

## Speakers in Support of Lavender Hill

1. Nadia Anderson, owner of Lavender Hill
2. Dr. James Henry Harris
3. Jane Kallio
4. Toni Hamlin
5. Shandra Stewart
6. Janith Libron
7. Erin Braford on behalf of Chandra Lipford
8. Megan Rollins
9. Will Rollins
10. Lauren McKnight
11. Jay C. on behalf of Jason St. Peter, a neighbor on Sauer
12. Christina Dick + on behalf of Patricia Bradby
13. *Dr. Linda Gilliam on behalf of Suzanne Caldwell*
14. Jolinda Anderson
15. Will Anderson
16. Gwendolyn Whiting on behalf of Linzy George
17. *Bernadette Anderson*
18. *McDaniel Anderson*
19. Damon Davis
20. Duane Fowlkes
21. Ayasha Sledge
22. Tamara Green Jones
23. Karla Sookins
24. *Elsie Holmes*
25. Beverly Epps reading On behalf of Valerie Gilbert \*\*
26. Horace Anderson
27. Brother Matthew
28. Minister Tracey
29. Aaron Foster

I'm not certain if those in support or in opposition will speak first.

Very generally, we are not here to defend or to respond directly to anything shared. Some of what is said will feel like an attack. We must not respond to the attack verbally, with facial expressions, or body language that can be interpreted as adversarial or disrespectful. We shall only speak facts about our experiences, always focused on the ordinance, the evidence, and equal application of standards.

Good Evening City Council members,

My name is Ayasha Sledge and I'm here tonight not only as a professional photographer, but as a friend of 35 years to Nadia Anderson, owner of Lavender Hill.

I want to begin by saying that what I witnessed at the Planning Commission meeting was deeply troubling — not just for Nadia but for anyone who believes in fair and transparent process.

There ~~was~~ was no clear understanding of what standards applied to her property.

**Zoning** staff were unable to answer questions **posed** by commissioner. **Supporters** were spoken over while trying to share lived experience. And neighbors described impacts that, frankly, do not align with what I have personally seen.

And I have seen a lot — because I have photographed many events at Lavender Hill.

I photographed a wedding there in May of 2022

- There was no excessive noise
- There was no DJ, No Dance floor.
- The music was conversational, guests could hear me clearly giving direction while posing for photos.

I photographed her father's Birthday Party in 2024.

- ~~Guests~~ were dressed <sup>73rd</sup> in their Sunday Best, many of them senior citizens.
- It is inconceivable to suggest that this gathering created a disturbance to the neighborhood.

In 2025 I did not shoot any outdoor events at Lavender Hill, But I did work with Nadia on the VUU Legacy Awards Gala at the Richmond Convention Center — over 600 guests, co hosted by Mayor Danny Avula — executed with professionalism, style and precision. We also worked together on the MLK Breakfast last year, with over 700 guest and will again this Friday. She is poised, conscientious and excellent at what she does.