

From: Elizabeth Kostelny <ekostelny@preservationvirginia.org>
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2021 9:47 AM
To: Rodney M. Poole; Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council; David Johannas; lawmanchem@yahoo.com; egreenfield@rarealtors.com; murthyvg@gmail.com; Reid, Lenora G. - DCAO Of Finance And Administration
Cc: Chen, Kimberly M. - DED; Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR
Subject: Ordinance No. 2020-262– To Authorize the Acquisition of Parcels Owned by Harry and Betty Loving, LLC and Loving Produce, LLC

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Dear Mr. Poole and Members of Richmond Planning Commission:

On behalf of Preservation Virginia's Trustees, staff and members, I am writing in support of the passage of Ord. No. 2020-262, which would authorize the City of Richmond to acquire the properties owned by Harry and Betty Loving, LLC and Loving Produce, LLC for the purpose of the Enslaved African Heritage Campus in Shockoe Bottom. Together with the Sacred Ground Historical Reclamation Project and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Virginia has advocated over the years for the protection of this property to be acquired to ensure its protection and inclusion in a memorial park campus. We respectfully request that you approve the ordinance and move forward to ensure that this property is transferred into public ownership and sensitively preserved.

The history embodied in the Shockoe Bottom area is of international significance. Richmond is taking positive steps to ensure that this site will be a place to where this difficult history can be acknowledged, revealed and interpreted. Combined with continuing work on the Shockoe Bottom Small Area Plan, development of an archaeological policy, and planning for the interpretive experience of the memorial park area, Richmond has the opportunity to fulfill its commitment to the goals of equity and memorization.

Preservation Virginia urges you to support Ord. No. 2020-262. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

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Elizabeth S. Kostelny
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