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Damon Jiggetts

May 15, 2020

To The Richmond City Planning Commission:

I'm writing to express my support for The Maggie Walker Community Land Trust to subdivide the property at 1701 N 21st Street and build 2 attached single family homes. The Community Land Trust's primary purpose is to provide permanently affordable homes for residents of the Richmond Metro Region. This mission continues to be one of great importance, particularly in the neighborhood of this proposed project. Longtime residents of Church Hill face ever-growing real estate prices and ongoing speculative investment practices which threaten their ability to stay in the neighborhood that they have called home. The development and preservation of quality affordable housing, particularly permanently affordable housing, which preserves affordability for generations, is paramount to the future of this neighborhood.

The project at 1701 N 21st Street also poses an exciting potential for collaboration between other mission-based organizations in the area, like ours. Peter Paul is an outreach and community center serving children and families in Church Hill and neighboring communities in Richmond's East End. Peter Paul's programming serves young and old alike, and these programs are offered at no cost to participants. Peter Paul's comprehensive Family and Community Engagement programming provides families in our community the opportunity to develop stronger relationships with each other while enhancing skills they need to become more effective parents. Peter Paul strives to make a difference in the lives of students as well as in their homes and within the communities that surround them. We look forward to supporting East End families during and throughout their residency in these properties, in our collective efforts to support healthy home environments and upward mobility.

The Community Land Trust has become a trusted developer of quality homes since its inception in 2016 and has garnered support from both the philanthropic community and its fellow community development corporations. I believe that the proposed development will be a positive contribution to the neighborhood, whose impacts will be experienced for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Damon Jiggetts
Executive Director
Peter Paul

