



City of Richmond
Navy Hill Development Proposal
Public Hearing Minutes

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

6:00 PM

Richmond Government Southside Community
Services Center, Conference Rooms A, B and C
4100 Hull Street Road, Richmond, VA 23224

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Kim Gray (*late arrival*)
The Honorable Michael Jones
The Honorable Ellen Robertson
The Honorable Reva Trammell (*late arrival*)

Absent

The Honorable Chris Hilbert, Vice President
The Honorable Andreas Addison
The Honorable Kristen Larson
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch

Staff Present

Haskell C. Brown, III, Interim City Attorney
Meghan Brown, Deputy Council Chief of Staff
Jamie Isley, Assistant City Clerk
Candice Reid, City Clerk

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and presided.

Upon the President's request, City Clerk Candice Reid provided the citizen speaker guidelines for Council public hearings.

Councilor Kim Gray arrived at 6:06 p.m.

Councilor Reva Trammell arrived at 6:06 p.m.

PROPOSED NAVY HILL DEVELOPMENT (NHD) PROJECT PUBLIC HEARING

(Associated Legislation: ORDS. 2019-211, 2019-212, 2019-213, 2019-214, 2019-215, 2019-216, 2019-217, 2019-218, 2019-219 and RES. 2019-R044)

Opposition

Suzanne Keller spoke in opposition of the proposed Navy Hill Development project (NHDP), and expressed discontent with similar projects from the past and public funds being diverted from public services.

Joslyn E. Shipman spoke in opposition of the proposed NHDP and voiced concern regarding infrastructure, schools, residents of the proposed development area and the proposed arena.

Marie Hart spoke in opposition of the proposed NHDP and urged Council to allocate funds to public services such as infrastructure and schools.

Beatrice Bracey spoke in opposition of the proposed NHDP and inquired about funding.

Quinton Robbins spoke in opposition of the proposed NHDP and cited issues with the negotiation process, project financing and limited opportunities for public input.

Richard Bastow spoke in opposition of the proposed NHDP and requested members of Council to ensure their votes match the desires of their respective constituents.

Support

Freddie Robertson spoke in support of the proposed Navy Hill Development project (NHDP) and stated that the proposal provides opportunities for the less fortunate to receive training and employment.

Brian Anderson, ChamberRVA president and chief executive officer, spoke in support of the proposed NHDP and articulated a need for redevelopment and new revenue via tax collection, which could fund schools and public services.

Ajay Brewer spoke in support of the proposed NHDP and stated that Richmond youth need opportunities in addition to resources provided by schools. Mr. Brewer also discussed the proposed NHDP funding, the lack of residents within the proposed area and potential benefits to Richmond residents.

Gloria Simmons spoke in support of the proposed NHDP and addressed the current appearance of Broad Street in downtown Richmond.

Kenneth Gibson spoke in support of the proposed NHDP and informed Council of recent agreements between CSX Corporation and the Commonwealth of Virginia to expand railroad services between Washington, D.C., Richmond and Raleigh, NC.

Kenneth Jones spoke in support of the proposed NHDP and stated that public funds would not be used to subsidize the proposed Hyatt hotel, or start-up costs for the proposed arena. Mr. Jones expressed concern for lost career opportunities if the proposal were rejected.

Grace Washington spoke in support of the proposed NHDP and recounted comments made at the January 13, 2020, formal Council meeting regarding homicides in the city. Ms. Washington stated that increases in crime occur when there is a lack of opportunity.

Hanan El Amin spoke in support of the proposed NHDP and expressed a need for increased opportunities for youth in the city.

Opposition

Katie Neal, Neighborhood Resource Center (NRC) garden coordinator, spoke in opposition of the proposed NHDP and shared her experiences working with local children at the NRC. She requested funding allocation for schools and affordable housing opportunities in place of the proposed NHDP.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

CITY CLERK