



# CITY OF RICHMOND

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

**SUBD 2019-002:** Preliminary subdivision approval for 401 and 421 West 7th Street (27 lots).

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**To:** City Planning Commission  
**From:** Land Use Administration  
**Date:** March 4, 2019

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### **PETITIONER**

Mr. Richard Core

### **LOCATION**

401 and 421 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street

### **PURPOSE**

To subdivide 27 lots.

### **SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION**

The subject property is located in the City's Old South Planning District and the Manchester District of the Downtown Plan and is on the block bounded by a 7<sup>th</sup> Street to the south, a paper street known as 6<sup>th</sup> Street to the north, McDonough Street to the east, and a paper street known as Semmes Avenue to the west. The property consists of two parcels totaling 0.99 acres of land area. The parcels are unimproved.

The applicant is proposing to subdivide the parcel into 27 individual lots, 26 of which will be for single-family attached dwellings and one of which will be common area. Off-street parking spaces will be provided via an access easement at the rear of the lots.

Preliminary subdivision approval is recommended provided that:

1. All applicable provisions of the Subdivision Ordinance shall be met.
2. All applicable provisions of the Zoning Ordinance shall be met.
3. All applicable provisions of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance shall be met.
4. All applicable City utility and drainage standards and specifications shall be met.
5. All applicable Building Codes shall be met.

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## FINDINGS OF FACT

### Site Description

The subject property is located near the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Semmes Avenue. The property is bound by a 45' unimproved right of way known as 6<sup>th</sup> Street to the north, McDonough Street to the east, a partially unimproved 35' right of way known as Semmes Avenue to the west, and 7<sup>th</sup> Street to the south and consists of two parcels with approximately 43,298 square feet of land area. The property is currently unimproved.

### Proposed Use of the Property

The applicant is proposing to subdivide the parcel into 27 individual lots, 26 of which will be for single-family attached dwellings and one of which will be common area. Off-street parking spaces will be provided via an access easement at the rear of the lots.

### Master Plan

The City of Richmond's Master Plan designation for these parcels as Downtown Urban Center Area. The Downtown Plan also states within the Create Appropriate Neighborhood Infill section, "Manchester will benefit greatly from new constructions and the infill of its many vacant properties. Such in fill will introduce new energy to the district by increasing the residential population, repairing the streetscape, and enhancing safety by providing "eyes on the street". It is essential that while Manchester grows and fills in its vacant lots with new buildings, that these buildings respect the existing historic architecture of the district." (Page 4.33)

### Zoning

The property is located within an RF-2 Riverfront zoning district, which permits single family attached residential uses. As per Section 30-447.11 of the Zoning Ordinance, permits, "Dwelling units, provided that when such units are located within buildings fronting on streets designated as street oriented commercial frontage as shown below, a minimum of one third or 1,000 square feet, whichever is greater, of the floor area of the ground floor of the building shall be devoted to other uses principal permitted in this district, and such uses shall have a depth of not less than 20 feet along the entire street oriented commercial frontage, except for ingress and egress. A plan of development shall be required as set forth in article X of this chapter for construction of any new building containing more than ten dwelling units." The proposed subdivision does not front any streets with a street oriented commercial frontage designation.

### Surrounding Area

All properties surrounding the subject property are located in the RF-2 Riverfront zoning district and B-7 Mixed Use Business zoning District. In addition, all the surrounding adjacent properties to the subject property are all open space, office space, or multi-family dwellings located in the RF-2 or B-7 districts.

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