



CITY OF RICHMOND

PLANNING COMMISSION

January 21, 2020

**RESOLUTION #2019.119
MOTION OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND PLANNING COMMISSION**

TO DECLARE AN INTENT TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP AND TEXT FOR THE PURPOSE OF CREATING A HISTORIC VIEWSHED PROTECTION OVERLAY DISTRICT TO PROTECT THE VIEW OF THE JAMES RIVER FROM LIBBY HILL PARK.

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 15.2-2286 of the Code of Virginia an amendment to the zoning regulations or district maps may be initiated by motion of the City of Richmond Planning Commission provided any such motion or resolution of the Commission proposing an amendment to the regulations or district maps shall state the public purposes therefore; and

WHEREAS, the view from Libby Hill Park is of utmost significance to Richmond's history and identity, being the view which William Byrd II observed and remarked that it resembled the view from Richmond upon Thames, outside London; and

WHEREAS, the view is important to Richmonders and represents a significant draw for tourists to the region; and

WHEREAS, the viewshed and development within has been the subject of much concern, dispute and debate for many years; and

WHEREAS, there is general agreement on where the parameters of the viewshed fall; and

WHEREAS, it is possible to preserve the view by limiting building height; signage, size and type, and preservation and planting of trees within the viewshed; and

WHEREAS, it is within the purview of the Commission to initiate zoning ordinance amendments and it is the "duty and function of the Commission to preserve historical landmarks" (Richmond Code §§17.05); and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, for the purposes of public necessity, convenience, general welfare and good zoning practices, the City of Richmond Planning Commission hereby concludes that it is appropriate to initiate the study of the creation of an amendment to the official zoning text for the purpose of creating provision for Viewshed Protection Overlay Districts, and the Libby Hill Historic Viewshed Protection Overlay District.



Rodney Poole
Chair, City Planning Commission



Matthew Boinger
Secretary, City Planning Commission