

**From:** [Jennifer Grogan](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** comment on Diamond financing  
**Date:** Thursday, April 18, 2024 7:35:46 AM

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Dear Economic Development Standing Committee,

Please do not proceed with recommending public financing for the Diamond redevelopment. Community discussion of the same has not been complete and arguments against such financing are very strong. This should not be rushed through.

Thank you.

Jennifer Grogan  
Richmond, Va

**From:** [Anne Brooks Rich](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** Diamond District Funding  
**Date:** Thursday, April 18, 2024 7:54:36 AM

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Dear Economic Development Standing Committee,

Please do not proceed with recommending public financing for the Diamond redevelopment. Community discussion of the same has not been complete and arguments against such financing are very strong. This should not be rushed through.

Thank you.  
Brook Rich  
Richmond, VA

Sent from my ipad

**From:** [JOAN OBERLE](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** Diamond financing  
**Date:** Thursday, April 18, 2024 8:15:12 AM

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As a resident of Richmond City, I am in vigorously opposed to the present plan to finance the Diamond project. The proposal places all the risk on the city regardless of what Davenport and company purport. Many of our public school buildings are in need of major repairs, upgrades, etc. This sort of deal will put those funds at risk. We will not be fooled by this last ditch effort by Mayor Stoney and his untruthful administration.

Joan Oberle  
1828 Park Avenue  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Deborah Costello](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** Diamond Funding  
**Date:** Thursday, April 18, 2024 8:38:00 AM

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To the Economic Development Standing Committee:

Please do not proceed with recommending public financing for the Diamond redevelopment. Community discussion of the same has not been complete and arguments against such financing are very strong. This should not be rushed through.

Thank you.

Deborah Costello  
1502 Grove Ave  
Richmond, VA

**From:** [Patricia Loyde](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** Diamond District redevelopment financing  
**Date:** Thursday, April 18, 2024 9:39:01 AM

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Candice D. Reid, City Clerk

The new finance proposal for the Diamond District redevelopment that puts all the risk on the city shouldn't be approved so quickly without giving citizens more time to learn the true details of the effects and allowing public input and by-in.

I am very much in favor of redevelopment in the Diamond District, and it would be a huge loss to the city if we were to lose the Squirrels baseball team. However, pushing through this new proposal so quickly is not in the best interests of our city long term.

We have a history of poor financial decisions in RVA. Let's not make another one!

Patty Loyde  
Fan Resident  
Richmond, VA  
[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Austin Hobson](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Diamond District Financing Plan (Ordinances 2024-111, 2024-112, 2024-113, 2024-114)  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 7, 2024 5:19:19 PM

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Hello, my name is Austin Hobson and I am a resident here in the city and I wanted to voice my support for the Diamond District Financing plan that is being voted on 05/08/2024. **Please support these ordinances and resolutions.** I understand that the change to the financing gave some pause but I believe the change makes sense and will save the city money.

In any case, **we cannot afford to lose the housing and opportunities that the diamond district will bring.** We are in a housing crisis and I worry that if something happens and we don't get this started we will end up not building these residences.

I also do not want to lose the Flying Squirrels baseball team. We have unfortunately lost entertainment options in the past and I do not want to repeat that. They bring so much fun to so many people, not to mention they bring people and dollars in from the counties when they buy tickets and go to restaurants around there.

Please support these ordinances and let's get the ball rolling on this. Thank you.

Best Wishes,  
Austin Hobson

**From:** [Richmond For All](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on ORD. 2024-111  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2024 9:48:15 AM  
**Attachments:** [Diamond District Bond Referendum-2.pdf](#)

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Please see the attached comment on ORD. 2024-111 that is being considered today at council's special meeting.



Dear President Nye, Vice President Lambert and members of council,

We are writing to formally request that you put the new bond ordinance for the Diamond District project up for a referendum on the November ballot.

The public has had just over a month to vet the new bond structure; this is not a sufficient amount of time given the massive change. Most were not even aware of this special meeting that takes place today at 3PM when many workers begin their shifts or are already at work. We can't help but note that this process has been designed to limit public input as much as possible.

If this project fails, then all of the risk falls upon residents instead of upon the bond holders under the original CDA proposal. If you are so certain of the success of this project, you ought to be able to articulate the benefits to the public at the ballot box. Given your testimonies at various meetings, many of you have asserted that the public just doesn't understand the new deal. This is the same tired refrain from the Dominion Coliseum and Casino projects. Richmonders are smart and will hold you responsible.

As you know, Richmond for All's membership has played a large role in halting several high risk economic development deals in the city. Folks in our broader community have sent at least 171 letters to date to members of council, the mayor and the CAO. We believe you are underestimating the degree to which Richmonders are tired of handouts to the ultra rich.

The best strategy for economic development in the city is not to hand public dollars to out-of-state private interests and hope that they toss us a crumb. The best strategy to guarantee economic development is to ensure that every student receives free, high quality public education, that everyone has access to healthy food, that everyone has a home, and that we have high quality public service.

For your consideration,  
The Governing Board of Richmond for All

Contact:  
Laura McCann  
[info@richmondforall.com](mailto:info@richmondforall.com)