



In Reply Refer to:

**United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**RICHMOND NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK
MAGGIE L. WALKER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
3215 EAST BROAD STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23223-7517**



6 July 2021

Dear Mr. Saunders:

Thank you for affording us the opportunity to review the schematic designs for the building proposed for the corner of East Leigh and North Second Streets, directly adjacent to the Jackson Ward National Historic Landmark District. While development of vacant sites in and near the District will have a positive impact on the economic health of the area, the National Park Service is concerned that the scale of the proposed structure, at five stories, will negatively impact that District, one that is largely characterized by residential buildings of two to three stories.

We note that the recently constructed building bordered by First, Second and Duval streets corresponds fairly well to the scale of the District's buildings. The section that is closer to the smaller scale historic buildings is three stories in height, while that which borders the highway is somewhat taller. Conversely, the recent four-story new construction at 202 East Leigh, directly across the street from the site of the planned new building, seems somewhat out of scale when compared to its more diminutive neighboring historic buildings.

As the planning for the building under review, and others within and adjacent to the National Historic Landmark District, moves forward, we advise that everything possible be done to create new buildings that will be "good neighbors" to their historic counterparts by limiting their height and by significantly stepping back fourth and fifth floors to avoid the looming canyon effect that can result from the construction of tall buildings within a landscape defined by much more intimate historic structures.

Sincerely,

Andrea DeKoter

Andrea DeKoter, PhD
Superintendent (Acting)