

January 27, 2023

To whom it may concern:

It is my honor to write in support of the application by the Sacred Heart Center (SHC) for a special use permit through the City of Richmond to continue operating a food bank at 1400 Perry Street, Richmond VA 23224. We have been working with SHC for many years by delivering food donations three months during the year. Recently those deliveries increased to six months per year. If granted, SHC will continue serving families in need, through culturally responsive food access.

I am the Human Concerns Coordinator for Church of the Epiphany and have worked with SHC in that capacity for the last eight years, and as volunteer before that. I have seen firsthand that SHC has an extraordinary track record of providing high-quality services for marginalized families in Richmond, VA. SHC focuses on connecting Latino families with the tools to thrive and flourish. Guided by their values of compassion, inclusion, collaboration, and commitment to a compassionate approach, SHC serves vulnerable people in various ways and co-creates empowered communities. Their reputation should leave no doubt that SHC has contributed and continues to contribute to the overall well-being of the Southside Richmond community. They have been operating the food bank since 1999. From my experience, this is an organized process, by appointment, that does not have any undue impacts on the Manchester neighborhood, nor is detrimental to the safety of the community.

Here at Epiphany we provide food donations, meals for those attending summer camp, and gift cards for other events. In the past, we also provided winter clothing for SHC clients to come and "shop" for items they needed. We are passionate about the wellbeing of the community, and always eager to enhance it. We are excited to support SHC, who shares this vision and priority among our most immediate neighbors and partners. The food bank will continue to be a positive addition to the community and will contribute to the community well into the future, once the permit is granted.

Church of the Epiphany is proud to partner with SHC in its mission to provide quality and compassionate services for members of our community, and we are requesting your approval of their special use permit.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Laurie Weeda

Human Concerns Coordinator
Church of the Epiphany
11000 Smoketree Drive
Richmond, VA 23236
804-794-0222