

From: [Austin Hobson](#)
To: [PDR Land Use Admin](#)
Subject: Showing support FOR the apartments at 3600 Grove Ave
Date: Monday, April 3, 2023 10:49:54 AM

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Hello Planning Commissioners,

I am a resident of the city and I am sending this email to show support for the plan to create apartments in the museum district at 3600 Grove Ave. I know that there has been some pushback against these recently so I wanted to make sure that this commission and city council knows that there are plenty of people on the other side supporting this and increased housing all over the city.

Let me be frank, there is a housing crisis in this city and across the country (something officially declared by the city government) . I'm certain you all are aware but one of the tools we have to combat this is to build new housing. This should be happening everywhere we can including the museum district. In my opinion it is not fair that the museum district gets to "preserve character" while people are being displaced in other parts of the city because there is not enough housing to go around.

With all due respect to the "concerned neighbors" who are bringing up things like neighborhood character and parking, there is an abandoned building currently on the property, how much neighborhood character is that bringing? Besides, in my opinion the designs look great and will breathe life into an area that as of now is just a speedway for people to get onto I95.

The previous point leads me to something else important which is the safety aspect. As stated in the recent Richmond bizsense article the changes to the street that this development would create would make that part of thompson vastly safer. Right now it's just a bunch of people speeding towards broad or the interstate, no one wants to walk there because of how unsafe it is. With slower cars and more pedestrians the road behavior would have to change and it would make this area so much more "alive".

To summarize, myself and plenty of other people support this project as is and hope that it is approved (and without any changes to building height, the off-street parking, or the offset in general). This is a wonderful plan to breathe some life into this area of Thompson street. Please don't let the most vocal critics (of which there are far less than people who support this project) once again deny this desperately needed housing in our city.

Thank you,
Austin Hobson