

WESTHAMPTON CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

February 8, 2026

By Email: [jonathan.brown@rva.gov](mailto:jonathan.brown@rva.gov)

Jonathan Brown

Senior Planner, Land Use Administration

City of Richmond Department of Planning & Development Review

900 East Broad Street, Room 511

Richmond, VA 23219

Re: Application for Special Use Permit for 3923 Grove Avenue

Dear Mr. Brown:

The Westhampton Citizens Association (“WCA”) is submitting this letter in response to the captioned special use permit application to be considered by City Council at its meeting on Monday, February 9, 2026. We respectfully request that this letter be included in City Council’s record for this SUP application and made available to members of City Council.

WCA withdraws its opposition to the issuance of the proposed SUP as described in our letter to the Planning Department on July 13, 2025.

However, this matter should be a lesson to everyone involved in building new housing (or any other development) in the City of Richmond. Prior to being introduced to the Planning Commission in July 2025, Center Creek Homes held performative versus authentic community outreach regarding their plan for the property and the required SUP. As a result, there was vehement citizen opposition despite the project and SUP being recommended for approval by the Planning Commission, a group which appears biased toward the interests of developers over existing residents. Meaningful conversations among the stakeholders only began after Councilman Breton inserted himself into the process which further delayed the project for an additional six months. The lesson? Authentic and rigorous community outreach matters and it should be completed at the outset of a project. Communication and listening go a long way when trying to ensure a thriving neighborhood.

Finally, we commend Councilman Breton for his engagement in this matter and embodying what representation should look like.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Merrill". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Patricia Merrill

President

cc: Councilman Andrew Breton  
Shaiana Trump  
City Clerk's Office