



City of Richmond

Minutes

Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall
(Virtual Meeting)

Committee Members and Others in Attendance

The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Chair
The Honorable Kim Gray – Vice Chair
The Honorable Michael Jones – Committee member
The Honorable Andreas Addison – Council member (late arrival)
The Honorable Kristen Larson – Council member (early departure)
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Council member (late arrival)
Bonnie Ashley, Deputy City Attorney
Bill Echelberger, Council Budget Analyst
Allison Miessler, Boards and Commissions Administrator
Pamela Nichols, Assistant City Clerk
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Steve Taylor, Council Policy Analyst
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Ellen Robertson called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m., and presided.

Electronic Participation

Assistant City Clerk Pamela Nichols, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, announced the meeting would be held through electronic communication means. Assistant City Clerk Nichols stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on May 13, 2020, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated members of the public were encouraged to provide comments in writing prior to the meeting and all comments received prior to 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, May 19, 2020, were provided to committee members. Mrs. Nichols indicated that members of the public who signed up to speak and provide comment would be called to speak at the appropriate time.

Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Pamela Nichols, assistant city clerk, provided citizen speaker guidelines.

Paper(s) for Consideration

Member Michael Jones moved to amend the agenda as follows:

ORD. 2020-025

To erect all-way stop signs at the intersections of Bainbridge Street and West 10th Street; Bainbridge

Street and West 12th Street; Bainbridge Street and West 14th Street; Porter Street and West 10th Street; Porter Street and West 12th Street; Porter Street and West 14th Street; Perry Street and West 10th Street; Perry Street and West 12th Street; McDonough Street and West 10th Street; McDonough Street and West 12th Street; and McDonough Street and West 14th Street.

Patron: Ms. Robertson

To be continued to the November 17, 2020 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting

ORD. 2020-085

To designate the 3100 block of Decatur Street in honor of Johnny R. Battle.

Patrons: Ms. Trammell and Ms. Robertson

To be continued to the June 16, 2020 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting

RES. 2019-R068

To express the Council's support for certain goals in alignment with the Vision Zero traffic safety program that promote sustainability and equity in access to safe transportation.

Patron: Mr. Addison

To be continued to the September 22, 2020 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting

RES. 2020-R016

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause the Director of Public Works to conduct a study and provide recommendations to the Council concerning how applicable laws and regulations might be lawfully amended to require contractors to provide protected walkways, crosswalks, bicycle lanes, shared-use paths, and trails for the purpose of further promoting the City's Vision Zero traffic safety program.

Patrons: Mr. Addison and Mr. Jones

To be continued to the June 16, 2020 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comment speakers.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of Tuesday, February 18, 2020, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

Board Vacancies

Allison Miessler, boards and commissions administrator, reviewed board applications for vacancies on the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RRHA).

Councilor Andreas Addison joined the meeting at 1:24 p.m.

Vice Chair Kim Gray expressed concern regarding the committee's previous interview process conducted for the RRHA board applicants.

Chair Ellen Robertson stated that consideration of the current board applications for RRHA can be continued and asked that the board vacancies be re-advertised for additional applications. Chair Robertson recommended Vice Chair Gray work with the Office of the City Clerk regarding the applicant evaluation process.

Member Michael Jones stated he would like Council to develop a more defined process for filling board vacancies.

It was the consensus of the committee to continue consideration of the board applications for vacancies on the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority, to the June 16, 2020 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Presentation(s)

There were no presentations.

Paper(s) for Consideration

Citizens were provided an opportunity to offer comments in writing regarding proposed legislation on the agenda prior to the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting and public hearing. All written comments received by the Office of the City Clerk were provided to members of the committee and are included as an Appendix to the May 19, 2020 Land Use, Housing and Transportation meeting minutes.

The following ordinances were considered:

ORD. 2020-084

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute an Urban Project Construction Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Virginia Department of Transportation to provide funding for the design, construction, and maintenance of safety improvements to Laburnum Avenue at the southbound and northbound ramps of Virginia Route 195.

Patron: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

ORD. 2020-098

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute an Urban Project Construction Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Virginia Department of Transportation to provide funding for the design and construction of improvements to the interchange at Maury Street and I-95.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Lamont Benjamin, capital improvement projects (CIP) administrator with the Department of Public Works, introduced ORD. 2020-084 and ORD. 2020-098.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Gray moved to forward ORD. 2020-084 and ORD. 2020-098 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2020-112

To establish a residential permit parking district in the Historic Jackson Ward neighborhood.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Vice Chair Kim Gray expressed support of ORD. 2020-112.

Lynne Lancaster, deputy director of Parking and Shared Mobility – Department of Public Works, introduced ORD. 2020-112.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Gray moved to forward ORD. 2020-112 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2020-R014

To request the Virginia Department of Transportation to amend the street mileage inventory for the City of Richmond.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

M. Khara, deputy director/city engineer with the Department of Public Works, introduced RES. 2020-R014.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch asked for confirmation that streets around Byrd Park were included in the street mileage inventory.

Mr. Khara agreed to follow up with Councilor Lynch regarding her inquiry.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Gray moved to forward RES. 2020-R014 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following resolutions were considered:

RES. 2020-R021

To name the east-west alley located in the block bounded by West Main Street, South Shields Avenue, West Cary Street, and South Addison Street as "Uptown Alley."

Patron: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

RES. 2020-R022

To name a portion of the east-west alley located in the block bounded by Dorchester Road, Jahnke Road, and CSX Transportation, Inc.'s railroad tracks as "Gravel Alley."

Patron: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

M. Khara, deputy director/city engineer with the Department of Public Works, introduced RES. 2020-R021 and RES. 2020-R022.

Councilor Kristen Larson expressed support of RES. 2020-R022.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Gray moved to forward RES. 2020-R021 and RES. 2020-R022 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

Public Hearing

The public hearing speaker experienced technical difficulties during the public hearing for RES. 2020-R021 and RES. 2020-R022 and the committee consented to allow the public hearing speaker to provide comments.

***Phil Gardner** spoke in support of RES. 2020-R022 and explained the naming of the alley referenced in the proposed resolution would meet the requirement of a previously approved special use permit for the construction of a single-family dwelling.*

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2020-113

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Deed of Quitclaim of Utility Easement Portion between the City of Richmond and FW-VA The Village Shopping Center, LLC, for the purpose of releasing a portion of a utility easement to FW-VA The Village Shopping Center, LLC.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

There were no comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Gray moved to forward ORD. 2020-113 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2020-111

To declare the property known as 1201 Porter Street to be blighted property pursuant to Va. Code § 36-49.1:1 and to approve a spot blight abatement plan for such property.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Mark Olinger, director for Planning and Development Review, provided an overview of ORD. 2020-111. Mr. Olinger reported that, since 2016, three unsafe notices were issued for the property, and the city had attempted to work with the owners to develop an acceptable plan to repair the blighted conditions; however, the problems still exist. He stated the city was seeking to acquire the property through the city's spot blight abatement program. Mr. Olinger further reported the city had confirmation that the property owners did receive communications from the city regarding the matter.

Public Hearing

Chair Ellen Robertson asked Assistant City Clerk Pamela Nichols to read public comment emails provided to members of the committee regarding the legislation. All written comments received by the Office of the City Clerk were provided to members of the committee and are included as an Appendix to the May 19, 2020 Land Use, Housing and Transportation meeting minutes.

Mr. Olinger reiterated that the city had made various attempts to work with the property owners to address the blighted property, and the city was comfortable moving forward with the spot blight abatement.

Chair Robertson expressed support of ORD. 2020-111 and stated that the city had done its due diligence to work with the property owners.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Gray moved to forward ORD. 2020-111 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2020-R015

To modify the decision of the Commission of Architectural Review, which approved a certificate of appropriateness for the demolition of a certain portion of George Mason Elementary School located at 813 North 28th Street by adding to such certificate the approval to demolish a certain portion of such school constructed in 1922, upon certain terms and conditions.

Patron: President Newbille

Public Hearing

Chair Ellen Robertson asked Assistant City Clerk Pamela Nichols to read public comment emails provided to members of the committee regarding RES.2020-R015. All written comments received by the Office of the City Clerk were provided to members of the committee and are included as an Appendix to the May 19, 2020 Land Use, Housing and Transportation meeting minutes.

Vice Chair Kim Gray stated she was not comfortable taking action against the Commission of Architectural Review and would like to ensure RES. 2020-R015 would be considered as a part of Council's Regular Agenda.

The committee was advised that RES. 2020-R015 was on the Regular Agenda for the May 26, 2020 Formal Council Meeting.

Vice Chair Gray moved that RES. 2020-R015 be forwarded to Council with no recommendation.

The motion failed for lack of a second.

Chair Robertson expressed support of RES. 2020-R015.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Jones moved to forward RES. 2020-R015 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Jones, Robertson. Noes 1, Gray.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2020-086

To designate and incorporate certain City-owned properties located along Riverside Drive and West 22nd Street into Canoe Run Park.

Patron: Ms. Lynch

Councilor Stephanie Lynch introduced ORD. 2020-086.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Gray moved to forward ORD. 2020-086 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2020-087

To designate and incorporate certain City-owned properties along West 42nd Street, West, 43rd Street, West 44th Street, West 46th Street, Rear West 42nd Street, Dunston Avenue, Rear Dunston Avenue, and Reedy Avenue Rear into Crooked Branch Ravine Park.

Patrons: Ms. Lynch and Ms. Larson

Councilor Kristen Larson introduced ORD. 2020-087 and advised the committee of an amendment to the proposed legislation to remove two parcels. Councilor Larson asked the committee for its support of ORD. 2020-087 with an amendment.

Deputy Council Chief of Staff Meghan Brown clarified that an amendment for the proposed legislation would be introduced at the May 26, 2020 Formal meeting of Council.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch expressed support of ORD. 2020-087 and her appreciation to Councilor Larson for her collaboration.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Gray moved to forward ORD. 2020-087 to Council with the recommendation to approve with amendment, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2020-097

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to enter into a Facility Use Agreement between the City of Richmond and the American National Red Cross for the use of six Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities' community centers as shelters during disaster emergency situations.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Vice Chair Kim Gray asked for a listing of the community centers outlined in ORD. 2020-097.

City Clerk Candice Reid shared an electronic list of the six facilities included in the proposed legislation.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Jones moved to forward ORD. 2020-097 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

Councilor Kristen Larson exited the meeting.

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2020-R019

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause the appropriate departments in the City's Administration to incorporate, to the extent permitted by law, the applicable recommendations of the Advisory Task Force for the Economic Revitalization of South Richmond in the development of the City's Master Plan.

Patrons: Ms. Trammell, Mr. Jones, Ms. Lynch and Ms. Robertson

Councilor Stephanie Lynch introduced RES. 2020-R019.

Chair Ellen Robertson and Member Michael Jones expressed support of RES. 2020-R019.

Vice Chair Kim Gray asked to be added as a co-patron.

Member Jones asked Council staff to contact other members of Council about the possibility of being added as co-patrons to RES. 2020-R019.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Gray moved to forward RES. 2020-R019 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2020-R020

To declare a public necessity to amend ch. 30 of the City Code and to initiate an amendment to the City's zoning ordinance to make such lawful changes as may be necessary to permit shelters in all nine Council districts by requesting that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be conducted a study to determine whether and, if so, how the City's zoning ordinance lawfully may be amended to permit, to the extent permitted by law, shelters in all nine Council districts.

Patron: Ms. Robertson

Chair Ellen Robertson introduced RES. 2020-R020.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Gray moved to forward RES. 2020-R020 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2020-R034

To declare surplus and to authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to seek proposals for the properties located at 112 North 7th Street, 114 North 7th Street, 116 North 7th Street, 500 North 10th Street, 401 East Broad Street, 730 East Broad Street, 800 East Clay Street, 808 East Clay Street, 609 East Grace Street, and 601 East Leigh Street for the purpose of facilitating the purchase and development of such parcels.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Leonard Sledge, director for the Department of Economic Development, introduced RES. 2020-R034.

Chair Ellen Robertson requested an update from city administration on Council's previous request for a listing of all city-owned surplus properties.

Mr. Sledge reported that a listing of city-owned surplus properties were available on the Economic Development Authority's website; he agreed to present the information to Council at a future meeting.

Vice Chair Kim Gray opposed consideration to surplus the proposed city-owned properties during the height of a pandemic.

Mr. Sledge agreed to provide the committee with a vicinity map for the proposed properties.

Public Hearing

Chair Ellen Robertson asked Assistant City Clerk Pamela Nichols to read public comment emails provided to members of the committee regarding this legislation. All written comments received by the Office of the City Clerk were provided to members of the committee and are included as an Appendix to the May 19, 2020 Land Use, Housing and Transportation meeting minutes.

Carrie Rose Pace, Greater Richmond Transit Company communications director, advised the committee that GRTC would like to be kept informed about plans for the area in which GRTC currently operates a temporary transfer plaza.

Vice Chair Gray stated she could not support RES. 2020-R034 because city administration had failed to provide a response to Council's request for information regarding properties that were included in the Navy Hill Development.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Jones moved to forward RES. 2020-R034 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Jones, Robertson. Noes 1, Gray.**

Staff Report

Steve Taylor, council policy analyst, and Bill Echelberger, council budget analyst, provided the committee with the May staff report.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

LAW OFFICES

Zwerdling, Oppleman & Adams

JEFFREY M. ZWERDLING
JEFFREY A. OPPLEMAN
BRETT ALEXANDER ZWERDLING
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Legal Assistant: Jenny Morgan
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May 19, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Candice D. Reid, City Clerk
City of Richmond
Email: CityClerksOffice@richmondgov.com

Re: My Client: David Williams
Property Address: 1201 Porter Street

Dear Ms. Reid:

I represent David Williams with regard to pending actions by the City of Richmond regarding the real property and improvements located at 1201 Porter Street in the City of Richmond (the "Property"). It is my understanding that the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee will be considering an action on the Property in their meeting at 1:00pm today. Please read this correspondence into the record and make it a formal part thereof.

It is my client's position that he was not provided proper notice as required by Virginia Code §36-27(B). Specifically, it is my understanding from emails between Mr. Olinger and Ms. Coward on or about March 2, 2020, that the City sent correspondence to my client using an erroneous zip code.

There was some confusion at the May 4, 2020, spot blight hearing when Ms. Coward testified that my client proposed an 18 month work plan. The work plan she referenced was for a full renovation of the Property pursuant to the derelict building program. It was not a spot blight abatement plan. My client did not submit a spot blight abatement plan because he was never properly notified of the spot blight action as stated above. However, my client is willing and able to abate the blight within 6 months and subsequently renovate the Property in conjunction with the appropriate authorities in order to bring it into compliance with the City code. I respectfully request that this matter be stayed and that my client be given 30 days to propose an acceptable spot blight abatement plan, which he understands should be completed within 6 months.

Very truly yours,


A. Blake Gayle

cc: Neil R. Gibson, Esq. (via email)

From: [Cyane Crump](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Jones, Carey L. - PDR](#)
Subject: Resolution 2020-R015 on LUHT Committee Agenda 5/19/20
Date: Monday, May 18, 2020 2:25:10 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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Members of City Council and Land Use Committee –

I am writing to provide comments in connection with Resolution 2020-R015 on the May 19, 2020 agenda of the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Committee relating to George Mason Elementary School.

Historic Richmond is a nonprofit with a mission of shaping the future of Richmond by preserving our distinctive historic character, sparking revitalization and championing our past and future architectural legacy. We previously provided comments on this matter before the Commission of Architectural Review.

While we strongly believe that the Commission of Architectural Review's decision was not in error, we support the School Board's proposal to memorialize the architectural features and history of George Mason Elementary School by salvaging bricks from the portion of the School constructed in 1922 to build a brick arch incorporating the cornerstone from the portion of the School constructed in 1922 and two brick columns incorporating each cornerstone from other later additions to the School.

We believe the School Board's proposal for this architectural feature is consistent with our prior comments before the Commission of Architectural Review. George Mason Elementary School and its role in the larger story of public education in Richmond is an important aspect of Richmond's complex history and the School Board's proposed architectural feature is a step towards memorializing the history of this school on this site.

Thank you for consideration of our comments. More importantly, thank you for your service to the City, particularly in these trying times.

Cyane B. Crump
Executive Director of Historic Richmond



Cyane Crump
Executive Director

Historic Richmond

Building on history

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From: [Torres Adrienne](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Julie Timm](#); [Sheryl Adams](#); [Rose Pace Carrie](#)
Subject: RES. 2020-R034 - Public Safety Building
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 10:26:54 AM

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Comment in response to RES. 2020-R034:

GRTC currently occupies the sidewalk and street adjacent to the public safety building on 9th street between Marshall and Leigh for the Temporary Transfer Plaza. This area is used 7 days a week. This area is adjacent to the surplus parcels and will be impacted by the resolution that authorizes the CAO to issue a RFP for each of the Pending Surplus Parcels. GRTC would like to be part of the conversation, as they will need a permanent location either in the same location, or another location in the CBD area, as well as will need a temporary location during any construction.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Torres

Director of Planning & Scheduling
P 804 474 9798 | F 804 342 1933 | ridegrtc.com
301 East Belt Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23224





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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cyane B. Crump

May 19, 2020

By Email

The Honorable Levar M. Stoney
900 E. Broad St., Suite 201
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Re: 730 East Broad Street (Theater Row)

Dear Mayor Stoney:

Historic Richmond Foundation is writing in the context of Resolution 2020-R034 to declare surplus and to authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to seek proposals for certain properties, including 730 East Broad Street.

Historic Richmond would like to remind the City of our past collaborations with respect to the 700 block of East Broad Street, also known as Theatre Row. In 1991, Historic Richmond, with assistance from the City, acquired the entire 700 block of East Broad Street. We were able to save the entire National Theatre, which was later revitalized and rehabilitated. We transferred the Colonial Theatre and the State Theatre to Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority for development of a new State Social Services Building completed in 1993. The office complex incorporated the Colonial Theatre's architecturally renowned façade protected by easements granted to Historic Richmond. Through these transactions and our diligent and costly efforts, we were able to preserve and protect the streetscape of this historic block.

Our interest in the historic façade of the Colonial Theatre was memorialized in that certain Deed of Easement between the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority and Historic Richmond, dated November 11, 1991, and recorded at Deed Book #284 and Page #1697, and relating to the "Easement Property" as defined therein. Historic Richmond notes that the Easement is perpetual and that Section 8 of the Easement further provides that "*Any such transfer or sale shall be subject to the rights granted and obligations imposed hereunder.*"

As Resolution 2020-R034 and matters relating to 730 East Broad Street are considered by City Council and your administration, we ask that you keep both the historic nature of this streetscape and our easement rights in mind.

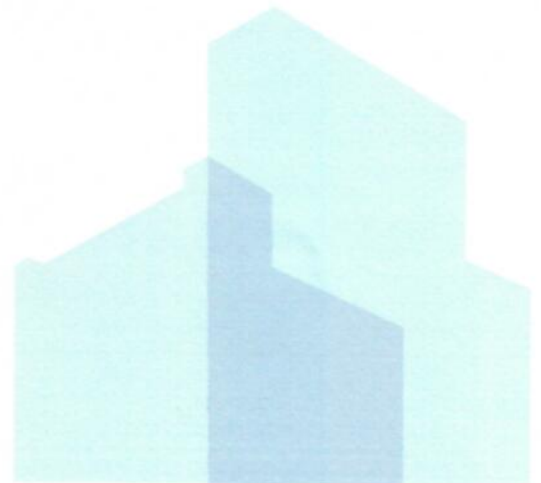
Please let us know if you have any questions. We can be reached at 804-643-7407 or ccrump@historicrichmond.com.

Sincerely yours,



Cyane Crump
Executive Director

cc: Harold J. Williams III, Board President
Lenora G. Reid, Acting Chief Administrative Officer



From: [LaToya Gray](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Comment on Resolution Number 2020-R034
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 9:55:36 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Committee,

Greetings, I hope that this comment finds you well. I am writing to express concern over Resolution Number 2020-R034 which deals with declaring city-owned property in the Navy Hill district as surplus for the purpose of development. My concern is that this resolution will lead to a process that is very similar to that of Navy Hill 1.0. A huge criticism of the original Navy Hill plan was that it did not engage the community early on during the process. I worry that a resolution introduced in a standing committee during the (hopefully) tail-end of a public health crisis in the city, may not be the best nor appropriate way to begin this critical process.

It is my hope that going forward, a transparent and accessible process for development in the City can be introduced--particularly for publicly owned property. Considering that this is the year that the latest strategic plan for Richmond will be implemented, I believe that this is the perfect time to examine and restructure the manner in which development takes place in the City.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
LaToya S. Gray, Resident in the 1st District of the City of Richmond