

Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR

From: Ward, Jason <jward@amfbakery.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 8:39 AM
To: Rodney@thewiltonco.com
Cc: Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR
Subject: Public Safety Building Next Steps

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Dear Mr. Poole:

I am writing to support the sale of Richmond's Public Safety Building to Capital City Partners. I work in the City, and I am a board member of Ronald McDonald House Charities which is one of the organizations that will benefit from this project.

As you may know, Ronald McDonald House Charities has been located in the 2nd District since opening its doors in 1980. While we serve 10 hospitals from across the region, our largest referring partner is Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU. We hear from parents on a regular basis that although our house is nice, they need to be closer to their hospitalized child. In 2015 we began looking for land and working with our hospital partners to determine (based on pediatric discharge data) the appropriate size of a Ronald McDonald House. Our current house can serve up to 9 families each night. **The data shows the true need for pediatric medical hospitality ranges from 32-65 rooms per night.** In addition to not enough space, our beautiful 1913 home on Monument Avenue lacks true accessibility and does not have private bathrooms for each family.

This new building will allow us to design the optimal space for all our guests and especially our long-term guests/patients many of whom are immune-compromised and are with us for over a month, some staying 6 months or more. The location is closer to the hospital which will make it safer and easier for our guests to get back and forth. And even more importantly it will allow us to expand the number of rooms available so that we can serve all those who need us. In our current building we are often at capacity and while we try to offer families hotel stays when possible the true need will not be met until we have a new building in close proximity to Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU.

The Public Safety Building has repeatedly been identified as a significant opportunity in the master planning process for the neighborhood and for VCUH.

- Richmond Downtown Master Plan
- Pulse Corridor Plan
- One VCU Master Plan
- Navy Hill Commission findings
- Richmond 300

We have all watched the processes with hope and enthusiasm especially as there has been unanimous agreement on the proposed uses for the Public Safety Building block. Given the proximity to VCUH, this proposal meets the needs of the Health System, The Doorways, and the Ronald McDonald House as each have been identified in each of the master planning documents and confirmed by the input of thousands of Richmonders who participated in the process.

Please recommend the ordinances and sale of the Public Safety Building to Capital City Partners.

With Best Regards,

Jason Ward



Jason Ward
President

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