

Office of The President  
1500 N. Lombardy Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23220

February 6, 2019

City Council  
City of Richmond  
900 E. Broad Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear City Council Members:

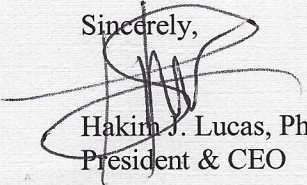
On behalf of Virginia Union University and the Northside- Jackson Ward community, I am writing to support the vote to grant a special permit to rezone the 4.5 acre site at 2009 Brook Road and at 2011 Northumberland Avenue in Richmond, Virginia, pending the necessary project amendments as requested by other community partners and residents. VUU believes in economic development and the importance of it to the future of Northside and Jackson Ward. The University also believes that the developer has worked to ensure this project will include vital Workforce Housing that will benefit VUU and the surrounding community.

After meeting, the developer has displayed the characteristics of a sincere transformational partner with VUU's mission in mind with regards to this project. Their leadership and willingness to assist the Northside community with Workforce Housing in this new development is paramount.

- **Impact on Northside Community:** The developer's current plan does incorporate input from VUU and key constituencies regarding the positive impact this residential project could have on the university's financial posture, strategic business initiatives, and efforts to address the social disparities and poverty in Northside Richmond.
- **Access to Workforce Housing:** The developer's current plan incorporates input from VUU and key constituencies regarding its positive impact on the community. This development sits in the heart of the Northside Community and surrounds VUU's campus, and has provisions to offer Workforce housing to students or residents living in the community.

Over the last 154 years, VUU has been a consistent member of the community with an engaged voice. As a longstanding anchor in the Northside of Richmond and academic community, VUU's insight has been incorporated into this development plan, specifically with its Workforce housing needs. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

  
Hakim J. Lucas, Ph.D.  
President & CEO

