

1501 Willis Street
Richmond, VA 23224

February 20, 2023

Mr. Raymond Roakes
Urban Design Committee
900 E. Broad Street, Rm. 510
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Mr. Roakes:

I am addressing the proposal to place a fire department training facility on the grounds adjacent to the Hickory Hill Community Center.

Hickory Hill Community Center is a hub for several communities in the southside, including Bellemeade where I have resided since 1970. The center is convenient for community meetings, after school summer programs for young people, a place to provide opportunities for physical exercise, recreation, social interaction etc. Placing a training facility at this location would interrupt participation in most of these events.

Southside already deals with heat islands, noise levels and pollution because of the industrial businesses located in and around our neighborhoods. There is no guarantee that building a facility on the property near the center will not impede public use of the building as well as the fields or courts near the center's complex.

There already are too few green spaces in our South Richmond communities, especially in marginalized neighborhoods, and building a training facility does nothing to protect our green spaces and the health of our residents.

Thank you for any consideration given this issue.

Sincerely yours,

Louise P. McQueen

