



CITY OF RICHMOND

Department of Public Utilities

December 14, 2022

Mr. Ray Roakes
Planner and Urban Design Committee Secretary
Department of Planning and Development Review Land Use Administration
City of Richmond
900 East Broad Street Room 511
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Mr. Roakes,

The City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities' Stormwater Utility (DPU-SW) is hereby requesting to withdraw the following from review and further consideration by the Urban Design Committee: *UDC 2022-23 - Conceptual Location, Character, Extent review of the Norborne Extended Detention Pond located at 2600 Pompey Spring Road.*

Finding solutions to historic recurrent flooding and improving public health and safety is the highest priority of DPU-SW's Capital Improvement Program. The vast majority of our team's thirty-plus active stormwater projects underway in planning, design, and construction focus on Richmond's Southside neighborhoods. These older, lower-income, and historically underserved communities were developed decades ago in former areas of Chesterfield County, subsequently annexed by the City of Richmond.

These Southside communities were built at a time when little planning and consideration was given to including and implementing stormwater infrastructure. Today, these neighborhoods often lack the necessary publicly-owned land and utility easements required for the installation, maintenance, and needed improvements of such infrastructure. Additionally, within these communities the stormwater infrastructure that does exist struggles to keep pace with the increasing rainfall intensity and frequency that we experience with modern-day storm events.

Our team continually works with City leadership, other City Departments, non-governmental organizations, our partners, and Richmonders to find creative and innovative solutions to recurrent flooding across the City of Richmond. We pride ourselves on our robust public education and community outreach program and engage with citizens on each and every project. We distribute informational project flyers across communities at the beginning of projects, during planning and design, and before and during construction. We regularly attend City Council District meetings to share project information and discuss our work with citizens and often go door-to-door to connect with neighborhood residents individually regarding our projects. DPU-SW maintains a website (RVAH2O.org) with project locations and information, interactive maps, and contact information for project-related questions and concerns.

DPU-SW plans, designs, and implements each and every project in a transparent, open, and communicative approach where citizens are continually engaged and involved. We



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always look to garner as much feedback as possible. This feedback, whether positive or negative, is highly important to us and, ultimately, is a testament to our project implementation success to date. Feedback from and engagement with citizens and communities allows DPU-SW to provide the highest level of service to our customers when finding and creating solutions to recurrent flooding.

To date, DPU-SW has received 47 citizen requests in recent years to find solutions for recurrent flooding in the Norborne neighborhood. This is nearly as many requests as there are homes in this community. These requests cite flooding in yards and streets, standing water that remains days after rainfall events, mosquito infestation from ponded water, and damage to roadways and private property. Citizens have noted the drainage issues in the Norborne neighborhood for at least the past 18 years.

Only very recently did DPU-SW learn of the questions and concerns related to the above-mentioned concept of a detention pond component submitted for review to the Urban Design Committee this November. This concept is one part of the overall Norborne Road Drainage Improvement Project currently in design and requires the purchase of private property to move forward. The Urban Design Committee's review is one small step in a much larger process to implement a comprehensive, neighborhood-wide drainage solution.

This is an opportunity for us to extend our robust public outreach and continue to further engage with citizens in the Norborne neighborhood and those in the 8th City Council District who have expressed concern with the approach to this project.

I strongly encourage anyone and everyone with an interest in finding solutions to these difficult, recurrent flooding challenges in Richmond's Southside neighborhoods, this project, or any project underway at DPU-SW to contact me directly at 804.646.8161 or william.boston2@rva.gov.

I am always eager to have meaningful discussions regarding how DPU-SW can improve our customer service.

Sincerely,

Bill Boston
Stormwater Utility
City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities