

Roakes, Raymond A. - PDR

From: Jonathan Marcus <jonmarcus59@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 3:50 PM
To: Roakes, Raymond A. - PDR
Subject: Concerns about the proposed fire training facility at Hickory Hill

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.

Hello Raymond Roakes:

Thank you for your excellent work with the Urban Design Committee.

Please share my additional concerns about the proposed fire department training facility at the Hickory Hill Community Center.

The Hickory Hill Community Center is as important to Richmond as any community center in the city. It provides a meeting place and is a vibrant center of constructive activity and engagement in an area urgently in need of greater investment and support.

The fire department training facility would diminish the function that Hickory Hill brings to the community with disruptive activity. And if the facility were built, there is no clear, enforceable means by which the community center could address unforeseen problems which would inevitably result from combining social functions with fire-fighting functions.

The proposed training facility on community center grounds is all the more disturbing when considered in light of facts provided in this recent article in the Richmond Times Dispatch, which lists the dispersal of American Rescue Plan funds in the City of Richmond.

https://richmond.com/news/how-richmond-will-spend-155-million-in-pandemic-relief-aid/article_e733e530-a7e2-11ed-ac83-cbf179cbca84.html

The greatest single line item in the entire dispersal is directed towards building community centers, in the amount of \$64 million.

Instead of adding value to one of the most important community centers -- Hickory Hill -- the city is opting to direct funds elsewhere while imposing unnecessary burdens on the one that deserves additional enhancements.

Please reject this proposal and challenge Richmond to serve Hickory Hill as it deserves to be served.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,
Jonathan Marcus

