

From: PDR Land Use Admin
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 8:18 AM
To: Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR
Subject: FW: Oregon Hill

From: Maria Cannady [mailto:maria.cannady@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2022 9:41 AM
To: PDR Land Use Admin <PDRLandUseAdmin@rva.gov>
Subject: Oregon Hill

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To Whom it May Concern,

I grew up in Chesterfield. My husband and I each attended VCU twice, lived in Richmond City, and sent our teens to Open High School. We support OHNA and the citizens of Oregon Hill to move to the Residential category, along with Randolph. This new Residential category will:

- Allow buildings of one to three stories in height, conforming to our current R7 zoning.
- Eliminate the ability to build to an unspecified additional height on portions of South Laurel and Idlewood streets.

Please help is keep these historical and unique neighborhoods intact.

Sincerely,
Maria (and Scott) Cannady
Occupational Therapist at
InnovAge VA PACE Richmond Located in Manchester
maria.cannady@comcast.net

Sent from my iPhone

From: PDR Land Use Admin
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 8:16 AM
To: Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR
Subject: FW: PDRPRES-2022.038

-----Original Message-----

From: Mike Mathews [mailto:mathewsmike@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2022 8:56 AM
To: PDR Land Use Admin <PDRLandUseAdmin@rva.gov>
Subject: PDRPRES-2022.038

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My name is Michael Mathews. I live at 315 S. Pine St., and I support this resolution to amend the Richmond 300 plan, which affects my neighborhood and my home. I would like the following comments to be entered into the record:

I support this resolution. I am not anti-development or anti-business, and in the past have supported special use permits that allow new development in Oregon Hill. However, I believe that the current Richmond 300 land use plan proposal to designate the entire neighborhood as mixed-use would financially incentivize the destruction of historic homes in the name of financial profit.

Oregon Hill is a special place...an intact 19th century working class neighborhood that has managed to retain much of it's original character. People have been inspired to write books and songs about it. I have met people in other parts of the country who know our neighborhood.

Having said that, protecting this neighborhood is not all about nostalgia. The Oregon Hill neighborhood is one of the city's modern success stories. In recent decades I have watched the neighborhood blossom. Derelict houses that seemed forever lost have turned into lovely homes. I live in one of these homes.

I understand the need for more affordable housing for city residents. However, I feel this would not be accomplished by making it easier to construct large buildings that would most likely house VCU students, and potentially change the character of a vibrant, thriving, and economically diverse neighborhood.

I believe that I speak for most Oregon Hill residents in saying that we welcome new business and development, as long as it doesn't risk the destruction of a community, this one or any other, that helps make Richmond so very "Richmond"...a unique, diverse, and exciting place to live.

From: PDR Land Use Admin
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 8:19 AM
To: Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR
Subject: FW: RES. 2022-R033: Support

From: Valerie L'Herrou [<mailto:vlherrou@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2022 9:55 AM
To: PDR Land Use Admin <PDRLandUseAdmin@rva.gov>
Subject: RES. 2022-R033: Support

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Dear Members of the Planning Commission:

I am a resident homeowner in Oregon Hill. I support this resolution. I am not anti-development or anti-business. I support density and multi-family homes, and value the fact that many of the homes in my neighborhood are duplexes and include multiple residents. But turning the unique flavor of Richmond's neighborhoods into one large system of corporate apartment complexes will destroy what makes Richmond an appealing and liveable city.

Recently I heard your staff suggest that tall ugly buildings belong in Oregon Hill, but not in neighborhoods such as Windsor Farms. Does the Planning Commission believe only wealthy people have the opportunity to have a voice in the character of their neighborhood? Or are the wealthy developers who live in Windsor Farms the ones making decisions for us? (Yes, there are Windsor Farms residents who own rental properties in Oregon Hill. The current Richmond 300 Plan would increase the resale value of their properties for destruction and rebuilding. Many of these non-resident landlords are letting their properties disintegrate, no doubt waiting for the plan to go into effect so they can be sold and torn down). Already, many buildings along the margins of Oregon Hill have been torn down and replaced with student housing, fast-food joints, and parking garages. When a building such as this, replacing historic buildings, is built in Windsor Farms, maybe I will feel differently:



Oregon Hill is a unique 19th-century working-class neighborhood that has retained much of its original character. People have been inspired to write books and songs about it. I have met people in other parts of the country who know our neighborhood. We love our local businesses and welcome more: a new store is opening across the street from me, and I look forward to patronizing it. In the next block, there's a local market. Down the street from me, a barber shop, and a restaurant. Around the corner, a hair design studio, and a curio shop that draws people from around the world. There are two vacant business locations on my street, and I look forward to these being occupied. I enjoy the diversity of the folks on my block: old-timers, young professionals, VCU students, young professionals, retirees, working families. I love being able to walk to cafes and convenience stores.

I support the special use permit of a neighbor seeking to build an accessory unit in his backyard. I support new duplexes being built on empty lots in our neighborhood. I hope the empty William Byrd Community House will be turned into affordable apartments--perhaps SROs, for the many homeless folks who are part of the Oregon Hill community. (We welcome, here, the folks the city kicked out of Monroe Park.) But I can't support a plan that would incentivize developers to tear down modest historic homes--like the one I live in--to build large ugly buildings in a historic residential neighborhood--one of the last affordable neighborhoods in the city, and one that has suffered incursions and from VCU for decades.

I want the city to create more affordable housing for city residents. This would not be best accomplished by making it easier to construct towering buildings that would temporarily house VCU students from out of the area, and potentially change the character of this vibrant, thriving, economically diverse neighborhood.

Most Oregon Hill residents I have spoken to welcome new business and development, as long as it doesn't risk the destruction of a community -- this or any other. Please support this resolution.

Valerie L'Herrou
315 S Pine Street
Richmond, Va 23220

From: PDR Land Use Admin
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 8:17 AM
To: Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR
Subject: FW: Supporting resolution 2023-R033

From: Phaedra Hise [mailto:phaedrahise@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2022 8:58 AM
To: PDR Land Use Admin <PDRLandUseAdmin@rva.gov>
Cc: Bryan Green <bryancgreen@gmail.com>
Subject: Supporting resolution 2023-R033

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As a resident of Oregon Hill I ask that city council follow through in this resolution to support the neighborhood's wishes for zoning. We have expressed these wishes at every stage of the Richmond 300 process yet continue to be ignored by city planners. I moved to Oregon Hill from nearby West Avenue, and I'm appalled at the inequality of how the two areas are treated. West Avenue residents enjoy weekly street cleaning, continual parking enforcement patrols, and ongoing support from the city against VCU encroachment. By contrast, Oregon Hill is lucky to get a half-assed street cleaning once a year, visitors to Browns Island park by hydrants and block alley access, and our wishes to preserve the livability of our historic neighborhood go unheeded. Please support the resolution and show that Richmond's citizens don't have to be rich and connected to guarantee our quality of life.

- sent from my microchip

PhaedraHise.com (she/her)

From: Maura Meinhardt <maurameinhardt@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 17, 2022 9:13 PM
To: Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR
Cc: Maura Meinhardt
Subject: Fwd: Enact Res. 2022-R033

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Forwarding letter of request to Planning Commissioners, for the record. (I misstated your email address.)

Thank you,
M

Begin forwarded message:

From: Maura Meinhardt <maurameinhardt@gmail.com>
Date: July 17, 2022 at 8:56:39 PM EDT
To: Rodney@thewiltonco.com, sam@astyra.com, jack@tredegarconstruction.com, reginald.gordon@rva.gov, andreas.addison@richmondgov.com, egreenfield@hbar.org, max.hepp.buchanan@gmail.com, bpinnock@baskervill.com, matthew.ebinger@richmond.gov, stephanie.lynch@richmondgov.com
Cc: ohnarva@gmail.com
Subject: Enact Res. 2022-R033

To the Planning Commission members:

Please enact RES. 2022-R033.

Please support the amendments to the Richmond 300 Plan as they pertain to Oregon Hill; the resolution was unanimously approved by City Council on 27 June 2022.

The Council support affirms the consistent—in fact, tireless—efforts of the invested community to guide the vitality and built- environment of this unique district.

As a decades-long resident, property owner, activist and community volunteer, I've participated in those efforts. Now twenty years on, the successful effort to secure R-7 zoning was a hard-won effort to establish the density and land use.

Even before then, our neighborhood-based community development corporation partnered with public and private funding to build housing stock on vacant and blighted property and set the benchmark for new infill construction. We created opportunities for affordable housing ownership for low- to moderate-income households.

Our efforts provided a platform for the vitality of this community to continue and these efforts effectively reversed the damages of decades of blight, decline, and lack of investment.

Point is, we've known what's good for the vitality of Oregon Hill. We've set goals and have worked to achieve them.

Join us now in support of our continued effort and support this resolution.

Best regards,
Maura Meinhardt
312 S. Cherry Street
Oregon Hill

From: Jennifer H <stateofbook@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2022 1:51 AM
To: Rodney@thewiltonco.com; sam@astyra.com;
jack@tredegarconstruction.com; Gordon, Reginald E. - Human
Services; Addison, Andreas D. - City Council; egreenfield@hbar.org;
max.hepp.buchanan@gmail.com; bpinnock@baskervill.com;
murthyvg@gmail.com; Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR
Cc: Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office
Subject: In support of RES. 2022-R033

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 Planning Commission members:

I am writing to ask you to support the changes to the Richmond 300 plan as they pertain to Oregon Hill, as presented in RES. 2022-R033 which was unanimously approved by City Council on June 27, 2022.

This resolution supports the residents of Oregon Hill's wish to retain the qualities that make our neighborhood a successful place to live and work. This resolution was negotiated by the neighborhood association with the City Attorney's Office, with the support of Councilmember Lynch, and reflects residents' desire to modify the Richmond 300 plan as it pertains to Oregon Hill. This resolution reflects amendments that the neighborhood has requested since the very beginning of the Richmond 300 process, most notably during the Planning Commission hearing at which the plan was accepted.

When the Richmond 300 Plan came before the Planning Commission and City Council in 2020, none of the proposed amendments were included in the ordinance's passage. Instead, the Council promised to pass the ordinance and then make amendments. It has been 16 months, yet we continue to request the same amendment with no success. Enactment of this resolution is consistent with the pledge Council made to Oregon Hill residents, a pledge that ensured timely passage of the larger Richmond 300 plan without necessitating a return to the Planning Commission. We ask that you uphold your part of this agreement.

Oregon Hill is uniquely challenged by its close proximity to the adjacent Virginia Commonwealth University. The mixed-use future land use with 4 story height limits and even higher height limits on corners is not appropriate for Oregon Hill; it would undermine our family-friendly, two-story residential neighborhood and result in inappropriate demolition to build taller ad hoc dormitories for VCU students.

Oregon Hill is a neighborhood that has provided homes for blue collar workers in the 19th and 20th centuries and has provided housing for VCU students for the later part of the 20th century, into a new century, right up until the present day. Our defense of the traditional working class homes of

Oregon Hill, considered a national and state treasure as one of the larger remaining, intact blue collar neighborhoods, is not incompatible with the neighborhood's concern with affordable housing. Our very own CDC, the Oregon Hill Home Improvement Council (OHHIC), has renovated and built affordable housing in Oregon Hill.

I greatly appreciate you enacting RES. 2022-R033 and thank you for supporting our neighborhood with the appropriate Residential future land use.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Hancock
Oregon Hill

From: Joanna Green <joannag558@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 17, 2022 11:04 PM
To: Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR
Subject: Letter in support of RES 2022-R033

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Dear Planning Commission members:

I am writing to ask you to support the changes to the Richmond 300 plan as they pertain to the historic Oregon Hill neighborhood. These changes were presented to you in RES. 2022-R033 which was unanimously approved by City Council at its most recent meeting on 27 June 2022.

This resolution supports the residents of Oregon Hill's wish to retain the qualities that make our neighborhood livable, both for our residents and for the many businesses that thrive here. This resolution was negotiated by our Oregon Hill Neighborhood Association with the City Attorney's Office and with the support of Councilmember Lynch, and reflects residents' desire to modify the Richmond 300 plan as it pertains to Oregon Hill. The neighborhood has requested these amendments repeatedly since the beginning of the Richmond 300 process, most notably during the Planning Commission hearing at which the plan was accepted.

When the Richmond 300 Plan came before Planning Commission and City Council in 2020, however, none of the proposed amendments were included in the ordinance's passage. Instead, Council promised to pass the ordinance and then make amendments. It has been 16 months since passage, and the amendment has yet to appear. Enactment of this resolution is consistent with the pledge Council made to Oregon Hill residents. This agreement, which we accepted in good faith, allowed timely passage of the larger Richmond 300 plan without necessitating a return to the Planning Commission. Now is the time for you to uphold your part of this agreement.

Please do as you promised us, and enact RES. 2022-R033.

Sincerely,

Joanna Wilson Green
South Pine Street, Richmond

From: Matt Q. Public <mattqpublic@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2022 7:53 AM
To: "Rodney@thewiltonco.com sam"@astyra.com;
jack@tredegarconstruction.com; Gordon, Reginald E. - Human Services;
Addison, Andreas D. - City Council; egreenfield@hbar.org;
max.hepp.buchanan@gmail.com; bpinnock@baskervill.com;
murthyvg@gmail.com; Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR; PDR Land Use Admin
Cc: Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office
Subject: OREGON HILL: Enact RES. 2022-R033

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Dear Planning Commission members:

I am writing to ask you to support the changes to the Richmond 300 plan as they pertain to Oregon Hill, as presented in RES. 2022-R033 which was unanimously approved by City Council on 27 June 2022.

This resolution supports the residents of Oregon Hill's wish to retain the qualities that make our neighborhood a successful place to live and work. This resolution was negotiated by the neighborhood association with the City Attorney's Office, with the support of Councilmember Lynch, and reflects residents' desire to modify the Richmond 300 plan as it pertains to Oregon Hill. This resolution reflects amendments that the neighborhood has requested since the very beginning of the Richmond 300 process, most notably during the Planning Commission hearing at which the plan was accepted.

When the Richmond 300 Plan came before Planning Commission and City Council in 2020, none of the proposed amendments were included in the ordinance's passage. Instead, Council promised to pass the ordinance and then make amendments. It has been 16 months, yet we continue to request the same amendment with no success. Enactment of this resolution is consistent with the pledge Council made to Oregon Hill residents, a pledge that ensured timely passage of the larger Richmond 300 plan without necessitating a return to the Planning Commission. We ask that you uphold your part of this agreement.

I greatly appreciate you enacting RES. 2022-R033

Sincerely,
Matt Siegel
509 S Laurel St.

From: Matt Q. Public <mattqpublic@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2022 7:51 AM
To: "Rodney@thewiltonco.com sam"@astyra.com;
jack@tredegarconstruction.com; Gordon, Reginald E. - Human Services;
Addison, Andreas D. - City Council; egreenfield@hbar.org;
max.hepp.buchanan@gmail.com; bpinnock@baskervill.com;
murthyvg@gmail.com; Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR; PDR Land Use Admin
Cc: Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office
Subject: OREGON HILL: Enact RES. 2022-R033

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Dear Planning Commission members:

I am writing to ask you to support the changes to the Richmond 300 plan as they pertain to Oregon Hill, as presented in RES. 2022-R033 which was unanimously approved by City Council on 27 June 2022.

This resolution supports the residents of Oregon Hill's wish to retain the qualities that make our neighborhood a successful place to live and work. This resolution was negotiated by the neighborhood association with the City Attorney's Office, with the support of Councilmember Lynch, and reflects residents' desire to modify the Richmond 300 plan as it pertains to Oregon Hill. This resolution reflects amendments that the neighborhood has requested since the very beginning of the Richmond 300 process, most notably during the Planning Commission hearing at which the plan was accepted.

When the Richmond 300 Plan came before Planning Commission and City Council in 2020, none of the proposed amendments were included in the ordinance's passage. Instead, Council promised to pass the ordinance and then make amendments. It has been 16 months, yet we continue to request the same amendment with no success. Enactment of this resolution is consistent with the pledge Council made to Oregon Hill residents, a pledge that ensured timely passage of the larger Richmond 300 plan without necessitating a return to the Planning Commission. We ask that you uphold your part of this agreement.

I greatly appreciate you enacting RES. 2022-R033

Sincerely,
Matt Siegel
509 S Laurel St.

From: Matt Q. Public <mattqpublic@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2022 7:54 AM
To: Rodney@thewiltonco.com; jack@tredegarconstruction.com; Gordon, Reginald E. - Human Services; Addison, Andreas D. - City Council; egreenfield@hbar.org; max.hepp.buchanan@gmail.com; bpinnock@baskervill.com; murthyvg@gmail.com; Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR; PDR Land Use Admin; sam@astyra.com
Cc: Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office
Subject: OREGON HILL: Enact RES. 2022-R033

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 Planning Commission members:

I am writing to ask you to support the changes to the Richmond 300 plan as they pertain to Oregon Hill, as presented in RES. 2022-R033 which was unanimously approved by City Council on 27 June 2022.

This resolution supports the residents of Oregon Hill's wish to retain the qualities that make our neighborhood a successful place to live and work. This resolution was negotiated by the neighborhood association with the City Attorney's Office, with the support of Councilmember Lynch, and reflects residents' desire to modify the Richmond 300 plan as it pertains to Oregon Hill. This resolution reflects amendments that the neighborhood has requested since the very beginning of the Richmond 300 process, most notably during the Planning Commission hearing at which the plan was accepted.

When the Richmond 300 Plan came before Planning Commission and City Council in 2020, none of the proposed amendments were included in the ordinance's passage. Instead, Council promised to pass the ordinance and then make amendments. It has been 16 months, yet we continue to request the same amendment with no success. Enactment of this resolution is consistent with the pledge Council made to Oregon Hill residents, a pledge that ensured timely passage of the larger Richmond 300 plan without necessitating a return to the Planning Commission. We ask that you uphold your part of this agreement.

I greatly appreciate you enacting RES. 2022-R033

Sincerely,
Matt Siegel
509 S Laurel St.

From: Martha Culpepper <marth@marthaculpepper.com>
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2022 8:01 AM
To: Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR
Cc: Martha Culpepper
Subject: Oregon Hill Res. 2022 - RO33

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My Dear Mr. Matthew Ebinger, Staff for the Planning Commission,

I am writing to ask you to support the changes to the Richmond 300 plan as they pertain to Oregon Hill, as presented in RES. 2022-R033 which was unanimously approved by City Council on 27 June 2022.

This resolution supports the residents of Oregon Hill's wish to retain the qualities that make our neighborhood a successful place to live and work. This resolution was negotiated by the neighborhood association with the City Attorney's Office, with the support of Councilmember Lynch, and reflects residents' desire to modify the Richmond 300 plan as it pertains to Oregon Hill. This resolution reflects amendments that the neighborhood has requested since the very beginning of the Richmond 300 process, most notably during the Planning Commission hearing at which the plan was accepted.

When the Richmond 300 Plan came before Planning Commission and City Council in 2020, none of the proposed amendments were included in the ordinance's passage. Instead, Council promised to pass the ordinance and then make amendments. It has been 16 months, yet we continue to request the same amendment with no success. Enactment of this resolution is consistent with the pledge Council made to Oregon Hill residents, a pledge that ensured timely passage of the larger Richmond 300 plan without necessitating a return to the Planning Commission. We ask that you uphold your part of this agreement.

I have attended many of the Richmond 300 Meetings and was part of the request for those changes to the Richmond 300 plan, I have been part of this neighborhood on and off for twenty-nine years. I have found this neighborhood a good and safe home for myself and different family members over the years. Children being able to walk freely to and from school without fear of harm. The neighborhood creates an atmosphere for those less fortunate economically and to feel a sense of place. It is widely diverse with very young to very old, established artists and

university professors, blue collar workers to trust funders. And a place for those in need of a safe place that are mentally challenged. Oregon Hill is a widely diverse neighborhood with two schools, a nationally famous restaurant, two churches, two hair salons and an historic cemetery. The flavor of the neighborhood is essential for an interesting and diverse Richmond. Books have been written about this neighborhood.

I greatly appreciate you enacting RES. 2022-R033

Sincerely,

Martha H. Culpepper

Oregon Hill Resident

From: Bryan Clark Green <bryancgreen@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 17, 2022 11:04 PM
To: Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR
Subject: Planning Commission meeting 7/18/2022 -- support for the enactment of RES 2022-R033

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Dear Planning Commission members:

As a long-term resident of Oregon Hill, I am writing to ask you to support the changes to the Richmond 300 plan presented to you in RES. 2022-R033. This resolution, unanimously approved by City Council at its June 27, 2022 meeting, supports Oregon Hill's desire to keep our neighborhood the unique, vibrant, and livable place that we love. With the support of Councilmember Stephanie Lynch, RES. 2022-R033 was negotiated by the Oregon Hill Neighborhood Association directly with the City Attorney's Office, and reflects residents' desire to modify the Richmond 300 plan as it pertains to Oregon Hill. We have requested these amendments on several occasions throughout the Richmond 300 process, most notably during the Planning Commission hearing at which the plan was accepted.

When the Richmond 300 Plan was presented to the Planning Commission and City Council in 2020, none of the proposed amendments were included. Instead, Council promised Oregon Hill residents that it would ensure the amendment if the neighborhood would support immediate passage of the plan itself. It has been 16 months, however, and the amendment has yet to appear. This agreement allowed timely passage of the larger Richmond 300 plan without necessitating a return to the Planning Commission (and the lengthy and costly delays that would result). We negotiated and agreed to this compromise in good faith. Now is the time for you to uphold your part of this agreement.

Please keep your word. Enact RES. 2022-R033.

Sincerely,
Bryan Clark Green

Bryan Clark Green
420 South Pine Street
Richmond, VA 23220
bryancgreen@gmail.com

From: Justin Liang <liangdj@alumni.vcu.edu>
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2022 8:08 AM
To: PDR Land Use Admin; Rodney@thewiltonco.com; sam@astyra.com; jack@tredegarconstruction.com; Gordon, Reginald E. - Human Services; Addison, Andreas D. - City Council; egreenfield@hbar.org; max.hepp.buchanan@gmail.com; bpinnock@baskervill.com; murthyvg@gmail.com; Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR
Cc: Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office
Subject: Please respect the wishes of the neighborhood - Enact RES. 2022-R033

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Dear Planning Commission members:

My name is Justin Liang and I am a homeowner at Oregon Hill. I am writing to ask you to support the changes to the Richmond 300 plan as they pertain to Oregon Hill, as presented in RES. 2022-R033 which was unanimously approved by City Council on 27 June 2022.

This resolution supports the residents of Oregon Hill's wish to retain the qualities that make our neighborhood a successful place to live and work. This resolution was negotiated by the neighborhood association with the City Attorney's Office, with the support of Councilmember Lynch, and reflects residents' desire to modify the Richmond 300 plan as it pertains to Oregon Hill. This resolution reflects amendments that the neighborhood has requested since the very beginning of the Richmond 300 process, most notably during the Planning Commission hearing at which the plan was accepted.

When the Richmond 300 Plan came before Planning Commission and City Council in 2020, none of the proposed amendments were included in the ordinance's passage. Instead, Council promised to pass the ordinance and then make amendments. It has been 16 months, yet we continue to request the same amendment with no success. Enactment of this resolution is consistent with the pledge Council made to Oregon Hill residents, a pledge that ensured timely passage of the larger Richmond 300 plan without necessitating a return to the Planning Commission. We ask that you uphold your part of this agreement.

I greatly appreciate you enacting RES. 2022-R033

Sincerely,

Justin Liang

From: James Askegren II <askegrenjw@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 17, 2022 8:52 PM
To: Rodney@thewiltonco.com; sam@astyra.com;
jack@tredegarconstruction.com; Gordon, Reginald E. - Human
Services; Addison, Andreas D. - City Council; egreenfield@hbar.org;
max.hepp.buchanan@gmail.com; bpinnock@baskervill.com;
murthyvg@gmail.com; Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR
Cc: Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office
Subject: Richmond 300 Oregon Hill Residential Use Designation
Attachments: [Askegren_James_W Oregon Hill Residential Use Letter.pdf](#)

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 Planning Commission members:

My name is James William Askegren II. I am a 29-year-old recent homeowner of a rowhouse in Oregon Hill.

I am writing to ask you to support the changes to the Richmond 300 plan as they pertain to Oregon Hill, as presented in RES. 2022-R033 which was unanimously approved by the City Council on June 27, 2022.

The homes in Oregon Hill are the main reason I chose this neighborhood to live in. It's one of the main reasons I chose to move to Richmond. Neighborhoods like mine are Richmond's "Trolley Cars" so to speak.

San Francisco. Georgetown. Williamsburg. These all evoke a certain image that attract people to these areas. The restaurants, museums, and parks around them are great, but they don't exist if the fabric of their neighborhoods are altered. Change the brick sidewalks, the porches, the site of different plants in a neighbor's yard, to the monolith of an apartment building and the magic is gone. Kill the neighborhood landscape and you kill what gravitates people to Richmond.

Jackson Ward, in the middle of being revitalized, has been successful mostly because it retains its original homes and the sense of community they create. One can only imagine how much greater the "Harlem of the South" would be today if City Planners hadn't demolished blocks of it in the 1940s and built Gilpin Court and other projects. Heck, it may not have even had to go through a revitalization at all. One should also note the residents of Jackson Ward didn't want their homes destroyed. They knew what would happen, but their voices were smothered and their community demolished anyways.

I actually have a backyard, most of my neighbors do too, and I still believe these are not unreasonable or unethical things to want in a city dwelling. Some may point to the housing crisis as a reason to change the zoning to more densely populated, taller buildings. I strongly disagree. There's a housing crisis, but people don't want to live in apartments. They settle for them because those are the only things being built. The push for those abominations is churned by nothing but the greed of developers who don't want to invest in less profitable structures and the promise of more tax money from the inhabitants. Force developers to build more single-family homes by mandating proper

zoning, don't be greedy, and watch the city prosper. Don't make the same mistakes that so many planners have in the past. Please don't destroy my neighborhood. I wouldn't destroy yours.

Thank you for your consideration,

James