

Roakes, Raymond A. - PDR

From: Rosalyn Gibson <rosalyn Gibson65@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2023 1:26 AM
To: Roakes, Raymond A. - PDR
Subject: Hickory Hill Richmond Fire Dept.(RFD) Training Center

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Greetings,

I am a resident of the City of Richmond and I have resided in the Cullenwood neighborhood for 30 years. I am strongly opposed to RFD building and utilizing Hickory Hill Community Center for a fire training facility.

RFD and our city council women intentionally selected a small group of residents to inform about this project. After further civic group pressure, they decided to pass out fliers 2 days prior to a special call meeting this week. Two days prior to a meeting was short notice. Many residents were left out of the discussion and information process for this facility.

I would like for RFD to reconsider not using Hickory Hill as a training center and consider another location in the city. Some other locations could be the Richmond Technical Center, the abandoned Thomas Henderson Middle School, Norrell School Annex, The RFD station located on Semmes Ave.

Hickory Hill was a former African American segregated public school. When I moved to Cullenwood it had become an abandoned school house.

Eventually, the alumni of Hickory Hill and nearby Cherry Garden and Cullenwood residents came together to renovate the abandoned school.

There are only a few community centers in the 8th district. We can not afford to lose any space from any of them. Hickory Hill is the closest community center for the E Belt Blvd and Terminal Ave corridor residents.

Hickory Hill serves many purposes. The soccer fields are highly utilized during the spring and summer. During the fall there is football. Hickory Hill also serves as a RPS bus stop hub for RPS and voting location. Banquet Hall etc.

You can ride by Hickory Hill when it is open., There are always cars in the parking lot and people inside.

To construct a concrete slab over the soccer field and the stacking of shipping storage containers on the lot would take away the playing field and green space that is so badly needed in the 8th district. We need more green spaces to breathe good quality air.

Please reconsider not using the Hickory Hill location for training. I am for training new recruits and training our youth but there can be a better location more suited for the training.

Sincerely,

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Rosalyn Gibson