

November 22, 2021

VIA EMAIL (Matthew.Ebinger@RichmondGov.com)

Matthew J. Ebinger, AICP
Principal Planner/Secretary to the Planning Commission
City of Richmond
900 E. Broad Street, Room 51
Richmond, VA 23219



Re: Special Use Permit - 4204 Hermitage Road
Tax Map Parcel IDs: N0170228007 and N0170228019

Mr. Ebinger:

My name is Robert Balster and I am the president of the Hermitage Road Historic District Association. On behalf of the Association, this confirms our support for the Special Use Permit Application for the proposed use of the Scottish Rite Temple building as a community theatre and associated uses at 4204 Hermitage Road. We have reviewed the SUP Application and the Applicant's Report and we fully support the granting of the SUP.

The proposed uses and re-purposing of the Property will provide the neighboring community with an arts and education center to serve metro Richmond's children, families, and schools, including performance focused programming for kids and their families and a meeting space for community groups. This type of development is much needed in our area. The theatre will be an immediate asset to our community. It is reassuring that no changes are proposed for the exterior of the building and that the theatre will not cause a more intense use than the current operations there. Accordingly, we support the City's approval of the SUP without qualification.

Please include this letter of support in the file when the SUP application is presented to the Planning Commission.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert A. Balster". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Robert Balster
President, Hermitage Road Historic District Association
tpsych@comcast.net

cc: Brian K. Jackson, Esq. (*by email only*: bjackson@hirschlerlaw.com)