

From: [Regan Pickett](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Brookland Parkway Speed Reduction Ordinance No.2023-356
Date: Sunday, December 17, 2023 5:19:02 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Richmond City Council,

I am a resident of Sherwood Park in Richmond, VA and I support Ordinance No. 2023-356 to reduce the speed limit on Brookland Parkway to 25 mph between Brook Road and Hermitage Road. Brookland Parkway is a residential street with several winding curves in addition to bike lanes and floating parking. Additionally a K-8th grade Waldorf school is located directly on Brookland Parkway and the Veritas School is located a block away.

The current 35 mph speed limit is very unsafe for residents and children who walk along or try to cross Brookland Parkway. It is also unsafe for drivers who attempt to turn into the Sherwood Park neighborhood from Brookland Parkway because traffic routinely drives faster than the posted limit and drivers become impatient and aggressive while waiting for cars to turn left or right onto residential streets.

Thank you, Regan Pickett


From: [John Rendleman](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Brookland Parkway Speed Limit Reduction
Date: Sunday, December 17, 2023 5:21:37 PM

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Dear Richmond City Council,

I am a resident of Sherwood Park in Richmond, VA and I support Ordinance No. 2023-356 to reduce the speed limit on Brookland Parkway to 25 mph between Brook Road and Hermitage Road.

The current 35 mph speed limit is very unsafe for residents and children who walk along or try to cross Brookland Parkway. It is also unsafe for drivers who attempt to turn into the Sherwood Park neighborhood from Brookland Parkway because traffic routinely drives faster than the posted limit and drivers become impatient and aggressive while waiting for cars to turn left or right onto residential streets.

Thank you, John Rendleman
Gloucester Road

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Speeding on Brooklyn Pkwy
Date: Sunday, December 17, 2023 6:31:05 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Richmond City Council,

The deaths and destruction that occur at night by speeding individuals on Brookland Parkway is a tragedy that can be prevented.

I am a resident of Sherwood Park in Richmond, VA and I support Ordinance No. 2023-356 to reduce the speed limit on Brookland Parkway to 25 mph between Brook Road and Hermitage Road. Brookland Parkway is a residential street with several winding curves in addition to bike lanes and floating parking. Additionally a K-8th grade Waldorf school is located directly on Brookland Parkway and the Veritas School is located a block away.

The current 35 mph speed limit is very unsafe for residents and children who walk along or try to cross Brookland Parkway. It is also unsafe for drivers who attempt to turn into the Sherwood Park neighborhood from Brookland Parkway because traffic routinely drives faster than the posted limit and drivers become impatient and aggressive while waiting for cars to turn left or right onto residential streets.

Thank you,

Alice Baker
[REDACTED]

From: [Whitney Frost](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Ordinance No. 2023-356
Date: Sunday, December 17, 2023 7:30:25 PM

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Dear Richmond City Council,

I am a resident of Sherwood Park in Richmond, VA and I support Ordinance No. 2023-356 to reduce the speed limit on Brookland Parkway to 25 mph between Brook Road and Hermitage Road. Brookland Parkway is a residential street with several winding curves in addition to bike lanes and floating parking. Additionally a K-8th grade Waldorf school is located directly on Brookland Parkway and the Veritas School is located a block away.

The current 35 mph speed limit is very unsafe for residents and children who walk along, park or try to cross Brookland Parkway. It is also unsafe for drivers who attempt to turn into the Sherwood Park neighborhood from Brookland Parkway because traffic routinely drives faster than the posted limit and drivers become impatient and aggressive while waiting for cars to turn left or right onto residential streets.

Thank you,
Whitney Frost

From: [Chris Banks](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Philipsen, Sven J. - City Council](#)
Subject: Support for Ord 2023-356
Date: Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:44:14 PM

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Dear Richmond City Council,

I am a resident of Sherwood Park in Richmond, VA and I support Ordinance No. 2023-356 to reduce the speed limit on Brookland Parkway to 25 mph between Brook Road and Hermitage Road. The speed limit already drops to 25, east of Brook road, and is also slower west of Hermitage. In the 3 short years I have lived on Brookland parkway, I have seen first hand the injuries and loss of life speeding drivers bring to this street as well as damage to my property and adjacent neighbors. Brookland Parkway is a residential street, bisecting our neighborhood, with several winding curves in addition to bike lanes and floating parking. Frederick Olmstead designed this street to be wide, not for high speeds, but to accommodate trolley lines and walking paths. Existing before the highway chopped off the bottom our neighborhood, Brookland Parkway was never meant to be the high speed cut through for commuters that it is today. Additionally, a K-8th grade Waldorf school is located on Brookland Parkway and the Veritas School is located a block away.

The current 35 mph posted speed limit is very unsafe for residents and children who walk along or try to cross Brookland Parkway. Numerous official yellow caution signs, flashing school lights, and "Slow Down" yard signs have been tried. Half of the neighborhood's families with young children, myself included, must cross to get to the closest playground. It is also unsafe for drivers who attempt to turn into side streets from Brookland Parkway because traffic routinely drives faster than the posted limit. Drivers become impatient and aggressive while waiting for cars to turn left or right onto residential streets, and completely ignore pedestrians.

Thank you,

Chris Banks


From: [Donna Hughs](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Brookland Parkway Traffic Speed Reduction
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:27:56 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Richmond City Council,

I am a resident of Sherwood Park in Richmond, VA and I support Ordinance No. 2023-356 to reduce the speed limit on Brookland Parkway to 25 mph between Brook Road and Hermitage Road. Brookland Parkway is a residential street with several winding curves in addition to bike lanes and floating parking. Additionally a K-8th grade Waldorf school is located directly on Brookland Parkway and the Veritas School is located a block away.

The current 35 mph speed limit is very unsafe for residents and children who walk along or try to cross Brookland Parkway. It is also unsafe for drivers who attempt to turn into the Sherwood Park neighborhood from Brookland Parkway because traffic routinely drives faster than the posted limit and drivers become impatient and aggressive while waiting for cars to turn left or right onto residential streets.

Thank you,

Donna Hughs

Sherwood Park Resident
SPCA Gov. Affairs Committee

From: [Janice Bowie](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Ordinance No. 2023-356
Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 12:40:07 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

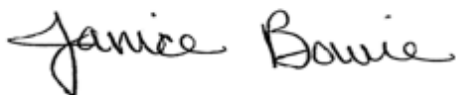
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Dear Richmond City Council,

I am a resident of Sherwood Park in Richmond, VA, and support Ordinance No. 2023-356 to reduce the speed limit on Brookland Parkway to 25 mph between Brook Road and Hermitage Road. Brookland Parkway is a residential street with several winding curves, bike lanes, and floating parking. Additionally, a K-8th grade Waldorf school is located directly on Brookland Parkway, and the Veritas School is located nearby.

The current 35 mph speed limit is unsafe for residents and children who walk along or try to cross Brookland Parkway. It is also unsafe for drivers who attempt to turn into the Sherwood Park neighborhood from Brookland Parkway and Arthur Ashe Boulevard because traffic routinely drives faster than the posted limit and drivers become impatient and aggressive while waiting for cars to turn left or right onto residential streets. I hope you will consider approving the above-numbered ordinance. Thank you.

Respectfully,



Janice Bowie, PhD, MPH (she/her)
Emerita Professor
Department of Health, Behavior and Society



From: [Andrew Ross](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Ordinance No. 2023-356
Date: Thursday, December 21, 2023 6:22:40 AM

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Dear Richmond City Council,

I am a resident of Sherwood Park in Richmond, VA and I support Ordinance No. 2023-356 to reduce the speed limit on Brookland Parkway to 25 mph between Brook Road and Hermitage Road. Brookland Parkway is a residential street with several winding curves in addition to bike lanes and floating parking. Additionally, our Early Childhood to 8th grade Richmond Waldorf School is located directly on Brookland Parkway and the Veritas School is located a block away.

The current 35 mph speed limit is very unsafe for residents and children who walk along or try to cross Brookland Parkway. It is also unsafe for drivers who attempt to turn into the Sherwood Park neighborhood from Brookland Parkway because traffic routinely drives faster than the posted limit and drivers become impatient and aggressive while waiting for cars to turn left or right onto residential streets. I have experienced this personally as I have been biking with my 3 children to school since August trying to cross the road to go to our school. Our school zone flashing lights have not been working properly despite our repeated attempts to get this resolved with the proper authorities. I hope this ordinance can be taken seriously as a major safety issue for children and residents is at stake.

Together We Serve,
Andrew S. Ross
Director of Administration



From: [Michael Gurvich](#)
To: [Oliver, Alyson E. - PDR](#); [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Ordinance 2023-340
Date: Wednesday, December 27, 2023 8:52:03 AM

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Good Morning,

Myself and many of my fellow neighbors are not in support of Ord 2023-340 that states "To close, to public use and travel, an unimproved portion of West 20th Street located between Semmes Avenue and Sioux Falls Alley, consisting of 10,486 ? square feet, upon certain terms and conditions." I live on 24th and have already seen increased travel on my street and despite multiple requests for traffic calming measures, all have been denied. This ordinance is sure to only out further strain on my street and those nearby in the neighborhood, solely at the benefit of the townhouses. I hope you will represent your constituents and renounce this proposed ordinance.

Thanks,
Michael Gurvich
[REDACTED]

From: [Brian Thomson](#)
To: [Oliver, Alyson E. - PDR](#); [City Clerk's Office](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robins, Amy E. - City Council Office](#)
Cc: [pippa Holloway](#)
Subject: About ORD 2023340 Proposed Closing of W 20th Street
Date: Wednesday, December 27, 2023 9:24:58 AM

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Why is the developer not being held to the original agreed plan for W 20th Street and the development of Belle Heights?

How do we say no to this proposal?

File #: ORD 2023340 **Version:** 1
Type: Ordinance
Title: To close, to public use and travel, an unimproved portion of West 20th Street located between Semmes Avenue and Sioux Falls Alley, consisting of 10,486 ± square feet, upon certain terms and conditions.
Mover: **Seconder:**
Result:
Agenda note: To be continued to Monday, January 8, 2024
Minutes note:
Action: continued and referred back
Action text: Continued to Monday, January 8, 2024

.....
[Brian Thomson](#)
[REDACTED]
.....

From: [Pippa Holloway](#)
To: [Oliver, Alyson E. - PDR](#); [City Clerk's Office](#); [Robins, Amy E. - City Council Office](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#)
Subject: ORD. 2023-340
Date: Wednesday, December 27, 2023 1:55:08 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear All,

I am writing as a resident of Richmond, residing on Semmes Avenue just a few blocks away from the Belle Heights development. I strongly oppose the permanent closure of W 20th St between Semmes Ave and Sioux Falls.

Over the past two years, Semmes Avenue residents have organized the Semmes Avenue Safety committee. We do not want Semmes Ave to continue to function as a high-speed thoroughway and are actively communicating with city leaders to advocate for safe, walkable neighborhoods. I believe that ORD. 2023-340 contradicts these goals.

Reopening W 20th would contribute to slowing down traffic on Semmes Avenue and within Belle Heights. The addition of a second outlet onto Semmes Ave, as outlined in the original SUP, would introduce traffic calming measures to a stretch where cars currently reach speeds of 50+ MPH regularly.

Furthermore, reopening W. 20th would help fulfill the promise of restoring the street grid in the area, enhancing integration of the development into the neighborhood. We are opposed to living near a walled-off suburban-style subdivision where residents must navigate traffic while racing in and out of the area by car at a single exit point. Our desire is for the development promised in the SUP—a pedestrian-friendly community that fosters connections across our wonderfully diverse neighborhood.

Please reject this ordinance and ensure the developer lives up to their original proposal.

Thanks,

Pippa Holloway




From: [Abby Gurvich](#)
To: [Oliver, Alyson E. - PDR](#); [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#)
Subject: Re: Ordinance 2023-340
Date: Wednesday, December 27, 2023 4:42:07 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Good Afternoon,

Myself and many of my fellow neighbors are not in support of Ord 2023-340 that states "To close, to public use and travel, an unimproved portion of West 20th Street located between Semmes Avenue and Sioux Falls Alley, consisting of 10,486 square feet, upon certain terms and conditions." I live on 24th and have already seen increased travel on my street and despite multiple requests for traffic calming measures, all have been denied. This ordinance is sure to only out further strain on my street and those nearby in the neighborhood, solely at the benefit of the townhouses. I hope you will represent your constituents and renounce this proposed ordinance.

Thanks,
Abby Gurvich


From: [Jessica Lam](#)
To: [Oliver, Alyson E. - PDR](#); [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission for Public Comment to Ordinance 2023-340
Date: Wednesday, December 27, 2023 7:59:18 PM

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Hello,

I am a homeowner in the Belle Heights community and petition Ordinance 2023-340 to permanently close the stretch of W20th St between Belle Heights' Sioux Falls Alley and Semmes Ave. This will cause so many dangerous backups in our neighborhood and cause even more chaos to the dismal parking situation for current residents. Please do not move forward with this ordinance!

Jessica Lam

From: [Ty Wilkinson](#)
To: [Oliver, Alyson E. - PDR](#); [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robins, Amy E. - City Council Office](#)
Subject: ORD. 2023-340
Date: Friday, December 29, 2023 10:48:03 AM

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Closing this street would be a poor urban planning choice and would make the area even more dangerous for non car users.

The developer said they were going to do it, so they should do it. Only changing your mind once you realize you could make more money is not good urban planning.

Thank you

From: [Larissa Hutson](#)
To: [Oliver, Alyson E. - PDR; City Clerk's Office](#)
[\[REDACTED\] Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#)
Comments on ORD. 2023-340
Date: Saturday, December 30, 2023 12:45:29 PM

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Hello,

As a homeowner in the Belle Heights community I would like to state my objection to the proposal to close west 20th street per ORD. 2023-340.

Closing this road will force all residents of the developers planned housing to exit via Belle Heights and our community is already struggling with narrow streets and one main exit to Semmes road. Additional traffic may increase the risk of accidents as drivers exit the neighborhood.

Please do not approve the ordinance.

Regards,
Larissa Hutson

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Amanda Todd](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Brookland pkwy speeding
Date: Monday, January 1, 2024 2:21:40 PM

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Good afternoon;

I live at [REDACTED] and would like to show my support to any initiatives for the reduction of speed on our block.

Speed bumps, stop signs, cameras and anything else that will reduce the speeding that we see each day

Thank you

Amanda Todd

From: [David Maier](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Comments in support of Ord. No. 2023-356 reducing speed limit on Brookland Pkwy
Date: Monday, January 1, 2024 2:55:43 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Richmond City Council-

I am a Richmond City resident, residing on Brookland Pkwy between Robin Hood Drive and Hermitage, in the area affected by proposed ordinance No. 2023-356. This ordinance would reduce the speed limit from the current 35 mph to 25 mph from Brook Rd to Hermitage. I am writing in enthusiastic support of this ordinance.

The current speed limit of 35 mph is an aberration. The speed limit of Brookland Pkwy east of Brook Road (where it is a four lane median divided street) is 25 mph. But for reasons that are unclear, for the seven blocks from Brook Rd to Hermitage the speed limit increases to 35 mph.

This speed increase is unwarranted and it is dangerous. This winding stretch of Brook Rd, originally developed as four lanes divided by a median, was reduced to one driving lane on each side, plus a parking lane, and, now, a bicycle path- essentially 2.5 lanes on each side (see photos attached). This design squeezes the parking lane perilously close to the cars speeding by at speeds often closer to 45 mph. It is so perilous that people parking their cars often fudge over into the bicycle lane, which is a hazard for the bicyclists.

In addition, because of the winding nature of the road through this area, and the unconventional intersections at Robin Hood and Rennie/Loxley (see photos attached), it is often difficult for drivers to assess the safety of entering the intersections. There have been several accidents at or near Loxley because of this issue.

And in the middle of this stretch of Brookland Pkwy, at Robin Hood, is the Waldorf School zone, which, when activated, reduces the speed limit to 25 mph, which is more often observed in the breach because of the higher default speed limit.

There is nothing inherent in this seven block stretch which demands a higher speed limit; the neighborhood character, the lane design, and the extremely close proximity of the speeding cars to the parking strip, call for a reduced speed limit.

I have attached satellite views to illustrate the situation.

For safety's sake, please approve this ordinance, and reduce the speed limit to a level that the current lane configuration requires.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

David Maier



From: [Maria Barrow](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Reducing the speed limit on Brookland Parkway
Date: Monday, January 1, 2024 3:54:41 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Richmond City Council,

I live at [REDACTED] in Sherwood Park. I write in support of Ordinance No. 2023-356 to reduce the speed limit on Brookland Parkway to 25 mph between Brook Road and Hermitage Road. Brookland Parkway is a residential street with several winding curves in addition to bike lanes and floating parking. The Waldorf School (a K-8th grade school) is located directly on Brookland Parkway and the Veritas School is located a block away. Often during the school day, the teachers at Veritas School take their students on bike rides throughout the neighborhood, often on Brookland Parkway.

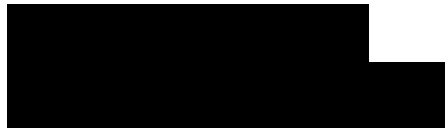
The current 35 mph speed limit is very unsafe for residents and children who walk and bike along or try to cross Brookland Parkway. It is also unsafe for drivers who attempt to turn into the Sherwood Park neighborhood from Brookland Parkway because traffic routinely drives MUCH faster than the posted limit and drivers become impatient and aggressive while waiting for cars to turn left or right onto residential streets. Once, as I was slowing down to turn right onto Gloucester Road, a driver behind me became impatient and attempted to pass me on the RIGHT (in the floating car parking lane!) because

apparently he didn't pay enough attention to realize I was turning right, in spite of the fact that I had my turn signal on. It could easily have been an accident.

I hope that you will understand how the safety of our neighbors requires a reduction in the speed limit to 25 mph.

Thank you for your service on Council and consideration of this request.

Maria Barrow



From: [Kathryn Wilson](#)
To: [Oliver, Alyson E. - PDR](#); [City Clerk's Office](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: ORD 2023-340 - KEEP W. 20th STREET!
Date: Monday, January 1, 2024 4:37:25 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hello and happy new year,

I am submitting my public comment for ORD 2023-340 regarding the closure of W. 20th St. I am a homeowner in the Belle Heights neighborhood and will be directly affected if 20th street is closed.

As a member of the HOA and full time resident, I have serious concerns for the implications of closing this route. The neighborhood was designed to have that road be an exit for the neighborhood. I bought my townhouse with this agreement with the developer.

If the road is closed, there will be significant traffic rerouting that will affect the safety of the neighborhood, especially when the surrounding land becomes developed. It will cause unprecedented and unsustainable congestion on Manastoh/previous 21st St. There is already a congestion issue at the intersection of Manastoh/Semmes currently, and this will exacerbate it. We have families and kids in the neighborhood- funneling the traffic to Manastoh/21st Street will put pedestrians at risk. It will make it incredibly difficult to head west on Semmes; make Sioux Falls Alley a shortcut (a huge safety concern for residents); threaten pedestrian safety; and worsen our already strained parking situation.

I attended a meeting with an attorney that represents the landowners of the surrounding property's interest and was displeased with their proposed solution(s). They discussed putting another East/West road from the neighborhood to Cowardin. They claim this will improve the neighborhood, and I completely disagree. They have shared that a stoplight at the intersection of Manastoh/Semmes is not feasible, so their solutions do NOT resolve the issues that closing 20th street will create. Additionally, people in Springhill and Woodland Heights neighborhoods also share concerns of the density of development that closing 20th St. will create. Several blocks of residents wish 20th street to remain.

Please consider this opinion in your decision and keep West 20th Street open. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Katy Wilson

From: [Janice Carter-Lovejoy](#)
To: [Oliver, Alyson E. - PDR](#); [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Robins, Amy E. - City Council Office](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#)
Subject: ORD 2023-340 Requests by Springhill Neighborhood
Date: Monday, January 1, 2024 5:28:31 PM
Attachments: [ORD 2023_340 Petition .pdf](#)

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January 1, 2024

To: Richmond Planning Commission and Richmond City Council
cc Stephanie Lynch, Amy Robins

I appreciate the Commission's December 4, 2023 delay of action on ORD 2023-340 until the January 2, 2024 meeting. This delay gave the neighborhoods adjacent to the proposed closure of W 20th St. some time to examine the proposal further, meet with the developer's representative (Preston Lloyd), and speak with members of the Planning Commission, City Council, and staff,

The Springhill Old and Historic District and neighborhood has concluded that vacating the re-establishment of W 20th St from Semmes Ave south to Sioux Falls Alley will be detrimental to the adjacent neighborhoods.

We urge the Planning Commission and City Council to do the following:

- Reject proposed ordinance 2023-340
- Ensure the completion of W 20th St
- Provide safe vehicular and pedestrian passage at the intersection of W 21st St and Semmes Ave

The original plans for developing Belle Heights include completion of W 20th St. The street was also included in materials presented to purchasers of the new townhomes. That portion of the street grid is vital to traffic flow in and out of the Belle Heights neighborhood, *even before* approximately 250 new apartments are built along the 2000 and 1900 blocks of Semmes Ave (south side) plus twenty *senior* apartments on the 1900 block (north side) of Semmes Ave which have already been approved and are underway. The City's Master Plan also calls for completion of the street grid because it helps the interconnectedness of neighborhoods and helps vehicles and pedestrians move freely.

Every Springhill neighbor I spoke with about the proposal was eager to sign the petition communicating our request to require the completion of W 20th Street. Further, many shared their fear when traveling Semmes Ave when needing to turn into and out of the Springhill neighborhood because of uninhibited traffic speeds. Not only is it difficult for vehicles to enter and exit Semmes Ave, but pedestrian crossing is also treacherous. Vehicle speeds make it unsafe for pedestrians to get across to bus stops, other neighborhoods, and businesses. Some neighbors asked, "When will a traffic light and cross walk be installed at the intersection of W 21st St and Semmes Ave", and "How can we get

more police patrols to ticket speeders?"

A scanned pdf copy of the petition, accompanying illustration, and two pages of signatures from the Springhill neighborhood are attached herein.

Thank you,

Janice Carter-Lovejoy
Springhill Neighborhood

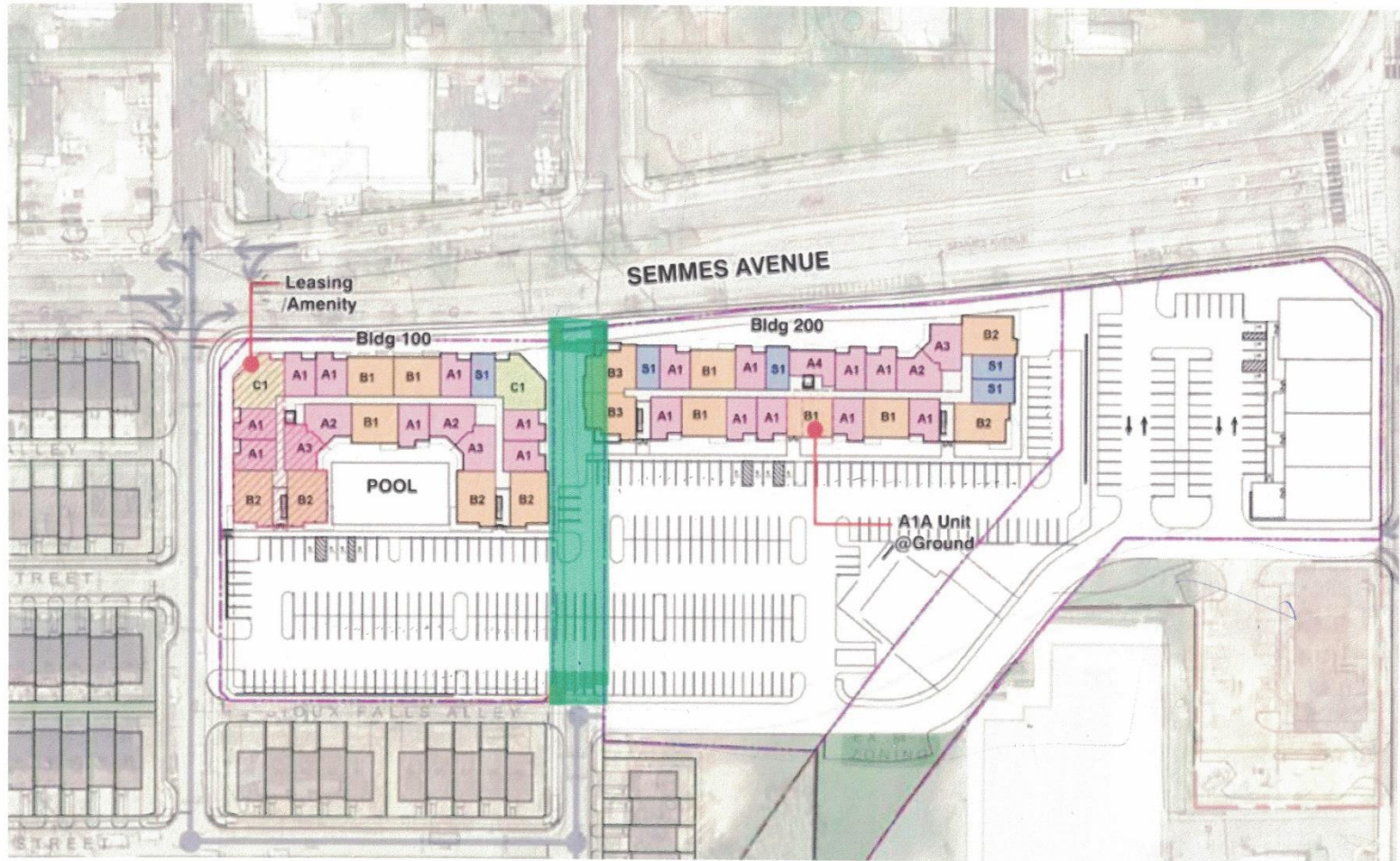
PETITION
FOR
TRAFFIC CONTROL AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY MANAGEMENT
Adjacent to 2200 – 1800 Semmes Ave and 400 block of W 20th St.

As the residential and commercial build-out continues along Semmes and Cowardin avenues, traffic volume will increased significantly. Traffic control and safety are lacking there for motor vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians. We, the neighbors, are concerned that if W. 20th Street spanning Semmes Avenue and Sioux Falls Alley is not built, and traffic and pedestrian signals are not installed at the W. 21st Street and Semmes Avenue intersection, there will be more near misses, traffic accidents, and pedestrian injuries and deaths.

Is the City interested in creating a failure?

By signing this petition, I support the following:

- That Richmond City Council, Planning Commission, and Department of Planning and Development require that Harper Associates fulfill the commitments of their original, approved POD for the Belle Heights community with W. 20th featured as an entrance/exit.
- The completion of W. 20th St from Semmes Avenue to Sioux Falls Alley.
- Provide safe vehicular and pedestrian passage at the intersection of W 21st and Semmes Ave, so that access to the James River Park System can be safely enjoyed by residents of the Belle Heights and neighboring communities.



Name [Please Print Clearly]	Resident's Signature	Date
Janice Carter-Lovejoy	Janice Carter-Lovejoy	12/29/21
Sharon Carter-Lovejoy	Sharon Carter-Lovejoy	12/29/21
Allison Midkiff	Allison Midkiff	12-29
Daniel Midkiff	Daniel Midkiff	12-29
Julie Pinkard	Julie Pinkard	12/29/21
Ed Slipek	Ed Slipek	12/29/21
Chris Bolt	Chris Bolt	12/29/21
Thomas Braun	Thomas Braun	12/29/21
Meredith McCarthy	Meredith McCarthy	12/29/21
Taylor Karm	Taylor Karm	12/29
Jessie Hendricks	Jessie Hendricks	12/29
Jessica Hendricks	Jessica Hendricks	12/29
FANNIE ROBINSON	FANNIE ROBINSON	12/29
Judy Marcello	Judy Marcello	12/29/21
Cody Crossley	Cody Crossley	12/29
Matthew Stucker	Matthew Stucker	12/29
Robert Chappas	Robert Chappas	12/29
Pam Kelleher	Pam Kelleher	12/29
Erin Kelleher	Erin Kelleher	12/29
Cameron Kitcher	Cameron Kitcher	12/31
Emily Kitcher	Emily Kitcher	12/31
Trevor Radow	Trevor Radow	12/31
MegAnne Wood	MegAnne Wood	12/31
Elizabeth Berman	Elizabeth Berman	12/31
Christopher B. Montgomery	Christopher B. Montgomery	12/31
Keryn Pally	Keryn Pally	12/31
Ed Pally	Ed Pally	"

From: [Kenney Cobb](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Ordinance 2023- 356
Date: Monday, January 1, 2024 6:18:37 PM

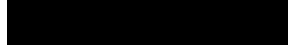
CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Richmond City Council,

I am a resident of Sherwood Park in Richmond, VA and I support Ordinance No. 2023-356 to reduce the speed limit on Brookland Parkway to 25 mph between Brook Road and Hermitage Road. Brookland Parkway is a residential street with several winding curves in addition to bike lanes and floating parking. K-8th grade Waldorf School is located directly on Brookland Parkway and the Veritas School is located a block away.

The current 35 mph speed limit is unsafe for residents and children who walk along or try to cross Brookland Parkway. It is also unsafe for drivers who attempt to turn into the Sherwood Park neighborhood from Brookland Parkway because traffic routinely drives faster than the posted limit and drivers become impatient and aggressive while waiting for cars to turn left or right onto residential streets.

**Thank you,
Kenney Cobb**



Sent from my iPhone. Please excuse clumsy fingered spelling.

From: [Gerd Langenbucher](#)
To: [Oliver, Alyson E. - PDR](#); [City Clerk's Office](#); [Robins, Amy E. - City Council Office](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#)
Subject: ORD 2023-340: Belle Heights Neighborhood Petition in opposition to the proposal
Date: Monday, January 1, 2024 8:05:20 PM
Attachments: [petition belle heights.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

To: Richmond Planning Commission and Richmond City Council
cc Stephanie Lynch, Amy Robins

With this email and public comment, I would like to submit Belle Heights petition against ORD 2023-340.

The delayed action on ORD 2023-340 has allowed Belle Heights Neighbors to review the Ordinance and meet with a representative of the developer, Preston Lloyd for additional information, and speak with city officials and representatives of adjacent neighborhoods.

With only one resident undecided, all other residents who have participated consider the proposed vacation of the public right of way and permanent closure of W20th St between Sioux Falls Aly and Semmes Ave as detrimental to Belle Heights, adjacent neighborhoods, and the new development and have therefore signed the attached petition which asks to

- Reject the proposed ordinance 2023-340
- Ensure the completion of W 20th St as required in Ord 2019-013 and promised to homebuyers in Belle Heights
- Provide safe vehicular and pedestrian passage at the intersection of W 21st St and Semmes Ave

No single resident has spoken in favor of Ord 2023-340!

It is important to understand that the community welcomes the development of the vacant lots, but is opposed to the closure of this vital connection to Semmes Ave which is in agreement with the Richmond 300 Masterplan, Ord 2019-013, and every single document available to Belle Heights homeowners during the purchase of their home, including the governing documents of Belle Heights.

A digital copy containing 66 signatures of residents of 111 Belle Heights homes is attached. The original will be available during the public hearing on Jan 2.

Thank you,

Gerd Langenbucher
Belle Heights Resident,
Future Transitional HOA Board Member

**PETITION
FOR
TRAFFIC CONTROL AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY MANAGEMENT
Adjacent to 2200 – 1800 Semmes Ave and 400 block of W 20th St.**

As the residential and commercial build-out continues along Semmes and Cowardin avenues, traffic volume will increased significantly. Traffic control and safety are lacking there for motor vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians. We, the neighbors, are concerned that if W. 20th Street spanning Semmes Avenue and Sioux Falls Alley is not built, and traffic and pedestrian signals are not installed at the W. 21st Street and Semmes Avenue intersection, there will be more near misses, traffic accidents, and pedestrian injuries and deaths.

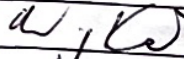
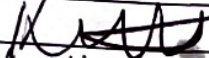
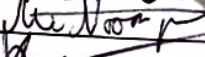
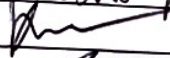
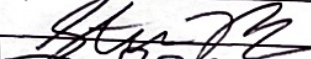
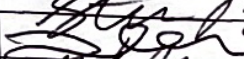

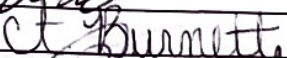
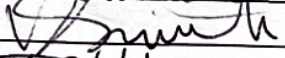
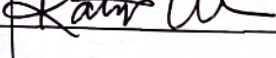
Is the City interested in creating a failure?

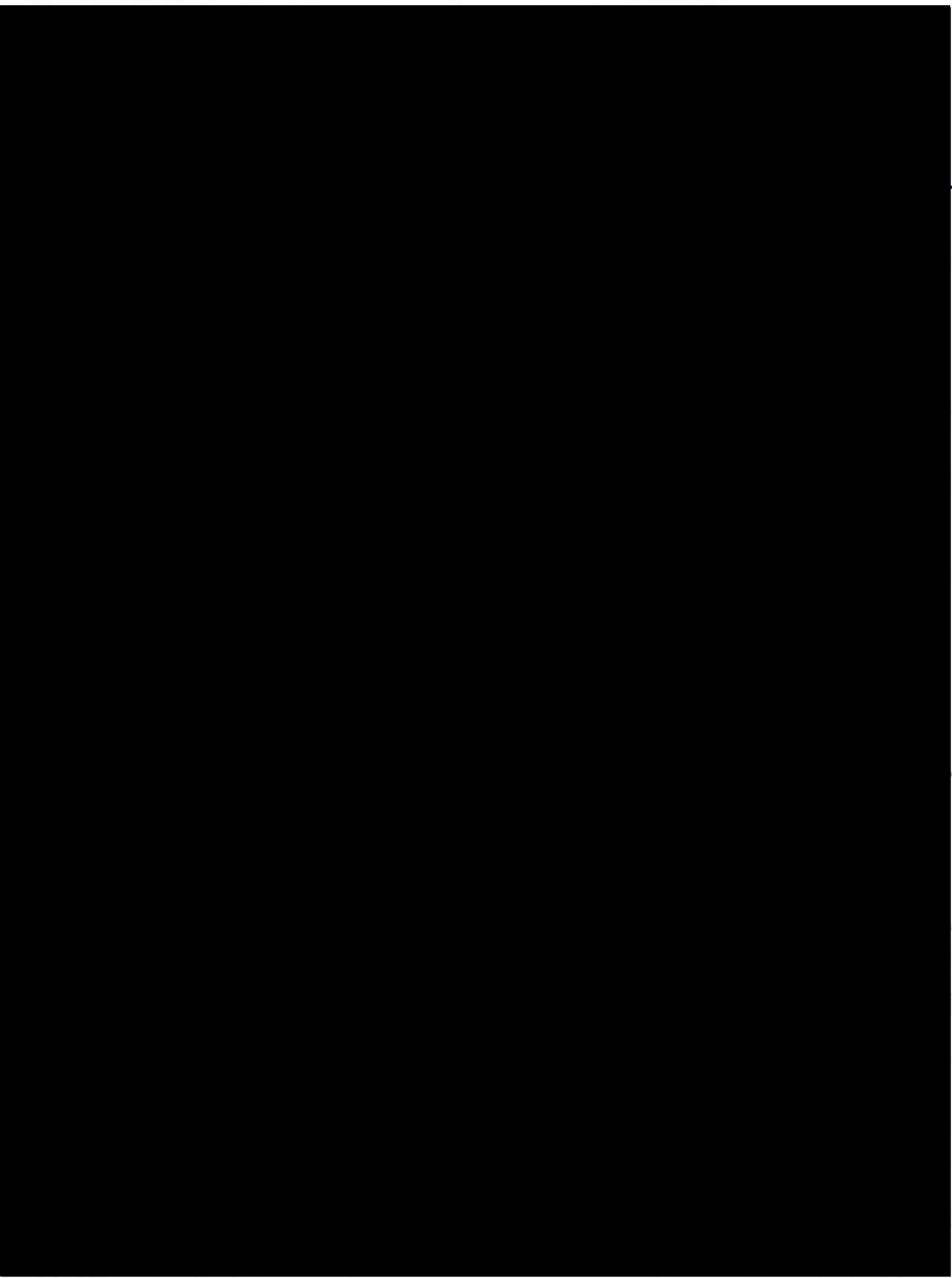
By signing this petition, I support the following:

- That Richmond City Council, Planning Commission, and Department of Planning and Development require that Harper Associates fulfill the commitments of their original, approved POD for the Belle Heights community with W. 20th featured as an entrance/exit.
- The completion of W. 20th St from Semmes Avenue to Sioux Falls Alley.
- Provide safe vehicular and pedestrian passage at the intersection of W 21st and Semmes Ave, so that access to the James River Park System can be safely enjoyed by residents of the Belle Heights and neighboring communities.

Name [Please Print Clearly]	Resident's Signature	Date
GERD LANGENBUCHER		12/23
MICHAEL RIZZO		12/23
Lois Redmond		12/23
Arthur Holmes		12/23
Angela Thwaitt		12/23
William Sasakura		12/23
Anna Redman		12/23
John Duke		12/23
Haley Minter		12/23
Erik Emdee		12/23
Nelson Rodriguez		12/23
Kim Harris		12/23
Mike Jones		12/23
Jordan Callahan	Jordan Callahan	12/23
Juvon Williams		12/23
Jared G. Boino		12/24
Melissa Urzcek		12/24
Amanda Green		12/24
Madison Watson		12/24
Young S Ham		12/24
Charles D. Redmond		12/26
Judith Alexander	Judith Alexander	12/26
STEVEN T. ALEXANDER		12/26
Landon Rooker		12/26
Andrew Adams		12/26
Stephanie Adams		12/26
Chris Smith		12/26
Kaleigh Smith		12/26

Name [Please Print Clearly]	Resident's Signature
Dan Callahan	Dan Callahan
Roberto Mejia	Roberto Mejia
Larissa Hytson	Larissa Hytson
Paul Yumbell	PAUL KAMBALL
Andrew Beauvais	A. Beauvais
Mitchell Deshane	Mitchell Deshane
Quinn Syed	Quinn Syed
Alex Carr	Alex Carr
Allison Antan	Allison Antan
Anna Law	Anna Law
SANDRA LANGENBUCHER	Sandra Langenbucher
Judy Tat	Judy Tat
Elves P. Landrum	Elves P. Landrum
Jessica Landrum	Jessica Landrum
Lewis G. Richards	Lewis G. Richards
Rebecca Cimintelli	Rebecca Cimintelli
Tyler Koshute	Tyler Koshute
Kelly Brewer	Kelly Brewer
Kurt Roshel	Kurt Roshel
Julio Garcia	Julio Garcia
Katrice A. Hawthorne	Katrice A. Hawthorne
Allan White	Allan White
Klausa de Carvalho	Klausa de Carvalho
McCall, Christopher	Christopher McCall
Sarah Miller	Sarah Miller
Mickey Sheridan	Mickey Sheridan
Gabriel Langenbucher	Gabriel Langenbucher
Tyler Lewis	Tyler Lewis

Name [Please Print Clearly]	Resident's Signature	Date
Will Kent		12-30
Katy Robins		12-31
Ali Khour Jassani		12/31
Rameen Rajani		12/31
Steven Bayne		12/31
Mike Trinh		12/31
William Trent		1/1
Alexis Burnett		1/1/2
Kathleen Smith		1-1-2
Kathryn Wilson		1/1/2



From: [Gregg Johnson](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Brookland Pkwy speed limit
Date: Monday, January 1, 2024 9:38:16 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Richmond City Council,

I am a resident of Sherwood Park in Richmond, VA and I support Ordinance No. 2023-356 to reduce the speed limit on Brookland Parkway to 25 mph between Brook Road and Hermitage Road. My car was totaled while parked on Brookland Pkwy by someone driving at an excessive speed.

The current 35 mph speed limit is very unsafe for residents and children who walk along or try to cross Brookland Parkway. It is also unsafe for drivers who attempt to turn into the Sherwood Park neighborhood from Brookland Parkway because traffic routinely drives faster than the posted limit and drivers become impatient and aggressive while waiting for cars to turn left or right onto residential streets.

Thank you,

Gregg Johnson 

From: [William Kirk](#)
To: [Oliver, Alyson E. - PDR](#); [City Clerk's Office](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robins, Amy E. - City Council Office](#)
Subject: ORD. 2023-340 - Keep W 20th Street
Date: Monday, January 1, 2024 11:59:37 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hello and Happy New Year,

I am submitting a public comment for the ORD. 2023-340 regarding the proposed closure/vacation of the right-of-way of W 20th St. at the intersection of Semmes Ave. My wife and I are homeowners in the Belle Heights neighborhood and will be directly and negatively affected if the right-of-way of W 20th street is closed/vacated based on the sole interest of a single proposed developer of the adjacent vacant lot.

As a member of the Belle Heights HOA and full time resident, there are serious concerns about the implications of closing off the possibility for W 20th St of being a road in the future. It's only a single developer who wants to have the ROW vacated in order for them to make even more money at the expense of neighboring landowners by building a large development on the adjacent undeveloped land without having to worry about the existing street grid. By closing down that section of W 20th St, that will result in nearly all traffic of the future development using W 21st St south of Semmes Ave (A/K/A "Manastoh Rd" in the Belle Heights neighborhood) in order to either: 1) exit onto Semmes Ave to turn Left and head West on Semmes Ave.; AND/OR 2) enter into and travel towards the back of the proposed development.

In short, the section of W 21st St south of Semmes Ave., is not designed (or sufficient) to handle an increase of any more traffic than it currently serves for the Belle Heights neighborhood. It's simply too small of a street and barely serves the current traffic volume of Belle Heights - much less handling more traffic from an adjacent development that is poorly designed to allow for sufficient traffic ingress/egress on its own.

If the ROW at W 20th St is closed, there will be significant detrimental impacts from the resulting oversized development that will negatively affect the safety of the neighborhood. It will cause unsustainable congestion on Manastoh/W 21st St. There is already a congestion issue at the intersection of Manastoh and Semmes currently and any closure of W 20th St would only exacerbate it.

My wife and I are also concerned that by allowing such a large development on the vacant land (which the closure of the ROW of W 20th St would allow), the resulting oversized development will inevitably not have enough parking spaces and there will be spillover of future cars looking to park in the Belle Heights

neighborhood - which already has barely enough parking spaces for current residents.

Plus, with many families and children in the neighborhood, any increase of traffic on Manastoh/W 21st St will be a safety issue for pedestrians and bicycle traffic. Having a huge apartment building or other large development adjacent to Belle Heights and W 20th St will hurt pedestrian safety, make it incredibly difficult to exit Belle Heights and head West on Semmes Ave, and threaten to worsen the already strained parking situation.

My wife and I attended a meeting with an attorney that represents the landowners of the adjacent property's interest and we are displeased with a solution they proposed. In fact, we really don't consider it to be a "solution" at all because it doesn't seem to actually solve any of the problems that the closure of W 20th St will create. The proposed developers discussed putting another road from the Belle Heights neighborhood with an exit out to Cowardin Ave. They claim this will improve the neighborhood, and we completely disagree. If W 20th St is closed, there is absolutely no need for a connection to Cowardin Ave, as anyone in the neighborhood can easily head East on Semmes a very short distance to the intersection with Cowardin and turn Right if we ever wanted to head South on Cowardin (or alternatively, head out the back of the Belle Height neighborhood to Perry St and out to Cowardin directly). Practically speaking, there's probably not a single person in the Belle Heights neighborhood that ever has trouble heading South on Cowardin - nor do we need a way to turn Right off of Cowardin and take a winding, S-shaped road into our neighborhood. In summary, it's hard to see how the proposed solution of a connecting road to Cowardin Ave. truly benefits Belle Heights. (Now, if the future developers of the adjacent land want to build their own connection out to Cowardin Ave to serve the purposes of directing traffic to their development from Cowardin, that is their prerogative to pursue)

Additionally, people in the nearby Springhill and Woodland Heights neighborhoods also share concerns with the density of development that closing W 20th St. will create. There are lots of people in the surrounding area who wish W 20th St to remain. Any future development of the adjacent land needs to simply provide sufficient options (like using W 20th St) for ingress/egress on to Semmes Ave as part of the development.

Please consider our opinion in your decision and keep the ROW at W 20th Street open. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
William Kirk

From: [Crista Fore](#)
To: [Oliver, Alyson E. - PDR](#); [City Clerk's Office](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robins, Amy E. - City Council Office](#)
Subject: ORD. 2023-340; Belle Heights
Date: Tuesday, January 2, 2024 8:51:34 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

I am writing to request

1. Richmond city council, Planning Commission, and Dept of Planning and Development require Harper Associates (developer of Belle Heights) fulfill the commitments of their original and approved POD for the Belle Heights community with W. 20th as an entrance and exit.
2. To complete West 20th St from Semmes Ave to Sioux Falls Alley.
3. Provide SAFE vehicle and pedestrian/bike passage at the intersection of West 21st Street and Semmes Avenue, so all neighboring communities on the south side of Semmes can SAFELY access to the James River Park System which is a main reason many residents like myself chose to live in this area!

Thank you!

Crista Fore

From: [Daisy Weaver](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Ord # 2023-356 -Speed Limit of Brookland Parkway
Date: Tuesday, January 2, 2024 9:19:22 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Richmond City Council,

I am a resident of Sherwood Park in Richmond, VA and I support Ordinance No. 2023-356 to reduce the speed limit on Brookland Parkway to 25 mph between Brook Road and Hermitage Road. Brookland Parkway is a residential street with several winding curves in addition to bike lanes and floating parking. Additionally a K-8th grade Waldorf school is located directly on Brookland Parkway and the Veritas School is located a block away.

The current 35 mph speed limit is very unsafe for residents and children who walk along or try to cross Brookland Parkway. It is also unsafe for drivers who attempt to turn into the Sherwood Park neighborhood from Brookland Parkway because traffic routinely drives faster than the posted limit and drivers become impatient and aggressive while waiting for cars to turn left or right onto residential streets.

Thank you,

--

Peace!
Daisy Weaver



From: [Michelle Garcia](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Brookland Pkwy speed limit reduction
Date: Tuesday, January 2, 2024 10:56:20 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Richmond City Council --

I am a resident of Sherwood Park in Richmond, VA and I support Ordinance No. 2023-356 to reduce the speed limit on Brookland Parkway to 25 mph between Brook Road and Hermitage Road.

Brookland Parkway is a residential street with several winding curves in addition to bike lanes, floating parking, and a tree-filled median. Additionally the K-8th grade Waldorf school is located directly on Brookland Parkway and the Veritas School is located a block away.

The current 35 mph speed limit is very unsafe. As is common practice in RVA, many drive at least 5mph OVER the legal limit, so it is common to see cars barreling down the road at 40+ speeds. With the curves, the trees, and parked cars; it can be difficult to see down the road. It is frequently unsafe for drivers to attempt to turn onto Brookland Pkwy from side streets in Sherwood Park. It is also difficult at times to turn off, as drivers speeding toward Brookland Pkwy Blvd use this as a thruway and cannot conceive the idea of someone waiting to turn off of the parkway for a child a crossing an intersection. With plans to add the Fall Line Trail to this road, there is more need to slow down aggressive drivers.

Thank you for considering and passing this speed limit reduction for Brookland Parkway between Hermitage and Brook roads.

Michelle Garcia


From: [Helen Vennard](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Ordinance No. 2023-356
Date: Tuesday, January 2, 2024 12:44:36 PM

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Dear Richmond City Council,

I am a resident of Sherwood Park in Richmond, VA and I support Ordinance No. 2023-356 to reduce the speed limit on Brookland Parkway to 25 mph between Brook Road and Hermitage Road. Brookland Parkway is a residential street with several winding curves in addition to bike lanes and floating parking. Additionally a K-8th grade Waldorf school is located directly on Brookland Parkway and the Veritas School is located a block away.

The current 35 mph speed limit is very unsafe for residents and children who walk along or try to cross Brookland Parkway. It is also unsafe for drivers who attempt to turn into the Sherwood Park neighborhood from Brookland Parkway because traffic routinely drives faster than the posted limit and drivers become impatient and aggressive while waiting for cars to turn left or right onto residential streets.

Thank you,

Helen Vennard



From: [Estelle Brodeur](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office; reganpickett@gmail.com](#)
Subject: support of Brookland Parkway 25 mph proposal
Date: Tuesday, January 2, 2024 2:01:00 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Richmond City Council,

I am a resident of Sherwood Park in Richmond, VA and I support Ordinance No. 2023-356 to reduce the speed limit on Brookland Parkway to 25 mph between Brook Road and Hermitage Road. Brookland Parkway is a residential street with several winding curves in addition to bike lanes and floating parking. Additionally a K-8th grade Waldorf school is located directly on Brookland Parkway and the Veritas School is located a block away.

Multigenerational residents, neighbors, walkers, runners, bikers, commuters, students, and families utilize, enjoy, and depend on the central thoroughfare of Brookland Parkway. The current 35 mph speed limit is very unsafe for residents and children who walk along or try to cross Brookland Parkway. Further, motorists who attempt to turn into the Sherwood Park neighborhood from Brookland Parkway encounter impatient and aggressive drivers while waiting for cars to turn left or right onto residential streets.

One of the greatest assets of our city is the increasing walking and biking access. Lowering the speed limit to 25mph will impact the safety of all who travel this vital neighborhood roadway.

Sincerely,

--



[Estelle Mounfield Brodeur](#)



From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Ordinance 2023-356
Date: Tuesday, January 2, 2024 2:02:59 PM

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Dear Richmond City Council,

I write to you in support of the requested reduction of the speed limit on Brookland Parkway from 35 mph to 25 mph.

I live on Wentbridge Road and cross this road several times daily. When I am driving I frequently see cars look like they are going to climb up my bumper when I turn onto Loxley. I often hear horns blown because I slowed down to make the turn.

As a long time resident I wouldn't park on the road until the parking lanes were clearly delineated because I can remember at least three occasions when parked cars were hit because of people speeding around curves. I still have someone pass me in the bike lane about once a month because they are going too fast when I slow down to turn.

As a pedestrian I worry about using the crosswalks (that are poorly situated) because of the speeding cars. Apparently Richmond drivers haven't gotten the message about the requirement to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks and they certainly don't see us when they are making left turns.

Sherwood Park has always been a residential neighborhood. In recent years there's been a welcome increase in the number of people walking, running and riding bikes. We need to reduce the speed limit to ensure that we can do so safely.

Laura Stephens

From: [JUDITH ALEXANDER](#)
To: [Robins, Amy E. - City Council Office](#)
Cc: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Fwd: The Closing of W. 20th Street- Belle Heights
Date: Tuesday, January 2, 2024 3:55:52 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Begin forwarded message:

From: JUDITH ALEXANDER [REDACTED]
Subject: The Closing of W. 20th Street- Belle Heights
Date: January 2, 2024 at 3:50:34 PM EST
To: alyson.oliver@rva.gov
Cc: Ty Alexander [REDACTED]

My name is Judith Alexander and I live at [REDACTED] in the Belle Heights neighborhood.

As a homeowner, taxpayer and avid voter, I strongly oppose the closing of W. 20th St. This will cause more congestion in an already congested area. We already face challenges getting in and out of our neighborhood. The new apartment development will just put a strain on our very narrow streets within this neighborhood if the apartment dwellers are allowed access through our neighborhood. Parking is already at a premium here and it would just become unbearable.

All of this will negatively affect our property values and any piece of mind we could have. Renters do not have the same mind-set about a property as do owners. The city seems to be interested in protecting the developers at a high cost to us citizens.

I would like to see W. 20th Street kept open for the benefit of the future apartment renters and have Belle Heights streets closed with no access by the apartment dwellers.

Sincerely,

Judith Alexander

From: [Jimmy Mackey](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Ord. No. 2023-356 - Brookland Parkway speed reduction
Date: Tuesday, January 2, 2024 4:03:08 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Richmond City Council,

I am a resident of Sherwood Park in Richmond, VA and I support Ordinance No. 2023-356 to reduce the speed limit on Brookland Parkway to 25 mph between Brook Road and Hermitage Road. Brookland Parkway is a residential street with several winding curves in addition to bike lanes and floating parking. Additionally a K-8th grade Waldorf school is located directly on Brookland Parkway and the Veritas School is located a block away.

The current 35 mph speed limit is very unsafe for residents and children who walk along or try to cross Brookland Parkway. It is also unsafe for drivers who attempt to turn into the Sherwood Park neighborhood from Brookland Parkway because traffic routinely drives faster than the posted limit and drivers become impatient and aggressive while waiting for cars to turn left or right onto residential streets.

Thank you,

Jimmy Mackey

From: [JUDITH ALEXANDER](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#)
Subject: Fwd: The Closing of W. 20th Street- Belle Heights
Date: Tuesday, January 2, 2024 4:04:38 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Begin forwarded message:

From: JUDITH ALEXANDER [REDACTED]
Subject: The Closing of W. 20th Street- Belle Heights
Date: January 2, 2024 at 3:50:34 PM EST
To: alyson.oliver@rva.gov
Cc: Ty Alexander [REDACTED]

My name is Judith Alexander and I live at [REDACTED] in the Belle Heights neighborhood.

As a homeowner, taxpayer and avid voter, I strongly oppose the closing of W. 20th St. This will cause more congestion in an already congested area. We already face challenges getting in and out of our neighborhood. The new apartment development will just put a strain on our very narrow streets within this neighborhood if the apartment dwellers are allowed access through our neighborhood. Parking is already at a premium here and it would just become unbearable.

All of this will negatively affect our property values and any piece of mind we could have. Renters do not have the same mind-set about a property as do owners. The city seems to be interested in protecting the developers at a high cost to us citizens.

I would like to see W. 20th Street kept open for the benefit of the future apartment renters and have Belle Heights streets closed with no access by the apartment dwellers.

Sincerely,

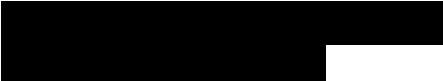
Judith Alexander

From: [NATHAN HOFFERT](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: ORDINANCE 2023-356
Date: Tuesday, January 2, 2024 5:44:17 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

I SUPPORT ORDINANCE 2023-356.

THANKS
NATHAN HOFFERT



From: [Sonja Garrett](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Speed limit reduction
Date: Tuesday, January 2, 2024 6:19:23 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Richmond City Council,

I am a resident of Sherwood Park in Richmond, VA and I support Ordinance No. 2023-356 to reduce the speed limit on Brookland Parkway to 25 mph between Brook Road and Hermitage Road. Brookland Parkway is a residential street with several winding curves in addition to bike lanes and floating parking. Additionally a K-8th grade Waldorf school is located directly on Brookland Parkway and the Veritas School is located a block away.

The current 35 mph speed limit is very unsafe for residents and children who walk along or try to cross Brookland Parkway. It is also unsafe for drivers who attempt to turn into the Sherwood Park neighborhood from Brookland Parkway because traffic routinely drives faster than the posted limit and drivers become impatient and aggressive while waiting for cars to turn left or right onto residential streets.

Thank you,
Sonja Garrett

From: [Anthony Conte](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Jordan, Katherine - City Council](#)
Subject: Ordinance No. 2023-35
Date: Tuesday, January 2, 2024 9:20:18 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Richmond City Council,

I am a resident of Sherwood Park and am writing to support Ordinance No. 2023-356 to reduce the speed limit on Brookland Parkway to 25 mph between Brook Road and Hermitage Road.

Brookland Parkway is a residential street with several winding curves in addition to bike lanes and floating parking. The current 35 mph speed limit is very unsafe for anyone who walks along or wants to cross Brookland Parkway. 35 mph is also unsafe for drivers who attempt to turn either from or onto Brookland Parkway. In addition to being safer for pedestrians, bikes, and cars a 25 mph speed limit is also more consistent with a residential neighborhood and the other streets in the area.

Regards,

Anthony J. Conte


From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Raymond Wilson](#)
Subject: Ordinance No. 2023-356 / Speed Reduction on Brookland Pkwy
Date: Wednesday, January 3, 2024 11:58:26 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Richmond City Council,

I am a resident of Richmond VA and live in the Sherwood Park neighborhood. I support Ordinance No. 2023-356 to reduce the speed limit on Brookland Parkway to 25 mph between Brook Road and Hermitage Road.

I have lived in the [REDACTED] of Brookland Parkway for 32 years. This neighborhood and its residential streets have experienced a significant increase in traffic. Brookland Pkwy recently added bike lanes with floating parking.

The street is a busy traffic crossover from Brook Rd to Hermitage Rd. The reduction from two lanes to one has made the current 35 mph speed limit unsafe for residents, school children (Waldorf School & Veritas) bikers, runners, dog walkers who traverse along or cross Brookland Parkway.

I personally witness vehicles routinely exceeding the posted 35 MPH speed limit. It is often difficult making left hand turns due to the increased traffic and excessive speed by other drivers.

Thank you for your consideration and support of Ordinance No. 2023-356

Raymond O Wilson Jr

[REDACTED]

From: [Janelle B](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Ordinance No. 2023-356 to reduce speed limit on Brookland Pkwy
Date: Wednesday, January 3, 2024 4:24:36 PM

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Dear Richmond City Council,

I live on the [REDACTED] of Brookland Parkway in the Sherwood Park neighborhood. I am writing to you to voice my support of the subject Ordinance to reduce the speed limit from 35 mph to 25 mph on Brookland Parkway between Hermitage Rd and Brook Rd. I have lived on Brookland Parkway since November 2020 and have witnessed several car accidents right in front of my home where excessive speed was a factor. Cars and trucks absolutely fly down this nearly 1-mile stretch of Brookland Parkway because there are no traffic lights or speed bumps between Hermitage and Brook Road. As a mom to a 2.5 year old child, the speeding vehicles on Brookland Parkway is extremely scary. So many young families have moved into the Sherwood Park neighborhood over the last few years - it's amazing! But Brookland Parkway doesn't feel like a neighborhood road because the current speed limit is 35 mph, which means most drivers are going at least 45 mph or more.

Please consider reducing the speed limit from 35 to 25 mph to improve the safety of this wonderful neighborhood.

Thank you,

Janelle Boncal Banks

From: [August McCarthy](#)
To: [REDACTED] [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment for upcoming meeting - in opposition of ORD 2023-340
Date: Wednesday, January 3, 2024 5:39:24 PM

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Good afternoon,

I would like to submit a public comment on behalf of myself, a homeowner of 2137 Tobacco Mill St, in the neighborhood of Belle Heights. I am strongly opposed to the ordinance 2023-340 that was just voted on by the planning commission to close the future of W 20th Street. Along with my entire community, we are disappointed in the inferior development of our neighborhood. The construction of our community has been a nightmare due to inferior urban planning and consideration. The only consideration has been for the developers who only care about their business.

Our neighborhood was built with narrow streets, insufficient parking, and only two ingress/egress points for over 100 townhouses. The developer wants to add hundreds of more apartments (and cars) without consideration for what this will do to the future flow of traffic. It's a dangerous and illogical system as-is trying to enter and exit our neighborhood (there was an accident just today on Semmes Ave that blocked our main entrance for hours). This is why I along with all my neighbors oppose the closure of W 20th Street. If our neighborhood was walkable and had commercial space/grocery stores within walking distance, there would be less of an argument, but the city has no plans to add that near us, and from my understanding the developer just removed their commercial space plans and converted them to even more apartments. We are not a Scott's Addition or Fan type neighborhood, every current and future resident in this area needs a car; there isn't even a grocery store within 2 miles of us!

Thank you for your time,
August McCarthy

--

August McCarthy
[REDACTED]

From: [August McCarthy](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment for upcoming meeting - in opposition of ORD 2023-340
Date: Wednesday, January 3, 2024 5:40:59 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

I would like to submit a public comment on behalf of myself, a homeowner of [REDACTED], in the neighborhood of Belle Heights. I am strongly opposed to the ordinance 2023-340 that was just voted on by the planning commission to close the future of W 20th Street. Along with my entire community, we are disappointed in the inferior development of our neighborhood. The construction of our community has been a nightmare due to inferior urban planning and consideration. The only consideration has been for the developers who only care about their business.

Our neighborhood was built with narrow streets, insufficient parking, and only two ingress/egress points for over 100 townhouses. The developer wants to add hundreds of more apartments (and cars) without consideration for what this will do to the future flow of traffic. It's a dangerous and illogical system as-is trying to enter and exit our neighborhood (there was an accident just today on Semmes Ave that blocked our main entrance for hours). This is why I along with all my neighbors oppose the closure of W 20th Street. If our neighborhood was walkable and had commercial space/grocery stores within walking distance, there would be less of an argument, but the city has no plans to add that near us, and from my understanding the developer just removed their commercial space plans and converted them to even more apartments. We are not a Scott's Addition or Fan type neighborhood, every current and future resident in this area needs a car; there isn't even a grocery store within 2 miles of us!

Thank you for your time,
August McCarthy

[REDACTED]

From: [Anita Fluker](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Ordinance No. 2023 - 356 speed limit reduction
Date: Wednesday, January 3, 2024 8:31:40 PM

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Dear Richmond City Council,

I am a resident of Sherwood Park in Richmond, VA and I support Ordinance No. 2023-356 to reduce the speed limit on Brookland Parkway to 25 mph between Brook Road and Hermitage Road. Brookland Parkway is a residential street with several winding curves in addition to bike lanes and floating parking. Additionally a K-8th grade Waldorf school is located directly on Brookland Parkway and the Veritas School is located a block away.

The current 35 mph speed limit is very unsafe for residents and children who walk along or try to cross Brookland Parkway. It is also unsafe for drivers who attempt to turn into the Sherwood Park neighborhood from Brookland Parkway because traffic routinely drives faster than the posted limit and drivers become impatient and aggressive while waiting for cars to turn left or right onto residential streets.

**Thank you,
Anita Fluker
Gloucester Road**

From: [Clark Lambert](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Lower the speed limit to 25 miles per hour due to excessive speeding.
Date: Thursday, January 4, 2024 9:05:42 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Richmond City Council,

I am a resident of Sherwood Park in Richmond, VA and I support Ordinance No. 2023-356 to reduce the speed limit on Brookland Parkway to 25 mph between Brook Road and Hermitage Road. Brookland Parkway is a residential street with several winding curves in addition to bike lanes and floating parking. Additionally a K-8th grade Waldorf school is located directly on Brookland Parkway and the Veritas School is located a block away.

The current 35 mph speed limit is very unsafe for residents and children who walk along or try to cross Brookland Parkway. It is also unsafe for drivers who attempt to turn into the Sherwood Park neighborhood from Brookland Parkway because traffic routinely drives faster than the posted limit and drivers become impatient and aggressive while waiting for cars to turn left or right onto residential streets.

I have lived at 1506 Brookland Parkway for the last 20 years and can tell you personally that speeding is out of control, and someone is going to get killed. There have been several accidents involving cars flipped over on the median so some close calls. These were caused by excessive speeding. I realize that lowering the speed limit to 25 mph will not fix all problems of speeding but will go a long way towards making the street a lot safer for the residents of Brookland Parkway.

Thank you,
Clark Lambert



From: [caroline](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#); [City Clerk's Office](#); [Councilmembers](#)
Subject: Please Vote against ORD 2023-340
Date: Thursday, January 4, 2024 10:40:31 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members,

Please vote against ORD 2023-340.

Please represent your constituents who are not developers.

Closing roads to benefit the few instead of the many is poor representation.

Closing W 20th will funnel all that traffic onto Semmes via the current W 21st route only.

There will be more near misses, traffic accidents, and pedestrian injuries and deaths.

Creating dangerous driving by closing streets in highly trafficked areas will harm all of us.

Yours,

Caroline Cox



From: [Jessica Wilson](#)
To: [Councilmembers](#); [Council Liaisons](#); [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Anna Raby](#)
Subject: Belle Heights Home Owner Opposing ORD 2023-340
Date: Thursday, January 4, 2024 12:34:00 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Good Afternoon,

Myself and my wife Anna Raby, are writing to you today opposing ORD 2023-340. We own 2001 Old Manchester St, Richmond VA 23225 in the Belle Heights neighborhood. Should this take place, it will only do harm to our neighborhood causing a higher risk of pedestrian injury and create further traffic issues. There have already been numerous deadly crashes outside of our main neighborhood entry on Semmes Ave. A terrible accident happened just yesterday and the cars had to be towed into our entry to clear Semmes Ave. We all are in support for this area to be developed and have it enrich the neighborhood and contribute to the community. This is not this issue, the closing of 20th street with a bigger population and more traffic will cause nothing but harm and more chaos. The proposed cut through to Cowardin is not helpful. This will cause the majority of the traffic needing to get downtown to turn right and then make a u-turn to go in the correct direction. Hull St restricts left hand turns so this is not helpful either.

Please remember the original plan for B-6 business district that was set forth. I understand there can be exceptions but please listen to the people who live here and fully understand the risks involved and the ripple effect this will have with traffic and pedestrian safety in mind. I am a Richmond native having worked in residential property management for 13 years with 8 of those years with Thalhimer overseeing Class A high traffic high-rise properties downtown and now a VA realtor. I understand the benefits and concerns. A true mixed use building that fits the original lot layout would be a true asset to all parties allowing W20th st to open, commercial units on the bottom floor and residential above no higher than 4 stories. Thank you for your time and consideration. Highlighted below are some key points that really need to be honored.

DIVISION 24. - B-6 MIXED-USE BUSINESS DISTRICT

Sec. 30-444.1. - Intent of district.

Pursuant to the general purposes of this chapter, the intent of the B-6 district is to encourage development of mixed land uses consistent with the objectives of the master plan and the downtown plan, and to promote enhancement of the character of development along principal corridors and in other areas. The district regulations are intended to encourage appropriate infill development on undeveloped land, promote adaptive reuse of underutilized buildings or enable redevelopment of properties where continuation of current uses or adaptive reuse is not feasible, depending on the character and needs of particular areas. The district regulations are also intended to safeguard the character of adjoining properties, to maintain existing streetscape character by providing continuity of building setbacks and heights, to enhance public safety and encourage an active pedestrian environment appropriate to the mixed use character of the district by providing for windows in building façades along street frontages, and to promote an environment that is conducive to preservation of important historic, architectural and cultural features that may exist within the district. Finally, the district regulations are intended to ensure adequate accessible parking and safe vehicular and pedestrian circulation, to facilitate a streetscape with minimum setbacks along principal street frontages and to provide for limited interruption by driveways and vehicular traffic across public sidewalk areas along principal street frontages.

--

Niki Wilson & Anna Raby

[REDACTED]

From: [Sarah Sheridan](#)
To: [Councilmembers](#); [City Clerk's Office](#); [Council Liaisons](#)
Subject: ORD 2023-340
Date: Thursday, January 4, 2024 1:51:02 PM
Attachments: [351560A7-BF61-4D12-A21F-A8DB2243387D.heic](#)

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hello all,

This is in reference to ORD. 2023-340, the closing of W 20th st between Semmes Ave and Sioux Falls. I am a property owner within a block affected by the closing at Sioux Falls and I would like to express my deep concerns with this proposal.

I would like to start out by addressing the line, "Belle Heights Homeowners Association Inc., a Virginia corporation, governs Belle Heights. The Board of Directors of the Association approved the vacation of the Subject Right of Way by written consent, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit B."

- The HOA Board is developer controlled, according to the office of the Ombudsman, the only named board member is one Russel Harper Jr who is not a homeowner.
- The Transitional Board composed of myself and another member (who do not have board control) are strongly opposed to this proposal.
- It was stated in the planning meeting that this was sent out of formality for permission of abutting landowner during declarant control but the letter was sent two months after the final property in the neighborhood sold. The neighborhood was set to transition in October 2023 but the Declarant walked out of the transition meeting and refused to transition the neighborhood (it was later established that they did not have quorum).
- The HOA does not own abutting property, all properties were sold at the time of the letter. There is a line in the DPW section of ORD 2023-340 that states a set of terms as
"The applicant(s)/owner(s)/successor(s) shall be responsible for obtaining the written consent of all abutting landowners to the closing and other property owners within the block affected by the closing." - As the HOA does not own abutting properties, these terms were NOT met, as an abutting property owner I urge city council to discuss why these terms were not met with DPW.
- Property owners within a block (including myself) have not been asked for written consent nor did all property owners receive notification of the change.

Moving to the issue as to why this proposal is not supported by my family as owners in proximity to the closure. My education is in Architecture and Design, I live in the City because I appreciate density and walkability among other things. While this proposal supports density of the parcel, it does so in a way that affects life safety.

- W 20th st. originally connected to Semmes before Manchester Town Center LLC

closed/demolished it for construction of Belle Heights. It was communicated to all homeowners during purchase of the home that this would be a reestablished entrance once construction had completed.

- The proposed road to Cowardin funnels traffic straight to Sioux Falls Alley. As in the name, this is an Alley and therefore is much narrower (two cars cannot pass by each other traveling opposite ways) than a road and has no sidewalks or other way of pedestrian access. Being a homeowner on Sioux Falls involves walking in the alley to access the back of our house and the driveway. Funnelling traffic from the proposed road to an alleyway would prove dangerous for a narrow pass that is already used as a cut through.
- The majority of traffic both from our neighborhood in addition to future development will require access to Semmes either through personal vehicle or public transit. The road to Cowardin puts drivers moving southbound on a road notorious for speeding in which drivers would have to make a tricky u-turn. Most current residents are either going into the city, north of the city, or east and west of the city. All of these options require utilizing Semmes to go either northbound or east/west. The proposed road does not serve the same traffic design intent as the current street at 20th st.
- Additionally, if there is only one access to Semmes, this will lead to the future development utilizing Belle Heights as a cut through to access 21st and Semmes ave. intersection. Belle Heights is a vibrant neighborhood that sees pedestrian as well as bike traffic throughout every day, this would prove detrimental to the walkability/safety of the neighborhood.
- Lastly, access on Cowardin as a more narrow road slows emergency personnel in their access of Belle Heights as well as the surrounding parcels. The fire station is located on Semmes, maintaining two entrances on Semmes allows for more open access in case of emergency.

In the planning meeting, it was discussed that DPW issued Certificate of Occupancy (CO) for the neighborhood given the two access points despite the access points not being the ones reflected on ORD 2019-013. Perry street is still a vague and gray area as far as access goes as it is a CSX easement. I am unsure as to why DPW would have issued COs for something that is not wholly a city owned street when ORD 2019-013 always reflected the improvement of 20th street for reconnection of the grid. A scenario was brought up in the planning meeting that a bad accident at 21st street could potentially cripple the neighborhood's access to Semmes completely as we've seen an uptick of accidents since the construction of Belle Heights. I woke up to a loud crash Wednesday morning as just that scenario played out, a severe accident at 21st street involving 3 vehicles and a large work truck/trailer combo (picture attached) closed Semmes eastbound and completely blocked 21st street forcing all neighbors to make the dangerous move across three lanes of Cowardin to pull a U-turn. The intersection was closed completely for over an hour with cars having to back all the way out of 21st street, even after Semmes was reopened, the totaled cars were moved into the neighborhood entrance rendering half of 21st street unusable and unsafe hours after the incident.

It was stated by the planning commission that DPW could work out these issues as they arise but my question is, why is a reactive decision being made rather than a proactive one based on solid principles of urban planning in alignment with the Richmond City Master Plan? There are two petitions in both the Springhill and Belle Heights neighborhood that reflect a consensus from people already living through the struggles of the location that ORD 2023-340 would be detrimental to the area. I fear for my safety as well as my loved ones if Sioux Falls,

an alley, becomes a major vein of traffic moving cars from the apartment complex to a backed up 21st street. It is not an acceptable form of planning to utilize a residential alley unable to fit two widths of cars as a major artery connecting a multifamily project to the interstate/downtown infrastructure. I urge you all to come to the neighborhood and see the current conditions before voting on a piece of legislation that cannot be undone. We do not have to continue the cycle of reactionary planning in the southside, it is a desirable place for developers, projects in nearby areas like the Costar expansion and the outdoor music venue prove this. Making a decision that affects the life safety of Richmond City residents purely for the sale of a property will have lasting impacts on the success of the area and stands to set a dangerous precedent.

I would love to see this parcel developed into something that as a gateway site to the southside, reflects what a vibrant and unique city Richmond is. I support urban density and projects to improve the southside while maintaining pedestrian/bike safety. Unfortunately, the proposal does not meet this criteria and would pose a significant life safety risk for my family, neighbors of Belle Heights, as well as members of a future development on that parcel.

Best,
Sarah Sheridan
Belle Heights Resident

From: [Roberta Elford](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Ordinance number 2023-356
Date: Thursday, January 4, 2024 5:08:09 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

I am a resident of Sherwood Park and I support ordinance 2023-356 to reduce the speed limit on Brookland Park between Hermitage and Brook Road to 25 miles per hour. This is a residential neighborhood with many young children and two nearby elementary schools and for safety's sake the speed limit should be reduced.

Sincerely
Roberta Elford
[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [Gerd Langenbucher](#)
To: [Councilmembers](#); [City Clerk's Office](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#)
Subject: Public comment in opposition to Ord 2023-340
Date: Friday, January 5, 2024 7:43:36 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council Member,

I am writing in opposition of the ordinance 2023-340 which will be heading for a vote at City Council in the coming days.

The ordinance vacates the public right of way and proposes the permanent closure of W20th St between Sioux Falls Aly (Belle Heights Neighborhood) and Semmes Ave.

The developer argues that this allows higher density construction.

If approved, the ordinance will create a new development along Semmes Ave without direct access to this artery. Instead the traffic will use the Belle Heights Neighborhood streets and access to major roads.

During the planning commission meeting, tax revenue, housing crisis and having the lot vacant for too long were mentioned as reasons to pass. It became clear to everyone that DPW approved the traffic situation without any recent traffic study.

The very next day, a scenario I had asked the commission members to imagine actually happened: An accident blocking the Belle Heights only access to Semmes Ave in the direction most traveled and that the majority of the 220+ Belle Heights residents, and additionally the same amount of residents from the new development having to exit southbound on Cowarding Ave and making U-turns over 3 lanes.

Both Masterplan and Ord 2019-013 suggest a reconnection of the existing grid. I would like to ask City Council Members to visit the location prior to a vote. I am happy to meet.

I am certain that you will agree with me in that

- higher density can be achieved with other means than this irreversible closure
- a few additional units will neither solve the housing crisis, nor break the city's bank.
- keeping the street open and public ROW will reduce or avoid unsafe traffic conditions
- the Richmond 300 Masterplan and ORD 2019-013 got it right.

The developer had declared that his client would walk away if the decision was not made immediately. The decision was postponed by 4 weeks. At this week's meeting, we heard a similar statement, i.e. the client had not walked away. The proposal and arguments are full of similar misleading statements.

The developer has not demonstrated experience with residential projects and I would ask City Council to look for a solution that involves a company which can deliver a development which

- Delivers on the Richmond 300 masterplan
- Creates the housing units we need
- And does not increase traffic woes and risks citizens' safety

We can do better as a city.

I am preparing a traffic survey among Belle Heights residents in support of above statements and will make the data available at the City Council meeting

With best regards

Gerd Langenbucher

Warren Jr., Richard A. - Clerk's Office

From: Andrew Duke [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 5, 2024 8:35 AM
To: Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office
Cc: Robins, Amy E. - City Council Office
Subject: Urgent Concerns Regarding Proposed Street Closure Ordinance

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Stephanie,

I hope this message finds you well, and congratulations on the new addition to your family.

I am writing to you as a concerned resident of Belle Heights, regarding the proposed ordinance to close the unimproved portion W 20th Street (ORD. 2023-340). This proposal has raised serious concerns in the community around safety and traffic flow. I am also personally extremely concerned about the effects on pedestrian safety at the intersection of W 21st St. and Semmes Ave.

As I am sure you are already aware, the existing conditions at W 21st St. and Semmes Ave. are already perilous for pedestrians. Despite being the connection for our neighborhood to the James River Park System, the Springhill Community, and the north side of the city in general, the intersection lacks any safety measures at all. This has led to numerous near-misses, I myself have come within inches of being hit by a car while crossing Semmes Ave with my dog. The closure of W 20th St and subsequent development would route a substantially increased volume of vehicular traffic to this intersection. Implementing a street closure, without addressing these pre-existing safety concerns, will not only exacerbate the current situation but also put pedestrians at an even greater risk.

Additionally, the Developer behind the ordinance has proposed adding a right hand turn lane to W 21st St as way to lessen traffic impacts of this change. However, a turn lane will here make the intersection even more dangerous for pedestrians by widening this intersection and adding an additional vehicle movement where drivers will make right make right hand turns at higher speeds. A turn lane will also lengthen the crossing distance for pedestrians crossing W 21st St. Pedestrian traffic is likely to increase at this intersection with the addition of the proposed new apartment homes and the construction of the Commonwealth Catholic Charities development across the street.

At the planning commission meeting on January 2nd, the feedback from the community regarding this change was unanimously negative. The residents here are united in their concern – a unified voice that deserves to be heard and acted upon. The community here knows, from everyday experience, that this change will have negative impacts for the area, especially with regards to safety.

Given these considerations, and in alignment with our city's commitment to Vision Zero, I urge you to reject the proposed street closure and continue to push for safety changes to Semmes Ave and particularly the intersection with W 21st. St.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent issue. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about the issues I have raised.

Sincerely,

Andrew Duke



From: [Janice Carter-Lovejoy](#)
To: [Councilmembers](#); [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: ORD 2023-340 Opposition Requested by Springhill Neighborhood
Date: Friday, January 5, 2024 2:10:07 PM
Attachments: [ORD 2023 340 Petition .pdf](#)

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January 4, 2024

To: City Council

I am writing as a civic leader in the Springhill Neighborhood. At your January 8, 2024 Council meeting you will begin the review process of proposed ORD 2023-340 - which was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission at their January 2, 2024 meeting. The Springhill Neighborhood asks that you oppose ORD 2023-340 which otherwise would allow the property developer to vacate their original plan to re-establish a specified portion of W 20th St., including the portion demolished when clearing site.

To find out what the people living in neighboring Springhill thought about the proposed ordinance, I personally knocked on every door in Springhill. *Everyone that answered* the door opposed the elimination of W 20th St. and signed the attached petition. Further, they shared concerns about the new developments' current impacts. The attached petition was presented to the Planning Commission earlier this week.

The original plans for developing Belle Heights include completion of W 20th St. The street was also included in materials presented to purchasers of the new Belle Heights townhomes. That portion of the street grid is vital to traffic flow in and out of the Belle Heights neighborhood, *even before* approximately 240 new apartments are built along the 2000 and 1900 blocks of Semmes Ave (south side) plus twenty *senior* apartments on the 1900 block (north side) of Semmes Ave which have already been approved and are underway. Completion of the street grid helps the interconnectedness of neighborhoods and helps vehicles and pedestrians move freely.

The original SUP for the redevelopment of the former tobacco warehouse property on the south side of Semmes Ave did not include the property that used to be a trailer park. It did not include all of the Semmes Ave parcels between W 20th St and Cowardin. These contiguous properties along Semmes Ave are all now a part of Harper developments. As such, the cumulative effect on the neighborhoods is not being well thought out nor planned appropriately with the residents' best interests in mind. We have already lost safe pedestrian and vehicle passage. We need W 20th St. completed to mitigate some of the congestion and speed consequences today, as well as after the build-out of the new residences is completed.

Please support better planning for our neighborhoods by opposing ORD 2023-340.

Thank you,

Janice Carter-Lovejoy
Springhill Neighborhood

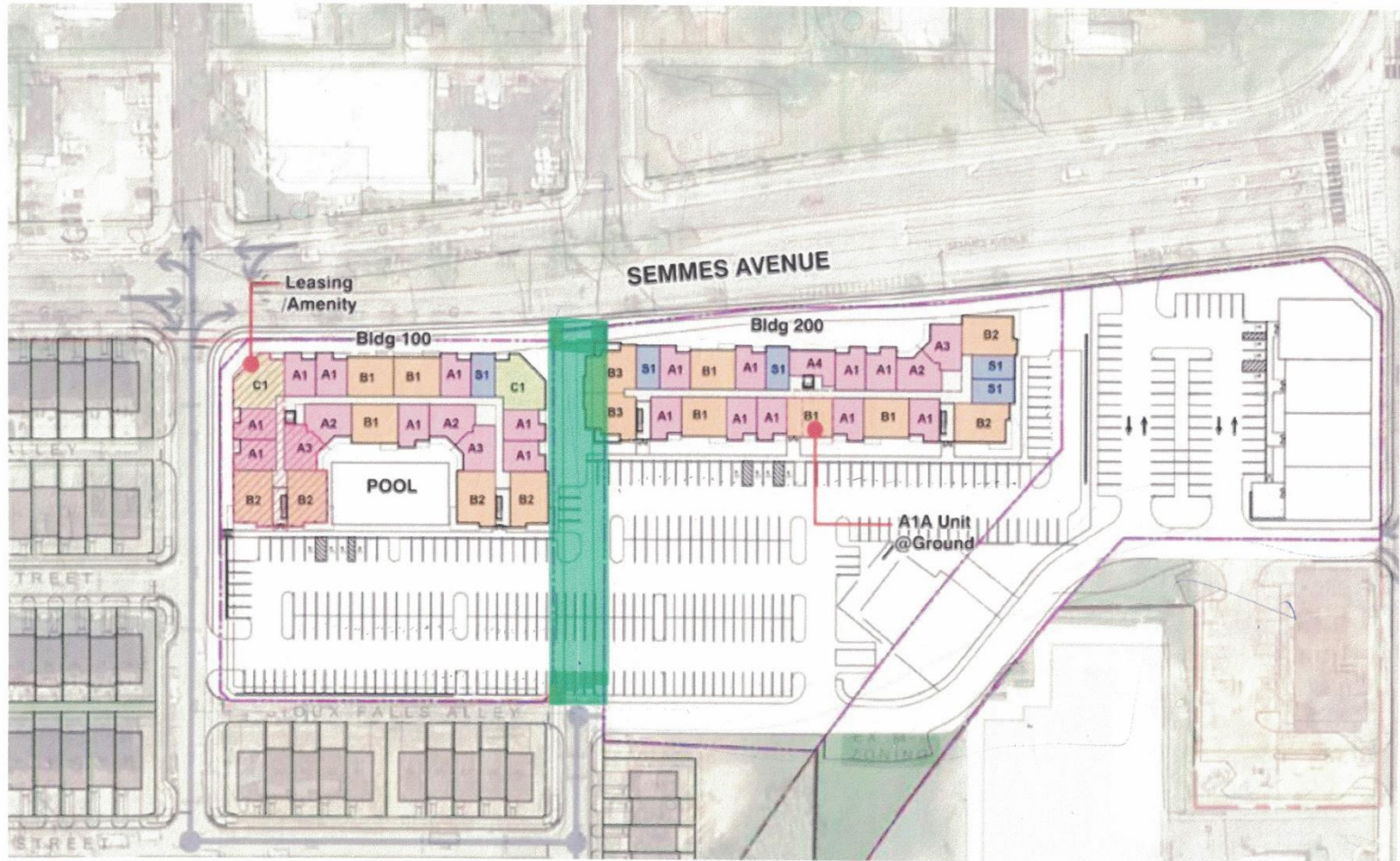
PETITION
FOR
TRAFFIC CONTROL AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY MANAGEMENT
Adjacent to 2200 – 1800 Semmes Ave and 400 block of W 20th St.

As the residential and commercial build-out continues along Semmes and Cowardin avenues, traffic volume will increased significantly. Traffic control and safety are lacking there for motor vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians. We, the neighbors, are concerned that if W. 20th Street spanning Semmes Avenue and Sioux Falls Alley is not built, and traffic and pedestrian signals are not installed at the W. 21st Street and Semmes Avenue intersection, there will be more near misses, traffic accidents, and pedestrian injuries and deaths.

Is the City interested in creating a failure?

By signing this petition, I support the following:

- That Richmond City Council, Planning Commission, and Department of Planning and Development require that Harper Associates fulfill the commitments of their original, approved POD for the Belle Heights community with W. 20th featured as an entrance/exit.
- The completion of W. 20th St from Semmes Avenue to Sioux Falls Alley.
- Provide safe vehicular and pedestrian passage at the intersection of W 21st and Semmes Ave, so that access to the James River Park System can be safely enjoyed by residents of the Belle Heights and neighboring communities.



Name [Please Print Clearly]	Resident's Signature	Date
Jarvis Carter-Lovejoy	<i>Jarvis Carter-Lovejoy</i>	12/29/21
Sharon Carter-Lovejoy	<i>Sharon Carter-Lovejoy</i>	12/29/21
Allison Midkiff	<i>Allison Midkiff</i>	12/29/21
Daniel Midkiff	<i>Daniel Midkiff</i>	12/29/21
Julie Pinkard	<i>Julie Pinkard</i>	12/29/21
Ed Slipek	<i>Ed Slipek</i>	12/29/21
Chris Bolt	<i>Chris Bolt</i>	12/29/21
Thomas Braun	<i>Thomas Braun</i>	12/29/21
Meredith McCarthy	<i>Meredith McCarthy</i>	12/29/21
Taylor Karnen	<i>Taylor Karnen</i>	12/29/21
Jessie Hendricks	<i>Jessie Hendricks</i>	12/29/21
Jessica Hendricks	<i>Jessica Hendricks</i>	12/29/21
FANNIE ROBINSON		12/29/21
Judy Marcello	<i>Judy Marcello</i>	12/29/21
Cody Crossley	<i>Cody Crossley</i>	12/29/21
Matthew Stucker	<i>Matthew Stucker</i>	12/29/21
Robert Chappas	<i>Robert Chappas</i>	12/29/21
Pam Kelleher	<i>Pam Kelleher</i>	12/29/21
Erin Kelleher	<i>Erin Kelleher</i>	12/29/21
Cameron Kitcher	<i>Cameron Kitcher</i>	12/31/21
Emily Kitcher	<i>Emily Kitcher</i>	12/31/21
Trevor Radow	<i>Trevor Radow</i>	12/31/21
MegAnne Wood	<i>MegAnne Wood</i>	12/31/21
Elizabeth Berman	<i>Elizabeth Berman</i>	12/31/21
Christopher B. Montgomery	<i>Christopher B. Montgomery</i>	12/31/21
Keryn Pally	<i>Keryn Pally</i>	12/31/21
Ed Pally	<i>Ed Pally</i>	"

From: [Michael Rizzo](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: ORD 2023-340
Date: Saturday, January 6, 2024 11:45:13 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hello. I am a resident and home-owner in Belle Heights, and I do not support ORD 2023-340.

Please support better planning for our neighborhoods by opposing ORD 2023-340.

Thank you.
MICHAEL RIZZO.

From: [Alexandra Porr Mazères](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Ordinance No 2023-356, I support a safer city for our children
Date: Saturday, January 6, 2024 11:48:40 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Richmond City Council,

I am a resident of Ginter Park and work in Sherwood Park in Richmond, VA at a school where my three children attend and I support Ordinance No. 2023-356 to reduce the speed limit on Brookland Parkway to 25 mph between Brook Road and Hermitage Road.

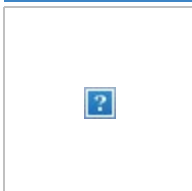
Brookland Parkway is a residential street with several winding curves in addition to bike lanes and floating parking. Additionally a PreK-8th grade Waldorf school is located directly on Brookland Parkway and the Veritas School is located a block away.

The current 35 mph speed limit is very unsafe for residents and children who walk along or try to cross Brookland Parkway. When we have events at RWS and need additional parking, I am always deeply concerned people will be hit crossing the street. One of the reasons we do not commute to school by bike or foot is my concern over speed and safety.

It is also unsafe for drivers who attempt to turn into the Sherwood Park neighborhood from Brookland Parkway because traffic routinely drives faster than the posted limit and drivers become impatient and aggressive while waiting for cars to turn left or right onto residential streets. This is particularly an issue during pickup and dropoff times of our students.

**Thank you,
Alexandra Porr**

Alexandra Porr Mazeres (*she/her*)
Marketing & Advancement Specialist
[Richmond Waldorf School](#)



From: [Nate Simon](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Speed limit change for Brookland Parkway
Date: Saturday, January 6, 2024 12:02:56 PM

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Dear Richmond City Council,

I fully support Ordinance No. 2023-356 to reduce the speed limit on Brookland Parkway to 25 mph between Brook Road and Hermitage Road. I have a child enrolled in Richmond Waldorf School since the school has been at its current location. There have been many times while crossing at the crosswalk that my family has almost been hit by people going at least 50mph. The 35mph speed limit currently is not followed by many, so my hope is bringing it down to 25mph would help tremendously.

My daughter has also told me about close calls when they have gone biking with their class from people that are flying down Brookland Parkway.

Please change the speed limit to 25mph to reflect the current conditions of the neighborhood and schools.

Kindest regards,
Nate Simon

From: [Margaret Ayre](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Ordinance 2023-356
Date: Saturday, January 6, 2024 12:55:35 PM

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Dear Richmond City Council,

I am a resident of Sherwood Park in Richmond, VA and I support Ordinance No. 2023-356 to reduce the speed limit on Brookland Parkway to 25 mph between Brook Road and Hermitage Road. Brookland Parkway is a residential street with several winding curves in addition to bike lanes and floating parking. Additionally a PreK-8th grade Waldorf school is located directly on Brookland Parkway and the Veritas School is located a block away. The current 35 mph speed limit is very unsafe for residents and children who walk along or try to cross Brookland Parkway. It is also unsafe for drivers who attempt to turn into the Sherwood Park neighborhood from Brookland Parkway because traffic routinely drives faster than the posted limit and drivers become impatient and aggressive while waiting for cars to turn left or right onto residential streets.

Thank you,
Margaret Ayre

From: [Erica Childress](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Brookland Parkway
Date: Saturday, January 6, 2024 2:23:47 PM

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Dear Richmond City Council,

I am a resident of Sherwood Park area in Richmond, VA and I support Ordinance No. 2023-356 to reduce the speed limit on Brookland Parkway to 25 mph between Brook Road and Hermitage Road. Brookland Parkway is a residential street with several winding curves in addition to bike lanes and floating parking. Additionally a PreK-8th grade school is located directly on Brookland Parkway and another school is located a block away.

The current 35 mph speed limit is very unsafe for residents and children who walk along or try to cross Brookland Parkway. It is also unsafe for drivers who attempt to turn into the Sherwood Park neighborhood from Brookland Parkway because traffic routinely drives faster than the posted limit and drivers become impatient and aggressive while waiting for cars to turn left or right onto residential streets.

Thank you,

Erica Childress



From: [Gail Lipscomb](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Stokes, Kiya A. - City Council](#); [Stokes, Kiya A. - City Council](#)
Subject: Support for Ord. 2023-354(James E. "Duke" Stewart, II)
Date: Saturday, January 6, 2024 9:25:15 PM
Importance: High

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Hello City Clerks Office:

My name is Gail Lipscomb daughter of **(James E. "Duke" Stewart, II)** and I am submitting our **support for Ord. 2023-354** on behalf of our family, and friends. We also have gotten **100% approval** from the **Battery Park Civic Association**. In addition, on **Saturday, November 18, 2023** there was a celebration of the Brothers & Sisters Combined Professional Fire Fighters, Inc's (50th Anniversary Gala & Scholarship Fundraiser) which they honored my father at that occasion.

On **November 30, 2023** we also received a **letter in support of Honorary Street Naming from Carol D. Adams, President of Engine Company #9 & Associates**. However, there are many others in full support and willing to attend the City Council hearing as well.

Our father (**James E. "Duke" Stewart, II**) we feel that he is more than worthy to receive the Honorary Street Name Dedication. In addition, he actually lived, provided, and died while doing his last purpose at the meeting of Human Relation Commission at the city hall. **James Stewart worked at the C & O Railroad Company more than 32 years, was an active member of the union for 25 years and served as the local chairman for 10 years.** **He was very active and participated in the Labor Union, he was very much community and people oriented and dedicated to improving conditions for "all mankind".**

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Other successful duties:

1. He was a member of the Third Street Bethel A.M.E Church.
2. **He had a career as football player in 1945 and 1962 as a member of the Richmond Rams and the Richmond Boxers.** He was an active member of the Armstrong High school football team and later an active and assisted coach Maxie Robinson during the Armstrong football games.
3. He was well known throughout the city of Richmond he was known as

big “Duke” of the Duce which is 2nd street downtown.

4. President of the Richmond Branch NAACP and strong supporter of Civil Rights.
5. In November 1972 he was appointed by the Richmond City Council to serve as an active member of the Human Relations Commission, he presided as chairman for three terms.
6. He helped organized the **Black Brothers Combined Professional Firefighters** and an Honorary member of the **BBCPF**. He received an appreciation and citizenship awards as: Man of the year in 1974.
7. Received a Citizenship Award 1974, Astoria Beneficial Club, for “Outstanding Service to the citizens of Richmond and vicinity, and Meritorious Service as chairman of the Richmond Human Relations Commission, 1973 – 1975.
8. Worked with many doctors in Richmond area: Dr. Thornton, Dr. Charles E. Sutton, Dr. Foster, Dr. Benjamin Lambert and many other well know people such as: Councilwoman Willie Dell, Rev. Odie D. Brown, and Henry Marsh, friend of Stafford Flowers, and Kermit Foster.

This scripture comes to my mind:

Mathew 25:23 verse “The master said, “Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!”

Hopefully we will have your full support for the land use as well. If you need any supporting documents or news articles please don’t hesitate to ask.

Thanking you in advance,

Gail Lipscomb

