income directly out of our artists pocket, it has slowed down the already amazing growth of the local music scene. It is so incredibly important for you all to support the local culture and help us have our venue back!!!

Please hear our cry! This is a place for the city to thrive! Support Local Music!!!!!!

--

Alex McArthur

McArthur Lighting

1001 E. Main St.
Richmond, VA 23219

804.347.3572

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Cody Reifsteck [codyreifsteck@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 1:05 PM
To: kathy.grazino@richmondgov.com; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Subject: Please allow the Camel to host late night shows!

Hello,

My name is Cody Reifsteck, a Richmond local and a working musician. The Camel has always been an adamant supporter of live entertainment, so people like me have a place to work, and thus eat. They host all ranges of shows, from bands like No BS Brass, to bands like the Julia Nyunt Small Big Band (which I wouldn't expect you to have heard about). They have been a pillar in the music community for years.

So the treatment they are receiving is simply outrageous to me. How can a venue be expected to close at 11pm and still be able to serve their community as an effective music gathering? Many bands rely on collaborative shows to get their faces seen, where a collection of bands play across the night.

Please, please let them push back their cut off time! The RVA music community would be so grateful.

Sincerely,
Cody Reifsteck

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Sarah Freiseis [sarah.freiseis@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 12:57 PM
To: Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Sarah Freiseis
Subject: I support granting the Camel a Special Use Permit

Hi Daniel,

I'm writing in support of granting the Camel a Special Use Permit. Please consider the value of nightly live music at this venue, a beacon of arts and culture in our beloved city.

Thank you,
Sarah A. Freiseis

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Pat Kelly [pkelly@agincourtcapital.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 1:03 PM
To: kathy.grazino@richmondgov.com; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Subject: SUP for The Camel

Ladies/Gentlemen,

I am writing to you to encourage you to grant the special use permit to allow music at The Camel until 2am.

The Camel is an important part of the Richmond music scene, which in turn, contributes to the vibrancy of our fine city.

Thank you for your consideration,

Patrick Kelly
405 N. Shields Ave

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Jennifer Mejia [jmejia@vt.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 1:29 PM
To: kathy.grazino@richmondgov.com; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Subject: Save The Camel

Hello,

My name is Jennifer Mejia and I just wanted to get in touch with you because I feel it is very important to save a local establishment which provides so much to our community. As a young adult I find myself looking for places to go with my boyfriend that has something to offer other than food and drink, and that place is The Camel. There is only so much you can eat, so much you should drink, but there is never enough music to listen to. Also, being able to see these people play music they are so passionate about and dedicated to makes the experience that much more special. This is RVA; live, local music is a part of our culture. It would be a shame to see it minimized because of a zoning dispute.

I hope you consider us who live in the area and enjoy going to The Camel for all it has to offer us.

Thank you,

Jennifer Mejia
jmejia@vt.edu
804-499-0955

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Heady Entertainment [headyentertainment@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 2:03 PM
To: undisclosed-recipients
Subject: Support for The Camel - Special Permit

Good afternoon,

My name is John Church and I am represent a company called Heady Entertainment which is based in Northern Virginia. When I started this company 2 and a half years ago with my business partner and old friend, Dave Adams, it was partly in response to a selfish need of mine. You see, I had for years been traveling down to Richmond on weekends or stolen weeknights to catch live original music due to a lack of such in the greater DC area. Venues in DC and Northern Virginia were not pushing original bands at the time (other than the large venues, but I'm talking about seeing regional and local acts here). It was out of some form of laziness that I decided one day to start booking bands in my area outside of DC; to start booking bands that I previously could only see in Richmond. And the venue that I think I attended the most in my search for the perfect concert was The Camel.

Being home to VCU and being blessed with such a rich history, it is no wonder that Richmond has come to be known as a beacon of art and music across many mediums and genres. The effect of the artistic community can be seen from the sidewalks of campus to the murals of Carytown. And whether it be the underground metal scene that has for years highlighted Richmond for being known as a city with a scene, or events like Dominion Riverrock that become destination multi-genre events built around live music and the breath taking beauty of Belle Isle. The thing about the camel is that it embodies a little bit of both art and music (If one can even really draw a line between the two). While being a place that local artists can strive to play at on their way to the big leagues or being a mandatory stop on a touring bands run up the coast, The Camel is also just an art gallery that exists in part to showcase the culture that Richmond is so proud of and to encourage others to express themselves as well.

I guess what I am trying to say is that I just do not understand how it can even be considered to not grant a Special Use Permit in this instance. If this were a new establishment, then sure I could see the hesitation. But The Camel is already proven. It is proven that it is an integral part of multi-layered and multi-faceted network of live music establishments that exist (perhaps unbeknownst to the individual owners) to not only support the cultural weight of Richmond but to encourage its further blossoming.

I am writing this letter to try to describe the impact that The Camel has left on me, an outsider and a lover of music.

I am writing this letter to implore you to allow Richmond the freedom to further strive to be the cultural capital of our fine state.

I ask kindly that you grant The Camel their Special Use Permit instead of holding back one of Richmond's finest venues.

I beg you to do what is best for Richmond.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Humblest regards,
John D. Church

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: John Keefe [jlk1216@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 2:07 PM
To: Graziano, Kathy C. - Council Member; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Subject: Special use permit support for the Camel.

Hello,

I am writing this to you in show of support of the Camel being granted its special use permit so that it may continue to be a beacon of arts and culture in our beloved city.

Thank you,
John Keefe

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Jeanie Johnson [jeanieajohnson@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 2:11 PM
To: undisclosed-recipients
Subject: The Camel zoning

Hello,

I am writing this to you in show of support of the Camel being granted its special use permit so that it may continue to be a beacon of arts and culture in our beloved city.

Thank you,
Jeanie Johnson

Sent from my iPhone

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: nic_deSantis [desantismail@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 2:27 PM
To: kathy.grazino@richmondgov.com; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Subject: :: The Camel's Special Use Permit ::

Just Received An E-Mail Regarding A Petition, I Signed, That Has To Do With The City of Richmond's Ability To Amend The Camel's Special Use Permit, That Would Allow Music To Go Till 2 Am Nightly.

Apparently, You Have The Power To Make This City What It is & Will Become. The Camel is An Important Music Venue For The City on Broad, Due To It's Location TO The Fan, Interstate & VCU. It is Very Important To This City To Create Venues That Encourage Art & Music Events Nightly. We Need More Artist & Musicians in The World & This Fine City. There Are A Lot of Talented Artists & Musician Trying To Make A Living Doing What They Love To Do.

By Denying The Camel's Ability To Host Musicians Till 2am, You Are Not Only Making Them, The Musicians, Starve & Have To Hold Down Jobs To Play Shows That Don't Pay Well. You Also Limit The Amount of Business This Venue Can Do Which Serves, Great Food, Coffee & A Wide Selection of Beers To The Creative Community.

We Need More Places in Richmond, To Play & Listen To Live Music. Places To Dance. Places To Love. I Ask That You Please Support Y/our Local Art & Music Community & Make Richmond Special, By Granting This Special Use Permit For The Camel. (It's Not A Lot To Ask)

If There Are Neighbors Who Have Issues, Regarding Sound & Their Safety, There Are A Number of Ways To Come To A Compromise of Sorts & Resolve These Problems. ie. Sound Proof Glass & More Security Cameras.

Have You Ever Been To The Camel For A Show?

If, NOT. I Strongly Suggest You Go, In Order To Make An Informed Decision & Get An Idea of What It is That You Will Be Denying The City & The People You Will Be Putting Out of Work. If You Choose Not To Think This Through.

Have You Ever Been To New Orleans?

If, NOT, I Strongly Suggest You Spend Some Time Around Frenchmen St. in The Quarter & Get An Idea of What It is Like To Be in A City That is ON THE MAP Because of It's Thriving Music Scene & History. Yes, The Venues There Are Open Till 2Am & Some Are Open All Night.

Thank You For Your Time & Consideration.

I Hope That You Want Richmond To Be As Special As I Do.

Permitting Special Permits is What Will Make This City Special & Unique.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dfuHwPtVQOc>

Love :: New Orleans ::

Nic DeSantis

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: sollayates@gmail.com on behalf of Ian Solla-Yates [ian@wnrn.org]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 2:34 PM
To: Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR
Subject: The Camel

Hi Daniel,

I am the Development Director with WNRN, 103.1 FM in Richmond. We are a non-profit station that receives the support of Rand Burgess and The Camel.

I understand that they are trying to expand their hours to better serve a Richmond audience that is hungry for live music. I think this is a wonderful opportunity for The Camel and the city of Richmond. The staff of The Camel have always been consummate professionals and we have worked together for years without incident. Thank you for considering The Camel's special use permit.

Ian Solla-Yates
WNRN - Charlottesville/Richmond
Development Director
<http://www.wnrn.org>

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Adam J. Hughes [Adam.Hughes@mastec.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 3:06 PM
To: Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR
Subject: Please grant a special use permit to the Camel
Attachments: image001.png

Hello,
I am writing this to you in show of support of the Camel being granted its special use permit so that it may continue to be a beacon of arts and culture in our beloved city.

Thank you,

Adam Hughes | Site Manager | MasTec Advanced Technologies
7500 Whitepine Rd, Richmond, VA. 23237
Cell: 757.651.9603 | adam.hughes@mastec.com



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Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Andrew Hall [rvapeople@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 3:06 PM
To: kathy.grazino@richmondgov.com; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Subject: The Camel's special use permit

As a member of the neighborhood, I would like to openly support The Camel and their need for a special use permit to provide a service of live entertainment for the community. One of the identifying characteristics of this city is the arts and music scene and The Camel has carved a niche in this community as being a friendly and comfortable venue to observe live music. Please support them and their cause as I do.

Thank you for your support,

Andrew Hall

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Matt Hughes [hughesma2@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 4:18 PM
To: Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR
Subject: Regarding Special Use Permit for The Camel

Daniel Thompson,

I am writing a letter of support to amend the special use permit for The Camel, a well known and respected local music venue here in the city of Richmond. The Camel is located in a commercial area, across the street from Lowes, a huge commercial establishment, on Broad Street, which has traditionally been a commercial corridor.. It is an ideal place for a music venue to operate and prosper. It does not seem like a good option for the city, the patrons, or the establishment to limit the hours that performances can occur.

I also have trouble understanding how other music venues, specifically in the fan, can operate without issue in much heavier residential density areas, and I worry this may provide president to essentially shut down music in the city. I, like many others, don't want Richmond to have the reputation that live music and performances have a curfew.

I also find it odd that the Camel has operated without incident for many years, yet now suddenly there is a complaint. I feel these complaints must be personal in nature and not really related to the performances or the establishment. This is obviously not the ideal way to handle a personal grudge, but it seems to have turned into that.

I do hope city council will prevail and do what's best for the city. Thanks for your time,

Sincerely,
Matt Hughes
Lead Technician
First & Main Computer Service
117 E Main St.
Richmond, VA 23219
804-477-8840

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Amie Oliver [oliver.amie@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 4:26 PM
To: kathy.grazino@richmondgov.com; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Subject: should the 'City of Richmond: Amend The Camel's Special Use Permit to allow for music to go til 2am nightly'?

Greetings city leaders-
Please vote yes to approve The Camel's special use permit.

As a tax paying, property owning citizen (three properties within the city of Richmond) and as a semi-retired professor, I see the location of The Camel as an ideal location for such a venue. It is on the same block as a theatre and radio station and within walking distance of the Fan, VCU, bus lines and parking.

If our city leaders want to attract and retain creative, culture loving students and adults we need to identify and support a small, successful venue such as The Camel.

Thank you for your time and consideration of their proposal.

Sincerely,
Amie Oliver
147 S. Colonial Ave
Richmond, VA 23221

--

<http://www.amieoliver.net>

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Lindsey Bowers [bowersla@mymail.vcu.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 4:27 PM
To: kathy.grazino@richmondgov.com; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Subject: THE CAMEL

Please do not restrict The Camel. I think it's completely ludicrous that people have KNOWINGLY AND CONSCIOUSLY moved to an area that would receive noise from the Camel and that regulations on the Camel are even being considered. I moved recently to an area that is near a fire station and I have to hear sirens and any time of the day or night. I did not write a letter asking the fire station to please be quiet.

This is a matter of allowing a place that has been a huge platform for emerging bands in Richmond to continue being a place of enjoyment. These assholes living next door literally have no basis for asking an establishment to keep it down when they moved in to the area KNOWING The Camel was there.

It's outrageous and I have no clue why this is even an issue for The Camel. I implore you to use logic in this situation.

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Kayla [beattyke218@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 6:44 PM
To: Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR
Subject: Approve The Camel's Permit

Please approve the request to amend the camel's special use permit.

Kayla Xavier
Founder, Holistic Artistries
Sent from my iPod
Sent from my iPod

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Mari Koenigsmann [autumn_lynne_82@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 6:45 PM
To: kathygraziano@richmondgov.com; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR; lawmanchem@yahoo.com; whutchins@tcva.com; Ferrara, Jane C. - ECD; lynn.mcateer@betterhousingcoalition.org; dcole@cite-design.com; cwray@bcwh.com; rodney@thewiltonco.com; amy.howard@richmond.edu

Dear Members of Richmond's City Council and/or Planning Commission,

Please vote in support of The Camel's request to ammend ordinance 2006-105-183, which authorized the special use of the property known as 1619 and 1621 West Broad Street to allow a nightclub use until 2am Monday through Sunday.

The Camel has become a cultural staple in our community. It is a huge piece of Richmond's growing music and arts scene, and contributes greatly to the nightlife of our city. Where else can you go listen to live music every night of the week? Nowhere! Please help this establishment continue to thrive, so Richmond can continue to thrive.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mari Koenigsmann
Resident of Richmond City

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Chris Manzelli [manzellicd@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 10:21 PM
To: kathy.grazino@richmondgov.com; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Subject: Special Use Permit for Rand Burgess and The Camel

Dear Sirs and Madams,

My name is Christopher Manzelli and I am a local musician in the Metro-Richmond Area. I am contacting you regarding the situation surrounding Rand Burgess and his club The Camel, specifically their Special Use Permit. I ask for a few minutes of your time so I may express my support for Rand Burgess.

As a musician, I left Richmond some time ago to follow my dreams, which led me to the west coast. When I returned in 2009, I found what has become a fully blossoming music and arts scene that this city truly deserves. And to be perfectly honest, I am truly proud to be a part of it. There is a renaissance that is occurring here in Richmond. A rich blending of cultures, there is a smell in the air. For generations California has been regarded as a land where magic is real and dreams come true. Right here, in this city, I have that same feeling that I felt during my time out there in that place. You can feel it in your gut, in your bones, and in your soul. This city is at a bursting point.

With the expansion of institutions such as VCU, and the many corporations moving into our area for Virginia's unique fiscal incentives, the need for more local entertainment has never been greater. Sadly, many local restaurants and venues use the current economic hard times as an excuse to exploit local talent.

The practice of "Pay to Play", or, the much more politically correct term "Ticket Pre-Sale" has been in use for well over a decade. In laymen's terms, if you want your group to perform at a venue, YOU must pay the venue for that opportunity. This practice is masked in the "Ticket Pre-Sale", where a group is ordered to go out and sell a predetermined amount of tickets to fill the venue. This practice would be much more acceptable if the venues did their part in the promotion process to make their places of business more profitable. If a band fails to sell the predetermined amount of tickets they are either punished with a poor time-slot or removed from the bill all together, with no refund to their supporters who purchased tickets. The situation in our local restaurants are even dire, where bands are booked to play for little or no pay, and usually without compensation in the form of free or discounted services in lieu of monetary compensation.

Rand Burgess has taken a different stance all together. He has fought for the fair treatment of local talent. He does not require "Ticket Pre-Sale" and he does his own promotion. His business is small; however his lasting impact on the local music and art scene in Richmond far surpasses any group in this city that claims to care about our culture. And that is exactly what it is, OUR culture, yours and mine.

The Camel is an institution in the hearts and minds of the local talent, and Richmond is being reborn on the backs of all of us. The Camel offers the people of Richmond an honest and selfless taste of our rich culture and asks nothing of the local talent or patrons but to simply sit back, relax, and enjoy the show. Please support Rand Burgess and allow him his Special Use Permit for The Camel.

Again I thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Christopher Manzelli

Bassist/Vocalist for "Force of Habit"

Guitarist/Vocalist for "Kristoffer Manzelli & The Gods of Rock"

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Andrew [prs22custom@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 10:40 PM
To: Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Cc: Davidson, William C. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; kathy.grazino@richmondgov.com
Subject: The Camel

To All It Concerns,

Would you support a child's temper tantrum? Would you give them candy, hugs, kisses, and praise for purposefully setting a house on fire because they didn't get a puppy for Christmas?

The motivation of Fan-Tan-Dan seems to be just that: childish vengeance from pent-up personal issues of his own, which is his own doing and his own to sort out. Attempting to ruin a business in the process of sorting through his own inner drama is absurd. It's one thing if a human lives in their residence, and their next door neighbor (another human being) plays music louder than the first human would prefer. This can be easily solved with a simple face-to-face confrontation of "Hey could you please turn that down? It's bothering me." It's an entirely other matter if a human lives next to a business that hosts local / non-local music as it's main staple, and then spitefully attempts to ruin their business because his personal preferences about their business are not in favor of said business. The Camel has been a fountain, both for beer and culture, in the downtown scene.

Support your Community
Support the Camel

Andrew

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Rare Form [jrareform@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 11:22 PM
To: Graziano, Kathy C. - Council Member; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Subject: Support for special zoning for The Camel

Hello,
I am writing this to you in show of support of the Camel being granted its special use permit so that it may continue to be a beacon of arts and culture in our beloved city.

Thank you,
Jeff Jacoby

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Darrl Davenport [darrldavenport@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2014 12:31 AM
To: Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR
Subject: The Camel permit

Hello,as a city of Richmond resident(born&raised) I would like to see the Camel have their special permit approved. The Camel is a wonderful place for art&entertainment and contributes to the City of Richmond's art&music experience. Please do not halt this business in their attempts to offer Richmond residents unique and fun entertainment. Thankd You,Darrl Davenport (8074) 232-1450

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Trevor Frost [trevorbeckfrost@icloud.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 10:12 PM
To: kathy.grazino@richmondgov.com; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Subject: Camel special use permit

I am writing in support of the Camel. I would like for you to grant the business the special use permit it needs to operate until 2am. If you don't, I will be very disappointed and will be sure to keep this in mind moving forward. Thanks, and all best wishes, Trevor frost

Trevor
Sent from iPhone

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Ethan Pie per [jimthecoke@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2014 9:34 AM
To: Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR; Graziano, Kathy C. - Council Member; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

Hello,

My name is Ethan Pieper and I'm emailing you in regards to the ongoing legal struggle involving the local bar/music venue The Camel. It would be a shame to see the thriving music culture of Richmond stalled or destroyed because of a legal issue such as the one that is occurring right now.

Please decide in favor of The Camel and allow a wonderful venue to continue providing live music to the people any time it can.

Thank you for you time,
Ethan Pieper

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Kyle P Setterlund [kpsetterlund@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2014 2:31 PM
To: Graziano, Kathy C. - Council Member; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Subject: Protecting The Camel

Dear Council Member,

I am writing to you to support The Camel's right to play live music after 11pm on weeknights. The Camel, in my opinion, is the second-best place to see live music in town after The National. As a musician who has played there multiple times and a fan who has seen many shows, I can tell you that this venue is the best place to see live music on weeknights. The city and state will be losing a lot of taxpayers' dollars if it is not able to play music past 11pm. Furthermore, the community will be losing an integral part of itself if The Camel cannot play music past 11pm on weeknights. Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns.

Sincerely,

Kyle Setterlund

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Tom James [jamt225@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2014 3:39 PM
To: kathy.grazino@richmondgov.com; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member
Subject: The Camel.

Dear Richmond City Council,

I'm writing in response to the current zoning request allowing, The Camel, to stay open until 2 a.m.

Richmond is continually growing in popularity as a music destination. Young musicians are collaborating in a stimulating environment created by this popularity. This brings in tourism, which of course brings in revenue. I travel from Deltaville VA quite frequently just to see new or established musicians in an intimate venue, such as the Camel. The Camel, as a venue, has created a stimulating environment for musicians and the public. A benefit to the city in tourism, money and stimulating culture and diversity. Welcomed by artist everywhere. The late/or early hours give those who work nights or just operate on different clocks, a place to socialize.

I urge everyone to take the long view devoid of emotion and help support and create a venue such as The Camel into a landmark destination. More fruit from the creative spirit and heart of Richmond.

Thank you for thoughtful consideration.

Tom James

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: John Charlet [jcharlet@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2014 6:30 PM
To: Graziano, Kathy C. - Council Member; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Subject: The Camel

To Whom It May Concern:

The Camel on Broad Street provides a great service to the Richmond community culturally and economically. I hope that you will approve the special licensing for which they have applied so that it can continue to be an asset.

Let me also take this time to thank you for your service to the city.

Sincerely,

JOHN CHARLET
The Fan, Richmond, VA

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Amanda Krause [amandakrause5@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2014 9:55 PM
To: Graziano, Kathy C. - Council Member; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR

To whom it may concern,

The upcoming legislation to limit live performance hours to ending at 11:00pm Monday thru Thursday and Sunday at the local venue the Camel on Broad street which is an outstanding business and representation of the arts is a means to bringing the business to an end. Working people of all ages and cultures gather at the Camel to celebrate a vivid lively scene which can not be limited to these uncalled for restrictions. If one were to get off of their serving job, any other occupation, or traffic from those coming out of town Richmond offers a plethora of events The Camel shai not be excluded or squandered as a business due to zoning. I personally have been drawn to Richmond from hours away just to see shows at the Camel; it is a gift to the city to be able to walk into a venue and feel as if the people there are family the music and art is a direct reflection of the culture and times which raises one's intellect and inspires great thoughts. The city needs more venues like this one not to discourage the arts. Please reconsider this motion and let the Camel continue to flourish and send positive artistic energy into the city which its Patrons love so dearly.

Thanks for the opportunity to share my voice,

Amanda Rose Krause

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Amanda Krause

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Alyse Marshall-Auernheimer [designadventures@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2014 12:42 PM
To: Charles Samuels; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Scott Stuart; Elle Daub; Chris Baum; Elsa Woodaman; Joyce Handy; Kelly Griffin; Kerthy Hearn; Pam Embrey; Sandra Leibowitz; Sarah Hodges; Shelley Stuart; Tom Griffin; matthew.parrish; Ted Theofanos; Tim Treinen
Subject: Letter of support from WG resident Shelley Stuart on behalf of The Camel

Charles, Mr. Thompson,
Here is another letter of support for The Camel's change in SUP. Below.

Thanks,
Alyse Auernheimer
WGSA
[804.426.2888](tel:804.426.2888)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Shelley Stuart** <shelise.stuart@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, May 23, 2014 at 9:29 AM
Subject: Re: The Camel SUP change hearing date and time
To: Alyse Marshall-Auernheimer <designadventures@gmail.com>

Dear City Officials,

I am a West Grace Street mom and homeowner writing in support of Rand Burgess and The Camel's SUP change. Since we moved here in 2010, Mr. Burgess has gone out of his way to support the neighborhood association and its events. He has been continuously responsive to neighborhood concerns and suggestions. I get the feeling his establishment is unfairly targeted due to personal conflicts, but Mr. Burgess continues to respond positively to all issues. It is clear he wants to maintain accountability and remain in good standing with his neighbors.

My family chose to live in an urban neighborhood on purpose. If noise and college students are that big of a deal, we have many wonderful, quiet options in the suburbs.

The Camel serves great food and music in a comfortable and hip atmosphere. We attend the Halloween party every year and my son even enjoys going for early dinners. Mr. Burgess is exactly the kind of neighbor we need on West Grace, and The Camel should be treated the same as other establishments.

Thank You,

Shelley Stuart
2322 W. Grace St.
WGSA Web/Social Media Coordinator

Alyse - please forward, Thanks!

—
Sent from [Mailbox](#)

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Michael Upchurch [Michael.Upchurch@fuzzyl.com]
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2014 1:28 PM
To: kathy.grazino@richmondgov.com; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Cc: Alyse Marshall-Auernheimer (designadventures@gmail.com)
Subject: Supporting the SUP for the Camel

To Whom it may Concern,

I own a home on West Grace Street and am writing in support of Rand Burgess and The Camel's SUP change. I've lived here since 2008 and watch Rand change the Camel from a sleepy, little used establishment to a vibrant community space. It is much safer for all us to have continued activity in our area because it puts watchful eyes on the street. During the last few years, the Camel was open until 2AM so pedestrian traffic increased and a precedence was established. As far as I can tell, all was fine until one person made a complaint. One. Out of the hundreds (thousands?) of people who have attended events at the Camel and all the surrounding businesses and neighbors.

Rand is exactly the kind of business owner that Richmond needs. He is successful, which means more revenue for Richmond. His business, the Camel, brings in a broad range of music and events, which enhances our city's cultural options. Finally, Rand is a good responsive partner to his neighbors and community. Rand attends our neighborhood association meetings frequently and has listened to and acted on our feedback. He has also made suggested changes to his establishment to alleviate noise and other issues, sponsored our association home tour with food and finance, held a free food on Thanksgiving event last year and is one of the reasons that Broad St has been revitalized.

We live in the city because we love the city. It's an urban environment that can be noisy and messy, but usually, it's all in boundaries of moderation and I consider letting the Camel stay open until 2AM to be within that boundary. The Camel shouldn't be held to a different standard than the other similar businesses on Broad St.

Kind regards,

Mike

Fuzzy Logix – Fast Analytics for Big Data.

Mike Upchurch
Chief Operating Officer
www.FuzzyL.com

☎ Phone: +1.704.307.4356

☎ Phone: +1.704.807.7107

☎ Phone: +44.20.7979.7110

✉ E-Mail: Michael.Upchurch@FuzzyL.com

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: piersanterp@mymail.vcu.edu on behalf of Ryan Piersante [piersanterp@vcu.edu]
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2014 2:40 PM
To: Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR
Subject: The Camel

Hello, please approve the Camel's special use permit. The Camel is a special place in the Richmond community and music scene and a staple on the culture that is arising from the city.
Thank you

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Peter Hahn [gmustang55@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 24, 2014 11:27 AM
To: Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR
Cc: designadventures@gmail.com
Subject: Changes regarding The Camel's SUP

Dear Mr Samuels and Mr Thompson, I am writing in support of the requested changes to The Camels SUP.

It's actually kind of silly that we need to write this letter since the reality is that we are actually asking you to maintain the status quo. If you suddenly start enforcing a technicality that has long been overlooked you will actually be changing the business environment of our neighborhood.

I recommend that you ask The Camel owner to fill an application amendment, collect the fee, approve it, and quickly put this behind us.

Thank you

Peter Hahn
2009 1/2 W Grace St

Sent from my iPhone

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Lisa Hahn [olson.lisa@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 24, 2014 1:12 PM
To: Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR
Cc: C Marshall-Auernheimer
Subject: Fwd: I need a favor, if you are inclined.
Attachments: Bryan Elijah Smith.jpg

Dear Mr. Samuels,

I am a West Grace Street Association member who supports the requested changes to The Camel's SUP. I agree with the letter of support below that was already submitted by the WGSA. The Camel and its owner are a responsible and loved part of our neighborhood, and they offer a wonderful music venue for the neighborhood and for the greater Richmond area. We want to see businesses like this succeed and continue to add variety and vibrancy to the city and support the local Richmond music scene.

Thanks,
Lisa Hahn
2009 1/2 W. Grace Street
Richmond, VA 23220
(571) 215-0841

The WGSA has voted twice to support the change and below is the WGSA's second letter of support.

From: West Grace Street Association

To: Richmond City Council & Planning/Zoning

Regarding The Camel's SUP application

I am writing in support of the requested changes to The Camel's SUP. I have spoken to those residents that back up to The Camel that are in the WGSA and there have been additional letters of support that have been sent to planning directly from those residents. After 6 months and many conversations and emails with one owner, Rex Scudder, who initially had only a couple of minor issues, not related to the SUP change that he wanted me to address with Mr. Burgess (as was done) Mr. Scudder has, in the last two weeks, decided to work with Mr. Shorkey, the owner of Fan Tan and of course he has every right to do so. On Monday May 19th, we gave Mr. Scudder the opportunity to share his personal concerns as well as to act as agent for Mr. Shorkey at the May WGSA board meeting. Several 1600 block neighbors some of whom have offered support for The Camel's change in SUP were present as well as the always present representatives from VCU police, Greg Felton and RPD, Officer Ward Kuper. Mr. Scudder was to have 10 minutes to share and we allowed him an hour and a half but he was unable to share any compelling concerns related to the SUP change so the WGSA a second time voted to support The Camel's requested changes. Some neighboring residents have asked to speak on behalf of the Camel at the planning hearing in June. This is in no way meant to be disrespectful to Mr. Scudder, he is a good neighbor and we appreciate his input and will continue to work on other issues in tandem and on his behalf.

If we can't be flexible and fair, we will never be successful. The current SUP was crafted many years ago when most of West Broad consisted of empty, derelict buildings so I understand why there were extra precautions taken. However, those days are over and the current SUP places a decidedly discriminatory and burdensome set of restrictions on Mr. Burgess that are not uniformly applied to other similar venues on West Broad Street. Some of these requirements actually pose a hazard as Mr. Burgess is required to take his patio fencing down every night so it is not secured to the ground (nobody else is required to do this). We should have a single standard for everyone that is in a like-kind location. We should enforce the rules in an equitable, uniform manner and protect every resident and business. If someone is breaking the rules there should indeed be a punishment but we can't have different standards for every block and sometimes even every address. There is no difference between the 1600 block of West Broad and the 2000 Block of West Broad yet the

Republic had an SUP that allowed live music and a 2am closing time and there are residences above and next to what was The Republic and is now The Pig and Pearl. Emilio's has is a music centered venue that is another huge asset to the neighborhood and they have a 2am closing time, with residences above and adjacent, AND is located on a corner. The Camel goes to great lengths to ensure music doesn't bother the neighbors, the business is appropriately operated and the owner present most of the time, but he is required to close early...it doesn't make much sense. If Mr. Burgess is allowing noise to disturb the quiet of the neighborhood I would be the first person to call him and tell him to make it stop, and as he has exhibited in the past, he listens and comes up with strategies to fix issues. I am not suggesting we allow nonsense, just be fair and stop operating our city through squeaky wheel politics and procedures not to mention the often very personal attacks on local business owners. The most negative impact on property values in this commercial block is not The Camel, it is the many vacant buildings located in this block so let's not go backwards and put Mr. Burgess out of business and create one more empty building. Let's encourage the owners of those vacant buildings to get moving and finish the decade long renovations next door so they too are an asset to the block. I speak not just as the association president but also as a resident of the 2000 block and I personally back up two three immediate restaurant/night clubs, The Pig & Pearl, The Savory Grain, and Fieldings, as well as a 4th at the other end of this block, Level. All are amazing venues for food and/or some music as well. We have gratefully had the former Julian's developed into a lovely mixed use location with Italian food and a bar option, Pane E Vino at ground level and residential space above. All good neighbors. When we have an issue with noise or trash, we address it directly with the owners and they all want to be good neighbors, just as Mr. Burgess so they address concerns immediately. The restaurants are rarely an issue, the multi-family buildings on W Grace and West Broad, chronically an issue and nobody is suggesting we put those owners out of business. There will always be a few residents that approach all change from a fearful perspective...that any change is scary and bad and occasionally have a resident that wants boarded up buildings to remain boarded up because the idea of change is simply too overwhelming. That is no way to run a city and certainly no way to build outstanding urban neighborhoods.

Mr. Burgess has created a unique model at this location that provides a forum for local up and coming musicians to perform and is an excellent option for good food AND music for the neighborhood; many of our residents have even taken their kids and grandparents to Bluegrass Friday nights from 6-8pm as this is actually a pretty family friendly venue during the early hours. He has also received many accolades from the greater community as a venue for great music and food so he brings positive attention to the neighborhood as a whole.

The Camel is located at 1621 West Broad Street which is arguably one of the most commercial locations in Richmond city. Traffic noise will likely violate the noise ordinance most of the time as there is a bus stop at the corner here and heavy traffic pretty much 24 hours a day. The association and neighborhood would definitely draw swords over any kind of car lot, pornography or strip club but we strongly encourage positive development and well run options for the neighborhood. Mr. Burgess has never received an ABC warning much less a violation, I have received a copy of his most recent health inspection, and as an added bonus provides Richmond City with significant tax revenue at least in terms of small businesses revenue; while this isn't totally relevant to the neighborhood, definitely a nice bonus. There was an issue with his garbage cans as the unofficial Fraternity house behind The Camel does not have a single can and has been filling The Camel's cans but I have contacted James Jackson at DPW regarding this issue and he is always amazingly responsive so I am looking for this to be resolved quickly. Also, Mr. Burgess has changed to a private waste collection provider so he will have 6 cans and Monday and Friday pickup so I think the garbage issue has been addressed fully. Mr. Burgess has always supported the neighborhood and staying on West Broad. Let's not put Rand out of business appropriately run, successful business ventures landing and the association and we all have a vested interest in only to give permission to the next tenant/owner (which is a likely scenario). Let's try to create an atmosphere that leads to success for everyone!

With Kind Regards,

Alyse Auernheimer, President

West Grace Street Association
804.426.2888

February 21, 2014

City of Richmond Dept of Planning & Development Review
Land Use Administration
900 East Broad St, Room 511
Richmond, VA 23219

RE: Special Use Permit for The Camel, 1621 West Broad Street

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing in support of the proposed expansion of hours for the Camel. I live a block from the Camel, and I was the President of the West Grace Street Association from 2009 to 2012. As such, I know plenty about the Camel, and I know its owner Rand Burgess quite well.

First of all, I just have to say that the Camel is not just another restaurant or night club in Richmond. It is a special place that supports a wide variety of music and artists; and it has become a regional hub for up and coming bands of all musical styles. And it is also an inviting place that encourages community engagement with evenings of fundraising for local causes, art showings, and various family-friendly offerings as well. Simply put, we are very proud to have a unique music venue like this in our community.

Secondly, the Camel and its owner are completely engaged in our community. Rand Burgess is an active member of our community association. He has routinely hosted meetings, and he has donated his time and money to supporting community projects and fundraisers.

Thirdly, the Camel establishment itself has simply never been a problem to surrounding neighbors. As a former association president, I can attest that the operations of other establishments along Broad Street have periodically resulted in issues for the neighborhood related to late-night noise, etc. The Camel, on the other hand, has never been a problem as the ownership has always worked to be a good neighbor and fix any problems that might ever arise.

Finally, simply put, most every other restaurant along our section of West Broad Street is able to operate until 2am. Considering the nature of the Camel's business, it does seem to be an important issue for their business to remain successful. It seems only logical that they should be allowed to operate until 2am as well.

We do hope that you will approve the requested Special Use Permit, and I would be happy to attend any hearings and testify on their behalf. We consider the Camel to be a valuable member of our community that contributes to what makes our community special.

Sincerely,



Tom & Kelly Griffin
1818 West Grace Street

Sandra Leibowitz
1606 West Grace Street
Richmond, VA 23220
804-353-0222
sleibowitz@earthlink.net

City of Richmond
Department of Planning & Development Review
Land Use Administration
900 East Broad St, Room 511
Richmond, VA 23219

RE: Special Use Permit for The Camel, 1621 West Broad Street

February 24, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

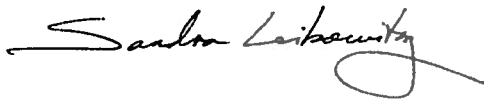
I'm writing in support of the proposed expansion of hours operate until 2:00 am for The Camel. I live across the alley from The Camel, and am currently Treasurer of the West Grace Street Association.

In the entire time that The Camel has been located practically behind my house, I have never once encountered any difficulties or inconveniences from its operations or patronage. To the contrary, I have only experienced very positive and proactive demonstrations from its owner, Rand Burgess, and its staff.

The Camel provides unique and much appreciated musical programming in a clean, respectful, social environment. Neither noise nor loitering have ever been a concern for myself or my immediate neighbors at any time of the day or night that the Camel has been open. Rand Burgess has made a consistent effort to communicate with West Grace Street Association leadership and has been responsive to every question and concern put before him.

Not only do I believe that The Camel should be allowed to operate until the same 2:00 am closing time as others in the City, but I believe that it should be recognized as a model business for our community. I hope that you will approve the requested Special Use Permit, and I would be happy to attend any hearings and testify on their behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Leibowitz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end.

Sandra Leibowitz

February 21, 2014

City of Richmond Dept of Planning & Development Review
Land Use Administration
900 East Broad St, Room 511
Richmond, VA 23219

RE: Special Use Permit for The Camel, 1621 West Broad St.

Dear Department,

I am writing to express my support for The Camel in its request for expanded hours. The Camel and its owner, Rand Burgess, has been very good neighbors, and The Camel is the kind of restaurant/business that should be encouraged in neighborhoods like the Fan.

I live at 1624 West Grace Street. My wife and I have owned the house since 1994, and have lived there continuously since we purchased it. We are on the north side of Grace St, backing up to the same alley that runs behind The Camel. There are only 1 or 2 residential properties that can say they are closer to The Camel than mine, and even then it is a matter of a few feet. It is no more than 30 feet from my back property line to the corner of The Camel's property line.

I have a deck behind my house, from which I can see the back of The Camel. I can tell you straight up that noise from The Camel has never been a problem. Every single time I have investigated the source of music coming from behind my house in the evening, I have found that it was coming from one of the many properties on the street that rents to VCU students. While I have heard my neighbor practicing his drums next door on occasion or a group of students having a party in their yard, I have never heard a band from The Camel while sitting on my back deck in the evenings. If you visit the interior of The Camel, you will see that the stage is at the front of the building, making it even harder for music to travel out the back to the residential properties located behind.

The Camel is not just another "nightclub" with music. Rand supports the local youth music scene in ways that are healthy and good for the neighborhood. While my son was a student at Maggie Walker Governor's School, he walked back to The Camel a number of times to listen to one of the local high school bands from his school that Rand was featuring on special days. Additionally, Rand runs a first class restaurant. His menu is as far from "bar food" as you can get. By contrast he features creative food that is comparable to the best restaurants in the area.

I've known Rand for years, and I've known The Camel since before it even opened to the public. His is the kind of business that the City should be encouraging to open and operate in Fan. Allowing Rand to stay open later as requested will not infringe on the quality of life of any of the residential neighbors living nearby. I encourage you to grant his request.

Yours truly,



Brian L Carr
1624 West Grace Street
804-358-5790

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Joshua Crenshaw [crucialcren@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 26, 2014 9:43 AM
To: kathy.grazino@richmondgov.com; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Subject: Special Use Permit for The Camel

Since it's humble beginnings, The Camel has always been a haven for lovers of live music, good food, and good beer. For a long time, all of which were available until 2 am. which is consistent with all bar / restaurants in Richmond. All that came crashing down last December when a neighbor who has always had a vendetta against The Camel brought to light certain zoning rulings prohibiting live music after 11 pm on weeknights and after 1 am on weekends. The Camel is still open until 2am but with no live bands playing on it's stage past 11 pm during the week, the music lovers that gathered hours earlier disperse and go elsewhere in town where they can see a live band perform. Over the past few years The Camel has invested a lot in itself and even more in the Richmond music community. It has been consistently voted as one of the best places to see live music by the readers of Style Weekly and for me personally has been a choice venue for performing, seeing a good act, and seeing friends. Good, clean, positive fun. As far as I know there has never been any significant act of violence or serious disruption to the neighbors as long as The Camel has been in existence. It is my favorite bar and my favorite place to see and hear live music in Richmond. Residents of the City of Richmond are music lovers and denying this place a special use permit to play music until 2 am is a slap in the face to all the music lovers in Richmond. There is no good reason for music to abruptly stop at 11 pm on a Thursday night on Broad St. where the only neighbors are a radio station that obviously loves live music and a horrid tanning salon that is closed during night time hours. Please grant The Camel a special use permit and let this beautiful city I am proud to call home shine as a destination for amazing live music.

Thanks
- Joshua Crenshaw

Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR

From: Matt Jarreau [MattJarreau@hometownrealtyservices.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 7:58 AM
To: kathy.grazino@richmondgov.com; Thompson, Daniel W. - PDR; Samuels, Charles R. - Council Member; Davidson, William C. - PDR; Markham, Lory P. - PDR
Subject: Please Approve the Camel's Special Use Permit

Folks I hope this finds you well. I just wanted to write you a short email to express my support for the Camel's SUP. This is a wonderful establishment and music venue I have no doubt that it will have continued success with your support. Please allow the Camel to continue its success by approving the SUP. Thanks for your time

Matt Jarreau
611 N 26th St
Richmond Va, 23223
mattj@htrsi.com