

Monday January 13, 2020

Dear Council Members:

As a 30 year resident of the Third district, I and a number of my neighbors, support the proposal for the Salvation Army facility on Chamberlayne Avenue. I drive down that corridor every day and see the people who could benefit from the services that the Salvation Army provides. The facility could serve as a very positive anchor for Chamberlayne Avenue as well as provide a location that would be accessible to other downtown services for its clients. This proposal is a win-win for the Third District and Richmond which desperately needs to provide more housing options for a very vulnerable population.

In my former position at VCU, I witnessed the initial rebuke and then acceptance of the Clay Street SRO in the Carver neighborhood. Initially CACIL fought the proposal under the leadership of Ms. Barbara Abernathy but later, Ms Abernathy joined the Board and became one of the Clay House's strongest advocates. She saw that it was possible to co-exist and even thrive together as a community.

I hope City Council will support the Salvation Army's proposal and acknowledge that the surrounding community will need time to adjust and hopefully accept and support this new neighbor as a valuable resource and asset.

Thank you for your thoughtful service.

In appreciation,

Cathy Howard
3201 Brook Rd

Retired Vice Provost for Community Engagement.
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