



CITY OF RICHMOND

Department of Planning & Development Review *Staff Report*

Ord. No. 2024-178: To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute an Assignment and Assumption of Leasehold Interest in Ground Lease between the City and the Economic Development Authority of the City of Richmond for the purpose of the assumption by the City of the Authority's ground lease of a 15.04-acre parcel located at 2401 West Leigh Street to facilitate the transfer of the ownership and operation of the facilities located thereon from the Authority to the City. (2nd District)

To: City Planning Commission
From: Land Use Administration
Date: July 16, 2024

PETITIONER

Matthew Welch, Acting Director, Department of Economic Development

LOCATION

2401 West Leigh Street

SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION

This ordinance will authorize the City of Richmond to assume ownership of a training facility that is a LEED Certified, two-story 33,700 square-foot sports, office, and event facility with professional athletic fields, locker rooms, and a park.

This transition will provide the public with greater access to the high-quality green space and athletics facility while also offering much-needed city-owned office space for the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The City's Richmond 300 Master Plan aims to, "increase neighborhood access to, and through, a well-designed network of open spaces" (RVA 300, p. 103). Additionally, one of the six Big Moves identified in the Plan is to provide greenways and parks for all, ensuring that 100% of Richmonders live within a 10-minute walk of a park. By accepting this transfer of property, the City will be enhancing and preserving local greenspace, therefore contributing to the overall goals of the Richmond 300 Master Plan.

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Site Description

The subject parcel is located in the Museums neighborhood between DMV Drive and the CSX Railroad. It is currently an approximately 15-acre property.

Community Engagement

Increasing access to public green space and parks is a goal of the Richmond 300 Master Plan, which had a robust public engagement process.

Staff Contact:

Christopher Frelke, Director of Parks, Director, Department of Recreation and Community Facilities

Matt Welch, Acting Director, Department of Economic Development

Katie McConnell, Senior Deputy Director, Department of Economic Development