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**From:** Jameson Brunkow <jbrunkow@jrava.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 10:00 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** City Council Hearing Public Comment

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Good morning Ms. Reid,

I am writing to urge your support for projects funded in Richmond's Proposed 2021-2025 Capital Improvement Plan. I am a local resident of the City of Richmond and an employee at the James River Association.

The James River is the centerpiece for our City. It's a gathering place for Richmonders to connect with nature and it's an essential source of drinking water and driver of eco-tourism. A healthy James River supports a healthy community and that's why it's so important to continue investment in water quality and recreation focused projects in the City. I ask that Richmond's City Council maintain funding proposed for **Stormwater Facilities Improvements (\$11,976,000), Wastewater Treatment (\$7,681,500), and Combined Sewer Overflows ( \$49,502,000 )** in the Capital Improvement Plan.

This year the general Assembly passed legislation, Senate Bill 1064, which establishes a timeline for improving Richmond's combined sewer system by July 1, 2035. Richmond's proposed investment to address Combined Sewer Overflows is essential to keep the city on track to meet this July 1, 2035 deadline and reduce the frequency of untreated wastewater and stormwater into the James River. As Congress considers moving forward with a stimulus bill that invests in infrastructure, these projects to improve water quality and stormwater/wastewater infrastructure could be an important leverage opportunity for Richmond to secure additional federal funding.

Lastly, I encourage the City Council to continue to fund the implementation of the Richmond Riverfront plan and the James River Park System Master Plan. Collectively, these plans will be our guide for making the James River and our parks more accessible to Richmonders. Access to parks and greenspaces are especially important now, as citizens look for ways to safely access nature while practicing safe social distancing. I urge City Council to consider a budget amendment that would assist with funding implementation of these critical plans.

Best,

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