

Item No. 11

Westhampton Merchants Association  
www.westhamptonrva.com/



Tonda Arthur  
Vice President  
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June 15, 2018

City of Richmond Planning Commission and City Council  
c/o Mr. Mark Olinger – Director of Planning  
Planning Department  
900 E. Broad St., Room 511  
Richmond, VA  
23219 USA

**RE: Westhampton School Rezoning**

Dear Planning Commission and City Council Members:

The Westhampton Merchants Association is comprised of neighborhood businesses in Westhampton, principally along Patterson, Libbie and Grove Avenues that has a mission to support the vibrancy and health of all businesses in this neighborhood. Our members span the gambit from restaurants, banks, offices, retail shops, service businesses, churches, and commercial property owners. We provide the neighborhood amenities, shopping and dining experience that makes the Westhampton neighborhood such a desirable place to live for residents in the City of Richmond.

The Westhampton Merchants Association has closely followed the application by Bon Secours to rezone the Westhampton School property, and our members have attended the many public meetings regarding this topic. Additionally, Councilman Addison and Rhodes Ritenour with Bon Secours have attended several meetings to keep the membership informed and to solicit feedback from our members, for which we are very grateful.

We held a vote at our regular monthly meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and the association voted in favor of supporting the application to rezone the property to B-7. Of the members present and who voted, 80% of the members voted to support the rezoning application and 20% voted not to oppose; no members voted to oppose the application.

We believe that redevelopment of this property will help our businesses along Patterson by bringing additional people who will patronize the businesses of our members. Currently, the vacant and empty school buildings do not help promote a vibrant and healthy neighborhood. We have faith that Bon Secours will work with the City, the residents and our members on a thoughtful and well-designed neighborhood-oriented plan for the property.

Sincerely,

Tonda Arthur  
Vice President  
Westhampton Merchants Association

Cc: Councilman Andreas Addison