



## CITY OF RICHMOND

### Department of Planning & Development Review *Staff Report*

**Ord. No. 2018-302:** To declare a public necessity for and to authorize the acquisition by gift of the property known as Vauxhall Island from the Enrichmond Foundation for the purpose of its incorporation in the James River Park System to be used for preservation of natural areas and open space in accordance with the terms of a grant from the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation.

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**To:** City Planning Commission  
**From:** Land Use Administration  
**Date:** December 3, 2018

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#### **PETITIONER**

City of Richmond, Department of Planning & Development Review

#### **LOCATION**

A 2.825 acre island in the James River, west of the Mayo Bridge and north of Mayo's Island and identified as city tax map number E000-0094/005.

#### **PURPOSE**

To declare a public necessity for and to authorize the acquisition by gift of the property known as Vauxhall Island from the Enrichmond Foundation for the purpose of its incorporation in the James River Park System to be used for preservation of natural areas and open space in accordance with the terms of a grant from the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation.

#### **SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION**

Vauxhall Island was purchased by the Enrichmond Foundation at auction in 2015 in cooperation with the City of Richmond. As part of this partnership the City applied for, and subsequently received, funding from the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Grant Program in support of the auction purchase. The receipt of these grant funds is predicated on the transfer of the property from the Enrichmond Foundation to the City of Richmond by means of a Deed of Gift.

On November 16, 2017, the Enrichmond Foundation Board authorized the transfer of the property to the City of Richmond for the purpose of incorporation into the James River Park System. Closing on the transfer of property will be scheduled after the adoption of this ordinance.

Department of Planning & Development Review staff recommends approval of this ordinance.

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## **FINDINGS OF FACT**

### **SITE DESCRIPTION**

The 2.825 acre island is located the James River, west of the Mayo Bridge and north of Mayo's Island. It is traversed by a Norfolk Southern Railway corridor located in the western portion of the island. A billboard currently located near the eastern shore of the island nearest to the Mayo Bridge shall be removed by the Enrichmond Foundation within two years from closing at their expense.

### **PROPOSED USE FOR THE PROPERTY**

Vauxhall Island will become a permanent public open space as part of the City's James River Park System.

### **MASTER PLAN & ZONING**

The property is within the city's Downtown Planning District and has a land use designation of natural area. Primary use designation is as a wilderness area to be preserved in a natural condition. The proposed incorporation into the James River Park System is consistent with this recommendation. The zoning of the property is M-1 Light Industrial.

### **SURROUNDING AREA**

Vauxhall Island is entirely surrounded by water. Across a channel to the west is Bailey's Island which is owned by the City of Richmond. Mayo's Island, owned by Mayo's Island, LLC is located to the south. An unnamed island with an unknown owner is located to the north as is an unnamed island that is owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

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