

Sharon Blount

Wed, Jan 22, 11:37
AM)

Dear City Council Members,

I moved to Richmond in 2007 and have loved living in the 3rd District. It is a wonderful neighborhood with beautiful historic homes, good neighbors and great places to walk. I recognize that it is a privilege to live in this neighborhood but I also see first hand the ravages of homelessness as I cross Chamberlayne Ave and see so many in need. In fact, you can't go anywhere in Richmond without seeing people who are homeless and struggling. Through my work on the Mission Council at Second Presbyterian Church in downtown Richmond, I know that the city and area non-profits work hard to address issues associated with homelessness but we are unable to meet the ever increasing demands of this very vulnerable population. I believe the Salvation Army facility is sorely needed and that the location on Chamberlayne Ave. is perfectly situated to help address those needs. It's accessibility for potential clients and proximity to a bus line and other downtown services make it a ideal location for a facility of this type.

I know that people are often resistant to change and fearful of those who are different from us, but we have a moral obligation to help all of our citizens, particularly those who struggle to help themselves. One of the things that drew me to the Third District was that the people here seemed to really care about their city. Supporting this proposal would be a manifestation of that care and concern for a population in our city who desperately needs our help. So while I recognize that there may be some initial resistance, I hope that you will be able to see the long term benefits of this proposal for both the Third District and indeed all of Richmond.

Thanks so much for listening and for your continued service to our city.

Sincerely,

Sharon

*Sharon P. Blount
3107 Hawthorne Ave.
Richmond, VA 23222*