

**From:** [wychel\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:wychel_99@yahoo.com)  
**To:** [PDR Land Use Admin](#)  
**Subject:** ORD 2025-244  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 18, 2025 3:12:58 PM

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I support Agenda item ORD.2025-244. I welcome the Department of Parks and Recs receiving that property. It is best suited for green space. There are a multitude of traffic accidents at that intersection. Developing this space will only make that area more dangerous.

Please leave that space as green space as previously proposed by the Neighborhood Association.

Thank you,

LaTasha WYche

Psalms 55:6 - I said, "Oh that I had wings like a dove! Then I would fly away" Please find attached two documents in reference to Planning Commission Consent Agenda item ORD.2025-244., and be at rest.

**From:** [Armenta Delaney](#)  
**To:** [PDR Land Use Admin](#)  
**Subject:** Ord.2025-244  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 18, 2025 3:20:47 PM

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I fully support this ordinance and strongly encourage the Planning Commission to vote to approve the ordinance for the purpose of creating a permanent green space.

Addie Hodges - 1317 Dance Street

**From:** [Blake Stack](#)  
**To:** [PDR Land Use Admin](#); [Oliver, Alyson E. - PDR](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment Regarding Ordinance 2025-244  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 18, 2025 9:16:03 AM

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Dear members of the Planning Commission,

My name is Blake Stack, and I speak as a resident of the Randolph neighborhood. I am writing to express my hesitations regarding the approval of Ordinance 2025-244, which designates RRHA land (313 South Harrison and 1112 Idlewood Avenue) as a permanent public park.

I fully respect the desire of some residents in our neighborhood for more green space in the community. I also recognize the desire to keep this land out of the hands of predatory investors. (Negligent landlords have long had a negative impact on our community.) I, too, resonate with these desires, particularly the latter. However, it is my understanding that the option of transferring the parcels named in Ordinance 2025-244 (313 South Harrison and 1112 Idlewood Ave) to a reputable and trusted affordable housing developer has not been fully explored.

For example, according to our neighborhood association meeting agendas (dating back to April 2021, when I attended a neighborhood meeting where an announcement was made that signatures would be collected to designate this land as a permanent public park), the RRHA has never taken the responsibility to host a public meeting to share the results of a land survey or discuss its various uses. Instead, the RRHA chose to declare in the attached memo of the proposed ordinance that “313 South Harrison Street and 1112 Idlewood Avenue are not unsuitable for affordable housing” with no explanation.

Further, it is my understanding that the RRHA is also considering the transfer of other nearby parcels (507 S. Harrison and 1105 Wallace St., near the former Clark Springs Elementary School).

The transfer of all of these properties would have a significant impact on our community, and I believe it is incumbent on the RRHA, City of Richmond staff, and any other nearby landowners of parcels under consideration to host a public meeting (with appropriate and reasonable notice) to give more community members the opportunity to learn about their current intentions, explore all reasonable options, and solicit feedback. Previous development near these parcels (i.e., the traffic circle) involved public meetings with relevant city agencies and staff; this decision merits the same.

As our city continues to navigate a lack of affordable housing options (as noted in the 2025 Mayoral Action Plan, <https://www.rva.gov/mayors-office/mayoral-action-plan>), I strongly believe decisions like these (particularly when they involve the RRHA, land transfers, and permanent designations) need to have more input from our community members before any

final determinations are made.

Respectfully,

Blake

**From:** [Peyton McCoy](#)  
**To:** [PDR Land Use Admin](#)  
**Cc:** [Oliver, Alyson E. - PDR](#)  
**Subject:** Ordinance 2025-244  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 18, 2025 11:37:41 AM

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Dear Planning Commission:

My name is Peyton McCoy. I reside in the the Randolph neighborhood. This correspondence aims to convey my concerns regarding the approval of Ordinance 2025-244, which designates RRHA land (313 South Harrison and 1112 Idlewood Avenue) as a permanent public park. While the vision is perhaps well intended, demonstrated deficiencies in process and inclusivity, leave the plan vulnerable to unintended consequences. Many times, it is not what we do, it is the way in which we do it.

I applaud and respect the desire for more green space in the community. Furthermore, it is important that the space at Harrison and Idlewood does not land in the purse of predatory investors. The outcomes pursuant to money hungry, community detached, negligent landlords have been injurious to this community for many years. Moreover, once these investors and absentee property owners enter the neighborhood, accountability measures are absent, responsiveness is nonexistent, and community governing mechanisms provide too little, too late. Hence, I understand the concept and rationale. However, it appears that the option of transferring the parcels named in Ordinance 2025-244 to a reputable and trusted affordable housing developer, have not been adequately and respectfully explored.

It is important, in my view, that decisions of this nature include the perspective of the community. As was the case when the traffic roundabout near Idlewood and Harrison was developed to promote connectivity several years ago, I expected community input sessions prior to decision making. Hence, I was surprised to hear of Ordinance 2025-244, by accident, just last night. It was disappointing to neither receive information, nor an invitation to any type of information session. In fact, I attended a community meeting at Common Table on September 25th. There was a presentation from developers regarding intentions for the soon to be vacated Virginia Home. However, I recall neither discussion nor information on Ordinance 2025-244 at that meeting. Parenthetically, pursuant to the developer's presentation during the September 25th meeting, the concern and constructive feedback emphatically expressed by civic leadership at that meeting was predicated on the lack of community information provided, and the absence of neighborhood inclusion facilitated, during the planning process.

Summarily, since these actions have significant, severe, and far reaching impact on

our neighborhood, it is important that entities such as RRHA, City of Richmond, and owners of land parcels under consideration, host public meetings which give sensitive requisite and reasonable notice. This would help in ensuring that more community members have the opportunity to learn about intentions, proposals, updates, alternatives, and to solicit feedback. Decisions like these need to have more input from our community members before any final determinations are made.

Respectfully,  
Peyton  
(804) 503 1729

**Peyton McCoy, Ed.D., Ph.D.**  
**Executive Director, 31st Cares, Inc.**

**From:** DEBBIE WILLIAMS  
**To:** Oliver, Alyson E. - PDR; PDR Land Use Admin  
**Subject:** City of Richmond-File#: ORD.2025-244  
**Date:** Monday, November 17, 2025 9:52:13 PM

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Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

My name is Debbie Williams, and I am a resident of the Randolph neighborhood. I am writing to you today to respectfully express my concerns regarding Ordinance 2025-244, which proposes to designate RRHA land at 313 South Harrison and 1112 Idlewood Avenue as a permanent public park.

While I understand and appreciate efforts to increase green spaces within our city, I believe it is important to carefully consider the long-term implications of converting these specific RRHA properties into a permanent park. My concerns stem from several factors that I hope the Commission will thoughtfully weigh before making a final decision:

- **Community Needs and Priorities:** The Randolph neighborhood has a variety of needs, including affordable housing, community centers, and other resources that serve a diverse population. Designing these parcels exclusively as parkland may limit our ability to address these pressing needs in the future.
- **Impact on Current and Future Residents:** The use of RRHA land can have significant impacts on current and potential residents, especially those relying on affordable housing opportunities. Preserving flexibility for these sites ensures that our community can adapt to changing circumstances and continue to meet residents' needs.
- **Equitable Process and Community Input:** It is crucial that all voices in the Randolph neighborhood are heard and considered.
- **Transparency and Public Process:** According to our neighborhood association meeting agenda, dating back to the announcement in April 2021, signatures were to be collected to officially request a transfer of ownership of this land. However, I do not recall RRHA ever hosting a public meeting to discuss the various possible uses of this land, including affordable housing, with the public.

In addition, it is my understanding that RRHA is also considering the transfer of nearby parcels at 507 S. Harrison and 1105 Wallace Street, which are located near the former Clark Springs Elementary School. The transfer of these properties would also have a significant impact on our community and should be carefully evaluated alongside the proposed ordinance. I urge the Commission to ensure robust community engagement and transparent decision-making processes before moving

forward with permanent land use changes. It is the responsibility of RRHA, Richmond City staff, and parcel owners to take into consideration the impact on the community and to host a public meeting. This would provide an opportunity to invite feedback, ensure transparency, and allow community members to learn more about current intentions.

I respectfully ask that you consider these concerns as you deliberate on Ordinance 2025-244. Our neighborhood's well-being depends on thoughtful, balanced decisions that consider not only current desires but also future possibilities.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Debbie Williams

Randolph Neighborhood Resident

[debbiew58@comcast.net](mailto:debbiew58@comcast.net)

**From:** D W <dwrva@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 12, 2025 1:52 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Cc:** Randolph RVA; Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office; Robins, Amy E. - City Council Office  
**Subject:** RNA Comment for ORD.2025-244  
**Attachments:** RNA-CityCouncilLetter-GreenSpace-12-12-2025.pdf; RandolphNeighborhood-GreenSpaceProposal.pdf

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Good afternoon,

Please find attached two documents in reference to City Council Consent Agenda item ORD.2025-244.

I would appreciate it if you could let me know that this email and the two attachments have been received and will be provided to all City Council members prior to the meeting, and that they will be included in the records of the meeting.

Please let me know if you have any questions or issues.

Thank you,

David Wright

Vice President, Randolph Neighborhood Association

dwrva@outlook.com

**From:** Blake Stack <blakestack@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 15, 2025 9:53 AM  
**To:** Breton, Andrew S. - City Council; Jordan, Katherine - City Council; Gibson, Kenya J. - City Council; Abubaker, Sarah M. - City Council; Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office; Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council; Newbille, Cynthia I. - City Council; Trammell, Reva M. - City Council; Jones, Nicole - City Council Office  
**Cc:** City Clerk's Office; Mayor Danny Avula; Mitchell, Denzel C. - Mayor's Office  
**Subject:** Vote no / no consent: Ordinance 2025-244

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Dear Council Members,

My name is Blake Evan Stack, and I write to oppose Ordinance 2025-244, voting to turn public land owned by our local housing authority (313 South Harrison and 1112 Idlewood Ave) into a permanent public park. (I have no economic or professional interests connected to this ordinance.) My reasons are as follows:

- **Minimal community input:** The Richmond Redevelopment Housing Authority (RRHA) recently approved the transfer of this land due to the request of several community members in the summer of 2021, however, since that time, the RRHA, nor any of our elected officials, have ever hosted a public meeting to solicit broader community input. This does not reflect the promises of “trust and transparency” that our elected officials ran on. (It should also be noted that several of the signatures within the original request represent the names of people who no longer live in our community.)
- **Affordable housing never explored:** there is a reasonable argument for more green space in our community (and that turning this land into a public park would keep it out of the hands of predatory investors); however, the option of transferring the

parcels named in Ordinance 2025-244 (313 South Harrison and 1112 Idlewood Ave) to a reputable and trusted affordable housing developer has not been explored.

- **Inaccurate information provided by the City/RRHA to the Planning Commission:** Additionally, the Planning Commission made its decision with false information. As reported by The Richmonder on December 4, 2025 a memo by the City of Richmond inaccurately stated that parcels “313 South Harrison Street and 1112 Idlewood Avenue are unsuitable for affordable housing.” The RRHA has since disputed that statement (see here: <https://www.richmonder.org/randolph-could-get-a-new-public-park-near-south-harrison-st-gateway/>).
- **Misalignment with the platforms of our elected officials who represent our community:** Both Mayor Danny Avula and 5th District Council member Stephanie Lynch named affordable housing as a primary issue when running for elected office.

Please do not allow this ordinance to sit on the consent agenda tonight, and please do not let it pass. It is worth additional time, consideration, and due process.

Sincerely,

Blake  
Randolph Resident  
1420 Wallace Street  
804-214-2637

**From:** DEBBIE WILLIAMS <debbiew58@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 8, 2025 1:03 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Opposition to Ordinance 2025-244 – Transfer of Public Land at 313 Harrison Street and 1112 Idlewood Avenue

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Dear Members of City Council,

I am writing to formally oppose Ordinance 2025-244, which proposes turning the public land at 313 Harrison Street and 1112 Idlewood Avenue—currently owned by the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RRHA)—into a permanent public park. My opposition is based on several critical concerns regarding the process and the information provided to the public and the Planning Commission.

### **Lack of Meaningful Community Engagement**

In the summer of 2021, RRHA approved the transfer of these parcels following requests from several community members. However, neither RRHA nor any elected officials hosted a public meeting to allow for comprehensive community input. This omission fails to uphold the promise of "transparency and trust" that our elected officials made during their campaigns. Decisions affecting public assets should involve robust community dialogue, ensuring that all voices are heard and considered.

### **Inaccurate Information Provided to the Planning Commission**

It has come to light, as reported by The Richmonder on December 4, 2025, that a memo from the City of Richmond inaccurately stated that 313 South Harrison and 1112 Idlewood Avenue are unsuitable for affordable housing. RRHA has since disputed this assertion, indicating that the Planning Commission's vote may have been based on misleading information. Such discrepancies undermine the integrity of the decision-making process and cast doubt on the validity of the ordinance.

### **Misalignment with Elected Officials' Stated Priorities**

Both Mayor Danny Avula and 5th District Council member Stephanie Lynch emphasized affordable housing as a central issue during their campaigns for elected office. The proposed ordinance appears to contradict their stated platforms, as it may remove valuable land from potential affordable housing development—at a time when our community faces urgent housing needs.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to reconsider the transfer of these parcels and to prioritize transparency and community engagement. Our city's future depends on thoughtful, inclusive decision-making that truly reflects the needs and priorities of its residents.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Debbie Williams  
Randolph Resident

**From:** Lala Williams <Lala.A.Williams@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 7, 2025 7:44 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Public Comment Period / Ordinance 2055-244

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12/07/2025

Name: Lala A. Williams  
Resident of the Randolph Neighborhood

This is in response to the vote being planned on Ordinance 2025-244. I am in disagreement with this vote as there was no public notice or discussion on the proposed changes.

We have open green space at Bryd Park which as served this neighborhood for years and Park and swimming pool area in the 1500-1600 Blocks on Idlewood Avenue.

RRHA should not be able to transfer or gift this land without transparency of it's use to the neighborhood.

So my vote will be no at this time.

Lala Williams