

February 18, 2023

Cullenwood Community Association Action Committee
Southside District 8
Richmond, VA 23234

City of Richmond Fire Department
Fire Department Chief Melvin Carter
5600 Beulah Rd Sandston VA 23150

RE: Email from Travis Ford to Raymond Roakes (UDC Committee), February 3, 2023

This letter addresses concerns about communication of the City of Richmond Fire Department in correspondence dated February 9, 2023, from Travis Ford to the City of Richmond Urban Design Committee about meeting with Southside neighborhoods for conversations about fire department occupancy of the Hickory Hill Community Center.

Our Community Association has not had a formal meeting since the COVID Pandemic for health and safety reasons. However, the Action Committee Officers have continued to do the community bidding. Therefore, we did not meet with Chief Carter or any other officials about the Training Academy on December 1, 2022. It stated that the Fire companies canvassed the neighborhood and handed out/placed flyers on December 3rd and 4th. If that were the case, the people I canvassed didn't receive that flyer or remember talking with those representatives from the Fire companies. Their response to the Fire Academy relocation at the Hickory Hill Community Center was a resounding "NO."

I did receive an email on November 18 from L. Dexter Goode about a public meeting on December 8, 2022, @ 10:00 am on the 5th Floor of City Hall. I found that in my junk mail and wasn't aware of the meeting. I received an email from Travis Ford on February 1 about Richmond Fire and Emergency Services asking if they can attend and speak at our next Cullenwood Civic Association meeting. I haven't responded to that email as of this letter's writing.

We have become aware that individuals living in the neighborhood may represent themselves as speaking on behalf of the civic Association. They do not have the authority to speak on behalf of our Civic Association. Our Association has served as a constituency body and advocacy group for over 30 years.

We support the Southside Joint Civic Association and vehemently oppose the City of Richmond Fire Department's occupancy of the Hickory Hill Community Center for the safety and health of the community.

Sincerely,
Kenneth Gibson, Pres.
Cullenwood Community Association Action Committee
Kengee20@gmail.com
804-240-9504