



CITY OF RICHMOND

Department of Planning & Development Review *Staff Report*

Ord. No. 2014-187: To transfer and appropriate funds in the amount of \$900,000 from the School Planning & Construction project in the Education category within the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Capital Budget to the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 School Budget for expenditure by the School Board for technology purposes in accordance with the technology major classification for the purpose of providing for the installation of specific technology infrastructure and equipment in the new Huguenot High School.

To: City Planning Commission
From: Land Use Administration
Date: October 6, 2014

PETITIONER

City of Richmond

LOCATION

7945 Forest Hill Avenue

PURPOSE

Capital Improvement Plan amendment to transfer \$900,000 for the installation of specific technology infrastructure and equipment in the new Huguenot High School

SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION

State-of-the-art technology is critically important for Richmond students in all levels of schools and is one of the primary joint commitments of the City and RPS in the design and construction of the four new schools in Phase I under the City CIP School Planning & Construction Program. In summary, technology in each school consists of the infrastructure throughout the school along with the classroom equipment typically consisting of computers and smartboards. The technology investments/costs for the two elementary schools opened in January 2013 ranged from approximately \$785,000 to \$869,000 and for the M. L. King Jr. Middle School Project opened in January 2014 approximately \$1,750,000. Technology costs for the Huguenot High School Project are projected in the \$2,623,000 range before potential discounts.

In order to be eligible for potential federal E-Rate reimbursements which could be substantial on this project, Richmond Public Schools must procure the specified technology infrastructure and equipment directly from an E-Rate qualified vendor. Although there is a question as to whether the E-Rate program will be funded fully or partially, the City needs to be in a position to recover any possible costs through E-Rate reimbursement that could then be put back into the schools design and construction program. Therefore, the City Administration recommends approval of the acquisition.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Site Description

The site is located at 7945 Forest Hill Avenue and lies within the R-2 (Single-Family) zoning district. The new Huguenot High School is nearing completion on the site. The property is situated within a residential neighborhood and is adjacent to the county line of Chesterfield County.

Proposal

The proposed funding will be used to install specific technology infrastructure and equipment in the new Huguenot High School including the data network, NEC telephone system & intercom system.

Master Plan

This property is within the Huguenot Planning District. The current Master Plan calls for public and open space uses at this location. It is appropriate for a high school to be located at this site.

The Master Plan recommends the demolition and on-site facility replacement of the Huguenot High School (page 79). The Master Plan is supportive of sharing facilities between schools and other community uses and organizations. The Plan is also supportive of designing buildings to allow for maximum flexibility in the use of the space, and multiple-use facilities that accommodate both students and residents of the surrounding neighborhoods (page 77).

Zoning

The property is within the R-2 Single-Family zoning district, which permits schools, churches and other residential support uses.

Surrounding Area

Single-family residential properties are located to the west and north. Office uses are also located to the north, across Forest Hill Avenue. Multifamily residential uses and Thompson Middle School are located to the east. The Chesterfield County line runs along the southern boundary of the property.

Neighborhood Participation

Staff has received no letters of opposition or support from the public.

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