

Ethel B. Powell.  
5502 Cary Street Road  
Richmond, VA 23226

Re: Ordinance 2016-193

## TRAFFIC

During the school year the traffic on Cary Street starts flying by at 6:30 a.m. and then slows down around 7:30 to 9 because the cars heading East are lined up 4-5 deep waiting to turn left onto Libbie Avenue. The same thing happens in the afternoon from about 4-6, except the traffic is heading West. It backs up on Cary Street to Tuckahoe Boulevard and crawls until the cars cross the Huguenot Bridge. If you try to miss the congestion by driving over to Grove Avenue and then go down Libbie, you will find it is backed up to Matoaka Road. The only time there is not any traffic in this area is in the middle of the night or in the middle of a snow storm. More people trying to get to and from Grove and Granite will only make the situation worse.

## PARKING

The owner of Mango Hair Salon is excited about moving to Grove. However, he is guaranteed only 9 parking spaces under the zoning law. He has 18 employees and could accommodate 14 customers, needing a total of 32 spaces. Subtract 9, and he's left with 24 people looking for a place to park.

The present parking area behind the two properties can accommodate at least 140 cars. The Special Use Permit would guarantee only 104 spaces, 36 less.

If you have 12 rental units in the two new buildings, you will need an additional 12 spaces, but the city requires only 1 parking space for every 4 apartments, or a total of 3 spaces. If there are 2 occupants per unit, we're talking 24 cars. Subtract 3 and you have 21 people with nowhere to put their automobiles.

Now we have  $24 + 36 = 60$ , plus  $21 = 81$  people driving around the block looking for a parking space .

## SAFETY

Children walk home from St. Catherine's and St. Christopher's and they do so on Grove Avenue. On Friday afternoons they tend to congregate at Libbie Market, which means they are walking up and down Libbie Avenue. They are usually in groups of 2 or more, and often they are not paying attention to their surroundings. Children can be responsible, but they are still children. More space for more people in this area is definitely detrimental to the safety of our young people.

## CHARM

The charm of the neighborhood comes from our one story buildings. Everyone likes to shop in small stores where the customers and the owners know each other. The West End is not Short Pump or New York, and that's why we love it.

To summarize – an SUP would result in:

More traffic.

Not enough parking.

Safety a greater concern.

Less charm.

All negatives = a big fat NO to a Special Use Permit

4

Respectfully submitted,

*Ethel B. Powell*

July 25, 2016