

From: DONNA SHROPSHIRE <donna.shropshire@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 3:19 PM
To: Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR; MDA ZONING COMMITTEE; Brown, Jonathan W. - PDR; Addison, Andreas D. - City Council; Wagner, Daniel M. - City Council Office
Subject: IMPORTANT: Nextdoor Website--the MDA and Rezoning

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Lesley Paiva
The Museum District • 3 hr ago

The character and appeal of the Museum District is under grave threat. It is important to make your voice heard TODAY before the planning meeting tonight.

Last evening there was a public meeting hosted by the Museum District Association (MDA) to review a Special Use Permit (SUP) application for a residential alley infill project. The meeting was held on the proposed site, in the alley of the 3400 block between Floyd and Ellwood Avenues. The owner of the garages and surface parking in the alley would like to tear down garages and build rental RESIDENTIAL UNITS IN THE ALLEY. I fear that if this SUP is granted, it will open a floodgate of developers buying up garages, parking places and gardens in the interior of our Museum District blocks.

The garage/parking/gardens in the interior of our blocks are an extremely important design element that provides crucial distance from neighbors for privacy, a shared space where neighbors can gather to work on projects (like washing a car, gardening, block parties, etc), overflow parking when streets are being cleaned (or when an elderly neighbor can't find parking close to her home) and rental garage/parking & storage to accommodate families as their needs grow and shrink. If the owner of the parking lots/garages that is seeking the SUP wants to improve on his investment, it seems something that wouldn't require a SUP, like possibly two story garages (with an interior pull-down stair to get to second story storage) with solar panels on top would be a wonderful amenity for the neighbors as well as a nice income generating investment for him that would add value to the surrounding homes. Please, do not grant permission to irrevocably damage the Museum District by building residential rental properties in our alleys/community spaces.

I encourage all concerned Museum District residents to contact the MDA Zoning and Land Use Committee at MDAzoning@museumdistrict.org as well as Jonathan Brown, Planner / Land Use Administration - Planning and Development Review at 646-5734 or JONATHAN.BROWN@RICHMONDGOV.COM. Please encourage your neighbors to make their voices heard as well TODAY. Thank you.

Posted in General to The Museum District

