



Battery Park Civic Association

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November 20, 2022

Planning Commission
900 E. Broad Street
Room 511
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Planning Commission,

This letter is being sent in response to the special use permit for the 310 Brookland Park Blvd property for Ruby Scoops. The permit is requesting to change: 1) outdoor seating for a location behind the establishment and 2) leniency on the parking requirements. This letter is being written in support of the special use permit, and we hope that the Planning Commission and City Council will consider neighbors' recommendations.

Over the past decade, homeowners have seen an interest and revitalization of the Brookland Park Blvd Business corridor from developers and business owners. The new eateries and art galleries have brought a new vibe to the neighborhood. And many of the new business owners have shown a commitment in preserving the history of this business corridor and respecting the neighborhood's community. Rabia Kamara, the owner of Ruby Scoops, is not only one of those business owners who has invested in the growth of the neighborhood, but she has shown that she wants to be a part of its community!

During our October meeting, members of the civic association voted unanimously to support the special use permit.

The primary reasons given for why members support this permit are the following:

- Additional outdoor seating at her establishment will give neighbors a place to gather and socialize. In a survey from 2020, neighbors of Battery Park indicated they wanted a neighborhood where there was more seating / places to interact with each other
- As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, having outdoor seating helps the commercial businesses to remain open; while keeping patrons safe
- The leniency to the parking requirement will help reduce the issues of limited parking on Brookland Park Blvd.
- The leniency of the parking requirement also helps promote going green and the neighborhood's desire to be more walkable

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to review this special use permit with neighbors and consider our feedback.

Sincerely,

Michelle Brown Harris
President, Battery Park Civic Association