



CITY OF RICHMOND

Department of Planning & Development Review *Staff Report*

Ord. No. 2022-157: To amend Ord. No. 2021-042 which accepted a program of proposed Capital Improvement Projects for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and the four fiscal years thereafter, regarding 1305 North 5th Street.

To: City Planning Commission
From: Economic and Community Development
Date: June 6, 2022

PETITIONER

Sharon L. Ebert, DCAO Economic Development and Planning

PURPOSE

To amend Ord. No. 2021-042, adopted May 24, 2021 (which accepted a program of proposed Capital Improvement Projects for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 and the four years thereafter, adopted a Capital Budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022, and determined a means for financing the same), to modify the Heritage Center/Lumpkin's Jail (Devil's Half Acre) project in the Economic and Community Development Category to provide that such project includes the design and construction of a Pavilion/Museum at the Lumpkin's Jail/Devil's Half Acre site; the design of and improvements to the Richmond Slave Trail and Trail Head at Ancarrow's Landing; the extension of the Slave Trail to 1305 North 5th Street; the acquisition of the property at 1305 North 5th Street which has historical significance associated with its use as the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground (Burial Ground for Free People of Colour and Slaves); planning, design and implementation of the memorialization of 1305 North 5th Street; the relocation, stabilization, renovation, and interpretation of the Winfree Cottage; and the planning activities for Shockoe Bottom and the proposed heritage Campus.

SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION

This Amendment is to allow funds for planning, design, and implementation of the memorialization of the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground with is of critical importance. The property, located at 1305 North 5th Street (N0000233006), was acquired by the City on April 16, 2021. This property was used as a burial site for Richmond's black population from 1816 to 1879 and it is believed that as many as 21,000 souls may have been buried in this cemetery. The property has been extensively desecrated over the years by the construction of roads, railroads, highways, and municipal buildings. It is also from this site that many of the remains found in the VCU well originated.

Today, a billboard and the shell of a small gas station (vacant for many years) stand on the property, which in no measure resembles a cemetery or sacred space. This amendment is to allow the use of \$500,000 of the existing CIP funds to begin the planning, design, and implementation of the memorialization of this significant property. This amendment will also allow the use of an additional \$500,000 for the relocation, stabilization, renovation, and interpretation of the Winfree Cottage.

The Winfree Cottage, the former home of Emily Winfree, an enslaved woman, was moved to Shockoe in 2002 to save it from demolition. The two-room cottage has sat on a trailer since then and is in need of a permanent location where it can be properly interpreted and tell the remarkable story of resilience and survival embodied in the life of Emily Winfree. A permanent location in the Manchester area, where the cottage originally stood has been tentatively identified.

Therefore, staff recommends approval of the Amendment of Ordinance No. 2021-042

Staff Contact: Kimberly Chen, Senior Manager, DCAO Sharon Ebert's Office, 804-646-6364