



May 13, 2020

City of Richmond Planning Department
900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Via email to Jonathan.Brown@richmondgov.com

To Richmond City Planning Commissioners:

I'm writing to express Urban Hope's support for The Maggie Walker Community Land Trust to subdivide the property at 1701 N 21st Street and build two attached, single family homes. The Community Land Trust's primary purpose is to provide permanently affordable homes for residents of the Richmond Metro Region. This mission continues to be one of great importance, particularly in the neighborhood of this proposed project. Longtime residents of Church Hill face ever-growing real estate prices and ongoing speculative investment practices which threaten their ability to stay in the neighborhood that they have called home. The development and preservation of quality affordable housing, particularly permanently affordable housing, which preserves affordability for generations, is paramount to the future of this neighborhood.

The project at 1701 N. 21st Street also poses an exciting potential for collaboration between other mission-based organizations in the area. As a peer organization, Urban Hope also seeks to provide affordable housing for residents of the East End. We are in full support of any project with integrity that will increase housing options for low- and moderate-income residents.

The Community Land Trust has become a trusted developer of quality homes since its inception in 2016, and has garnered support from both the philanthropic community and its fellow community development corporations. I believe that the proposed development will be a positive contribution to the neighborhood, whose impacts will be experienced for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah M. Hale".

Sarah M. Hale
Executive Director, Urban Hope, Inc.