



City of Richmond

Formal Meeting Minutes

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk

Monday, September 28, 2020

6:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall
(Virtual Meeting)

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Chris Hilbert, Vice President
The Honorable Andreas Addison
The Honorable Kim Gray (early departure)
The Honorable Michael Jones
The Honorable Kristen Larson (early departure)
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch (late arrival)
The Honorable Ellen Robertson
The Honorable Reva Trammell (early departure)

President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., and presided.

Invocation was offered by Reverend Dennis Lipke of Ginter Park United Methodist Church, 1010 West Laburnum Avenue, Richmond, VA.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch joined the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Members of Council and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTRONIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

City Clerk Candice Reid, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, as amended by Ordinance No. 2020-183, adopted August 20, 2020, announced the meeting would be held through electronic communication means. City Clerk Reid stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on September 16, 2020, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated members of the public were encouraged to provide comments in writing prior to the meeting and all comments received prior to 10:00 a.m., on Monday, September 28, 2020, were provided to Council members. Ms. Reid indicated that members of the public who signed up to speak and provide comment would be called to speak at the appropriate time.

CITIZEN SPEAKER GUIDELINES

Upon the President's request, Deputy City Clerk RJ Warren provided citizen speaker guidelines.

APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS

There were no appointment/reappointment items for consideration.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

There were no awards or presentations.

CITIZEN COMMENT

There were no citizen comment speakers.

AGENDA REVIEW AND AMENDMENTS

Councilor Kristen Larson moved to amend the agenda as follows:

ORD. 2019-275

To amend ch. 6 of the City Code by adding therein a new art. XII (§§ 6-596-6-602) to establish a technology zone program in accordance with Va. Code § 58.1-3850, for the purpose of facilitating the development and location of technology businesses in the city of Richmond, capital investment, and job creation.

To be continued to Monday, December 14, 2020

ORD. 2019-276

To amend City Code §§ 26-872, concerning definitions related to license taxes, and 26-989, concerning licenses taxes for personal services businesses, and to amend ch. 26, art. XV, div. 2 of the City Code by adding therein a new section numbered 26-1003.1, concerning the license tax for technology businesses, for the purpose of creating a new business, profession, and occupation license category called “technology business” and imposing a new license tax on such businesses.

To be continued to Monday, December 14, 2020

RES. 2020-R051

To impose enhanced speeding penalties pursuant to City Code § 27-163 and to authorize the placement of signs giving notice thereof on the portion of South Harrison Street located between Idlewood Avenue and Randolph Street and the portion of Colorado Avenue located between Randolph Street and South Allen Avenue.

To be continued to Monday, November 9, 2020

RES. 2020-R056

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause the Department of Finance and the Department of Human Resources to conduct a study of the City’s telecommuting workforce to determine if cost savings and other benefits have been derived from the telecommuting policies adopted by the City in response to the COVID-19 pandemic for the purpose of potentially continuing or expanding upon such policies after the pandemic.

To be continued to Monday, December 14, 2020

ORD. 2018-236

To amend ch. 26, art. V, div. 2 of the City Code by adding therein new sections 26-370-26-374, concerning a real estate tax deferral program for real estate owned and occupied as a sole dwelling, for the purpose of establishing a new real estate tax deferral program for real estate owned and occupied as a sole dwelling.

To be continued to Monday, October 12, 2020

ORD. 2020-103

To rezone certain properties in the areas surrounding the Science Museum of Virginia, Allison Street, and the Virginia Commonwealth University and the Virginia Union University Broad Street Bus Rapid Transit station areas.

To be continued to Monday, November 9, 2020

ORD. 2020-104

To amend the official zoning map for the purpose of designating certain street blocks as “priority streets” and certain street blocks as “street-oriented commercial streets” in the areas surrounding the Science Museum of Virginia, Allison Street, and the Virginia Commonwealth University and the Virginia Union University Broad Street Bus Rapid Transit station areas.

To be continued to Monday, November 9, 2020

ORD. 2020-105

To amend and reordain City Code §§ 30-433.2 (concerning parking lots in the UB Urban Business District, 30-440.3 (concerning yards in the B-4 Central Business District), 30-446.2 (concerning parking lots in the B-7 Mixed-Use Business District), and 30-950.2-30-950.5 (concerning Plan of Development Overlays), for the purpose of implementing the recommendations of the adopted Pulse Corridor Plan. (As Amended)

To be continued to Monday, November 9, 2020

ORD. 2020-117

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Records Management System User Agreement between the City of Richmond and Virginia Commonwealth University for the purpose of contracting for the use of equipment and materials as allowed by Va. Code § 15.2-1736 by allowing the Virginia Commonwealth University Police Department to become an operational user of the Department of Police's records management system for the input, retrieval, and storage of records and facilitating interoperability between the Department of Police and the Virginia Commonwealth University Police Department.

To be continued to Monday, January 11, 2021

ORD. 2020-153

To rename that portion of U.S. Route 1, known as Jefferson Davis Highway and located within the corporate boundaries of the City, from its northerly terminus at its intersection with Hull Street to its southerly terminus at the corporate limits of the City near its intersection with Walmsley Boulevard, as “Richmond Highway.”

To be continued to Monday, December 14, 2020

Citizens were provided an opportunity to offer comments in writing regarding pending legislation prior to the Formal City Council meeting. All written comments received by the Office of the City Clerk were provided to members of the Council prior to the meeting and are included as an appendix to the September 28, 2020 Formal City Council meeting minutes.

President Cynthia Newbille informed Council that 13 individuals had registered to speak at the public hearing for ORD. 2020-103, ORD. 2020-104 and ORD. 2020-105. President Newbille confirmed that due to the continuance of the three ordinances, all registered speakers would be included on the list of speakers for the public hearing at the November 9, 2020 Formal Council meeting.

The motion to amend the agenda was seconded and unanimously approved.

Councilor Kim Gray left the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following ordinances and resolutions were considered:

ORD. 2020-171

To amend and reordain City Code §§ 30-402.2, concerning permitted accessory uses and structures, 30-413.15, concerning yards, 30-419.2, concerning permitted principal uses, 30-419.3, concerning permitted principal uses on corner lots, 30-419.4, concerning permitted accessory uses and structures, 30-420.5, concerning yards, 30-424.5, concerning yards, 30-426.5, concerning yards, 30-428.6, concerning yards, 30-430.5, concerning yards, 30-442.1, concerning permitted principal and accessory uses, 30-442.4, concerning yards, 30-444.2, concerning permitted principal and accessory uses, 30-444.4, concerning yards, 30-446.4, concerning yards, 30-447.2, concerning permitted principal and accessory uses, 30-610.3, concerning alley frontage, 30-620.1, concerning lots and lot areas, 30-630.1, concerning yards, 30-630.4, concerning side yards, 30-630.9, concerning permitted projections and encroachments in yards and courts, 30-680.1, concerning location of accessory buildings, 30-800.2, concerning extension or expansion, 30-810.1, concerning alterations to buildings, 30-940.3, concerning the Urban Design Committee, and 30-1080, concerning unlawful conduct and penalties; to amend ch. 30, art. IV, div. 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the City Code by adding therein new §§ 30-402.8, 30-404.8, 30-406.8, 30-408.8, and 30-410.8, concerning driveways from streets; to amend ch. 30, art. VI, div. 7 of the City Code by adding therein a new § 30-660.1, concerning standards for location of refuse areas; to amend ch. 30, art. X, div. 4 of the City Code by adding therein a new § 30-1030.8, concerning expiration of approval of plans of development, and to amend ch. 30, art. XII of the City Code by adding therein new §§ 30-1220.94, 30-1220.110:1, 30-1220.110:2, and 30-1220.110:3, concerning certain definitions. (As Amended)

ORD. 2020-172

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Deed of Quitclaim of Utility Easement Portion between the City of Richmond and the Capital Region Airport Commission, for the purpose of releasing a portion of a utility easement to the Capital Region Airport Commission.

ORD. 2020-187

To amend Appendix A of the City Code for section 24-117, concerning the application and processing fee for each administrative approval encroachment application for use of a sidewalk for outdoor dining purposes applied for by October 31, 2020.

ORD. 2020-188

To amend Ord. No. 2020-092, adopted Apr. 13, 2020, which extended the deadline for filing an application or certification by real estate taxpayers claiming an exemption or freeze under City Code §§ 26-364 or 26-365 for the taxable year 2020 only from Mar. 31, 2020, to Apr. 30, 2020, by further extending the deadline from Apr. 30, 2020 to Oct. 30, 2020.

ORD. 2020-189

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to accept funds in the amount of \$5,000.00 from the National League of Cities; to amend the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Special Fund Budget by creating a new special fund for the Office of Community Wealth Building called the NLC Census Initiative Response Special Fund; and to appropriate the increase to the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Special Fund Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the Office of Community Wealth Building's NLC Census Initiative Special Fund by \$5,000.00 for the purpose of funding an awareness campaign promoting the importance of participation in the 2020 United States Census.

ORD. 2020-190

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to accept grant funds in the amount of \$2,000.00 from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, and to appropriate the funds

received to the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Special Fund Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the Department of Planning and Development Review's Permitting and Inspections Technical Renewal special fund by \$2,000.00 for the purpose of funding the purchase of equipment and technical upgrades for use in virtual certification and continuing education classes for employees of the Department of Planning and Development Review's permitting and inspections division.

ORD. 2020-192

To amend and reordain certain fees set forth in Appendix A of the City Code for section 8-545 (concerning fees for the temporary use of Main Street Station) for the purpose of revising the schedule of fees for the temporary use of Main Street Station.

ORD. 2020-193

To declare surplus and direct the sale of the City-owned real estate known as 2901 Bainbridge Street for \$10,000.00 to the Richmond Fire Department Foundation.

ORD. 2020-194

To amend Ord. No. 2020-050, adopted May 11, 2020, which adopted the Special Fund Budgets for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and appropriated the estimated receipts of the Special Revenue funds, to transfer funds in the amount of \$1,700,000.00 from the Office of the City Attorney's "Delinquent Tax Sales" special fund and to amend Ord. No. 2020-051, adopted May 11, 2020, which accepted a program of proposed Capital Improvement Projects for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and the four fiscal years thereafter, adopted a Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Capital Budget, and determined a means for financing the same by (i) establishing a new project in the Culture & Recreation category called the "Enslaved African Heritage Campus" project and (ii) appropriating the funds transferred to the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Capital Budget by increasing revenues and the amount appropriated to the new Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities' Enslaved African Heritage Campus project by \$1,700,000.00 for the purpose of planning, designing, acquiring land for, and constructing a multiuse enslaved African cultural and heritage parklike campus in the city of Richmond.

ORD. 2020-195

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Lease Agreement between the City of Richmond as lessor and Challenge Discovery Projects, Inc. as lessee for the purpose of leasing to Challenge Discovery Projects, Inc. a certain portion of the City-owned property located at 2405 Jefferson Avenue.

ORD. 2020-196

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Lease between the City of Richmond and T-Mobile USA Tower LLC for the purpose of permitting T-Mobile USA Tower LLC to operate existing telecommunications equipment at 4827 Old Warwick Road.

ORD. 2020-197

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a City of Richmond Grant Contract between the City of Richmond and Friends of the James River Park for the purpose of restoring a section of riparian buffer and performing related environmental activities along the James River at Pony Pasture Rapids Park and the Wetlands Park in the city of Richmond.

ORD. 2020-198

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Pony Pasture Rapids Park and the Wetlands Park Right-of-Entry Agreement between the City of Richmond and Friends of the James River Park for the purpose of restoring a section of riparian buffer and performing related environmental activities along the James River at Pony Pasture Rapids Park and the Wetlands Park in the city of Richmond.

ORD. 2020-199

To declare a public necessity for and to authorize the acquisition of the parcel of real property owned by the Virginia Department of Transportation and known as 311 South Belmont Avenue for the purpose maintaining the property as a City green space, playground, and recreational area.

ORD. 2020-200

To designate the 900 block of St. James Street in honor of James Russell Stallings, Sr.

ORD. 2020-201

To amend and reordain City Code § 27-283, concerning performance measurements for the special parking districts program, for the purpose of changing the due date for the submission of the annual study from March 1 of each year to September 1 of each year.

ORD. 2020-202

To amend and reordain City Code § 8-545, concerning the establishment of fees for licenses to temporarily use Main Street Station or portions thereof, for the purpose of authorizing the Chief Administrative Officer to appoint a designee to license Main Street Station or any portion thereof for temporary use by the public.

RES. 2019-R068

To express the Council's support for certain goals in alignment with the Vision Zero traffic safety program that promote sustainability and equity in access to safe transportation.

RES. 2020-R052

To provide for the nomination of George P. Braxton, Benjamin P. Campbell, and Eldridge Forest Coles as the City of Richmond's three Directors and the election of the Board of Directors of the Greater Richmond Transit Company for the period commencing upon election and qualification of these nominees as Directors and terminating on the date of the 2021 annual meeting of shareholders upon the election and qualification of the successors to these Directors.

RES. 2020-R053

To request that the Mayor propose, for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and for every fiscal year thereafter, a budget that includes funding in the amount of at least \$10,000,000.00 for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

RES. 2020-R054

To request that the Mayor make such recommendations for budget amendments for Fiscal Year 2021 or otherwise propose an annual budget for Fiscal Year 2022 that would achieve pay parity between the employees of the City of Richmond's Office of the Public Defender and the City of Richmond's Commonwealth's Attorney's Office.

RES. 2020-R055

To declare surplus, and to authorize and request the Chief Administrative Officer to seek offers, bids, or proposals by solicitation or auction for City-owned properties located at 809 West 44th Street, 811 Rear West 44th Street, and 4306 Rear Reedy Avenue for the purpose of facilitating the purchase and development of such parcels.

Citizens were provided an opportunity to offer comments in writing regarding Consent Agenda items prior to the Formal City Council meeting. All written comments received by the Office of the City Clerk were provided to members of the Council prior to the meeting and are included as an appendix to the September 28, 2020 Formal City Council meeting minutes.

Public Hearing

Dorothy Hollahan, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Richmond member, Richmonders Involved to Strengthen our Communities (RISC) member, addressed Council and stated the city was facing an affordable housing crisis. Ms. Hollahan also stated that citizens earning

less than 30 percent of the average median income (AMI) were in desperate need of available affordable housing units. Ms. Hollahan requested that 50 percent of the \$10,000,000 referenced in RES. 2020-R053 be directed to provide affordable housing units for individuals making less than 30 percent of the AMI.

Martin Wegbriet, Affordable Housing Trust Fund Oversight Board member, Eviction Task Force member and RISC member, addressed Council and stated that due to a lack of funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, the city had the second highest eviction rate in the country, a shortage of 25,000 affordable housing units, and that 21 percent of households were spending 50 percent of household income on housing. Mr. Wegbriet shared his support for RES. 2020-R053, and requested \$10,000,000 be dedicated to address affordable housing and the eviction crisis in the city.

Aubrey Jones, Fourth Baptist Church member, RISC member, spoke in support of RES. 2020-R053, and requested \$10,000,000 in funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Mr. Jones also requested that 50 percent of the \$10,000,000 be dedicated to the construction of affordable housing units for individuals making less than 30 percent of the AMI.

Reverend Ralph Hodge, Second Baptist Church South Richmond senior pastor, RISC member, spoke in support of RES. 2020-R053, and requested Council adopt the proposed resolution. Mr. Hodge stated the need for affordable housing units in the city was greatest for individuals making less than 30 percent of the AMI. Mr. Hodge also stated that with the funding proposed in RES. 2020-R053, affordable housing units could be constructed to provide adequate affordable housing options in the city.

Tracy Paner, Chief Public Defender for Richmond City, spoke in support of RES. 2020-R054, and requested that the Office of the Public Defender receive the same funding level as that of the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office. Ms. Paner stated that equal funding was necessary to balance the justice system and protect the rights of all citizens. Ms. Paner informed Council that the Office of the Public Defender loses 30 percent of its workforce annually due to its inability to provide higher salaries.

Christopher Green addressed Council and spoke in support of RES. 2020-R054. Mr. Green expressed his belief that public defenders should be treated with respect and honor for continuing to serve as front-line workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Maria Jankowski, Virginia Indigent Defense Commission deputy director, spoke in support of RES. 2020-R054, and stated that the best way to advocate for criminal justice reform was by adequately funding public defenders. Ms. Jankowski stated proper funding was necessary to recruit skilled attorneys to provide essential services.

Sheba Williams, Nolef Turns, Inc. executive director, addressed Council and requested equitable pay for the Office of the Public Defender. Ms. Williams stated that public defenders serve the most vulnerable in the city and must do so with far less resources than that of prosecutors. Ms. Williams expressed her support for RES. 2020-R054.

Dawn Butorac, Chief Public Defender for Fairfax County, spoke in support of RES. 2020-R054, and stated pay supplements make a difference in retaining skilled attorneys. Ms. Butorac stated pay parity for public defenders was approved in Fairfax County with positive results. Ms. Butorac also stated that equitable pay was a necessary step towards racial equality.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell informed Council that many residents had difficulty applying for the real estate tax relief referenced in ORD. 2020-188 due to City Hall being closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Councilwoman Trammell stated she supported ORD. 2020-188 in order to provide citizens with more time to submit tax relief applications.

John Wack, Department of Finance director, informed Council that ORD. 2020-188 would not affect property owners who previously obtained tax relief, but would only extend the deadline to allow additional applications to be filed. Mr. Wack stated the extension would provide more time to assist residents who received tax relief in the past, but had failed to recertify the tax relief request.

Councilor Michael Jones inquired about the best practice for providing information regarding the extension of the tax relief application period without violating any prohibited communication methods due to the upcoming Richmond City general election.

Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown stated the only prohibition was on the use of Council district funds to pay for electronic and printed communications.

Councilor Jones requested to be added as a co-patron of RES. 2020-R053.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch expressed her gratitude for citizens who spoke in support of RES. 2020-R053 and RES. 2020-R054.

Maggie Anderson, Office of the Mayor acting chief of staff, informed Council that Mayor Levar Stoney had requested to be added as a co-patron of RES. 2020-R054.

Councilor Jones, Councilor Andreas Addison and Councilwoman Trammell requested to be added as co-patrons of RES. 2020-R054.

Councilor Addison and Councilwoman Trammell requested to be added as co-patrons of RES. 2020-R053.

Councilor Ellen Robertson expressed her gratitude for citizens who spoke in support of RES. 2020-R053, and expressed her support for RES. 2020-R054 and its potential impact on providing affordable housing options in the city.

Councilor Kristen Larson confirmed that Council members are prohibited from using Council district funds for creating printed or electronic district meeting materials within 90 days of an election. Councilor Larson expressed her support for RES. 2020-R054, but stated she did not want funding to be diverted from the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office to provide the pay parity. Councilor Larson also stated she hoped the city could move forward in a strategic way to address affordable housing issues in the city.

It was the consensus of Council to allow Allan-Charles Chipman to provide public comment after the public hearing for items on the consent agenda had concluded.

Allan-Charles Chipman spoke in support of RES. 2020-R054, and stated it was important to practice equity in the city budget. Mr. Chipman also spoke in favor of RES. 2020-R053.

President Cynthia Newbille thanked the lead patrons of RES. 2020-R053 and RES. 2020-R054, and stated the two resolutions put Council on a path towards more equity in the city.

There were no further comments or discussions and the **Consent Agenda was adopted:** Ayes 8, Jones, Robertson, Larson, Lynch, Trammell, Addison, Hilbert, Newbille. Noes None.

REGULAR AGENDA

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2020-191

To amend Ord. No. 2020-164, adopted Aug. 10, 2020, which authorized the Chief Administrative Officer to submit an amended Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as an application for the receipt of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) funds, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funds, accepted funds from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the total amount of \$6,184,226.00, and appropriated \$6,184,226.00 for various projects, to authorize the submission of a further amended version of the amended Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan and to reallocate and re-appropriate \$4,239,079.00 in unallocated funds for various projects.

Citizens were provided an opportunity to offer comments in writing regarding ORD. 2020-191 prior to the Formal City Council meeting. All written comments received by the Office of the City Clerk were provided to members of the Council prior to the meeting and are included as an appendix to the September 28, 2020 Formal City Council meeting minutes.

Daniel Mouer, Department of Housing and Community Development project development manager, provided additional information regarding ORD. 2020-191.

There were no further comments or discussions and **ORD. 2020-191 was adopted:** Ayes 7, Jones, Robertson, Larson, Trammell, Addison, Hilbert, Newbille. Noes None. Lynch was excused.

MOTIONS

There were no motions for consideration.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Councilor Andreas Addison moved to approve the minutes of the following Richmond City Council meetings: Special Meeting held on Monday, September 8, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.; Informal and Formal Council Sessions held on Monday, September 14, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m., respectively.

The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 8, Jones, Robertson, Larson, Lynch, Trammell, Addison, Hilbert, Newbille. Noes None.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

City Council will hold a public hearing on the following ordinances and resolutions on Monday, October 12, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.:

ORD. 2020-210

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to accept funds in the amount of \$15,000.00 from The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Inc.; to amend the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Special Fund Budget by creating a new special fund for the Office of Community Wealth Building called the Annie Casey Special Fund; and to appropriate the grant funds received to the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Special Fund Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the new Office of Community Wealth Building's Annie Casey Special Fund by \$15,000.00 for the purpose of funding research on the number, financial profiles, and economic impact of businesses located within the city of Richmond.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(3)(c).

ORD. 2020-211

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to accept funds in an amount up to \$3,900,000.00 from Advantage Richmond Corporation, and to assign such accepted funds to the Reserve Fund for Permanent Public Improvements established pursuant to City Code § 12-4.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Education and Human Services Standing Committee meeting on Thursday, October 1, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.

ORD. 2020-212

To declare a public necessity for and to authorize the acquisition of the parcel of real property owned by Advantage Richmond Corporation and known as 900 East Marshall Street for the purpose of a municipal office building.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Monday, October 5, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

ORD. 2020-213

To amend Ord. No. 2020-051, adopted May 11, 2020, which (i) accepted a program of proposed Capital Improvement Projects for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and the four fiscal years thereafter, (ii) adopted a Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, and (iii) determined a means of financing the same, to modify the purpose of the Heritage Center / Lumpkin's Jail (Devil's Half Acre) project in the Economic and Community Development category to provide that the scope of such project consists of design and construction of a pavilion and museum at the Lumpkin's Jail / Devil's Half Acre site, the design of and improvements to the Richmond Slave Trail and Trail Head at Ancarrow's Landing, the extension of the Slave Trail to 1305 North 5th Street, the acquisition of the property known as 1305 North 5th Street due to that property's historical significance associated with its use as the Burial Grounds for Free People of Colour and Slaves, and the planning activities for the proposed Heritage Center in Shockoe Bottom.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Monday, October 5, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

RES. 2020-R057

To authorize the issuance of general obligation public improvement refunding bonds of the City of Richmond, Virginia in the maximum principal amount of up to \$135,000,000 to refund all or portions of certain general obligation bonds previously issued by the City; to authorize the Director of Finance, with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City, to sell such refunding bonds for such purposes; to provide for the form, details and payment of such bonds; and to authorize the issuance of taxable bonds in the same maximum principal amount and payable over the same period as such general obligation public improvement refunding bonds.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(2).

RES. 2020-R058

To approve the extension of the Richmond Behavioral Health Authority's performance contract for Fiscal Year 2019 and Fiscal Year 2020.

Patron: President Newbille

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Education and Human Services Standing Committee meeting on Thursday, October 1, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.

City Council will hold a public hearing on the following ordinances on Monday, November 9, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.:

ORD. 2020-214

To amend City Code §§ 12-36, concerning the disposition of revenues derived from the expiration of partial exemptions from real estate taxation and from certain sales of tax delinquent properties, and 26-104, concerning the duties of the City Assessor, for the purpose of providing for the accounting of certain real estate tax revenues arising from the phased reduction, expiration, and termination of certain partial exemptions from real estate taxation in such a manner as to facilitate the City Council's future appropriation of those revenues to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney, President Newbille and Ms. Robertson

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Finance and Economic Standing Committee meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

ORD. 2020-215

To amend and reordain City Code § 26-355, concerning the levy of tax on real estate, to establish a tax rate of \$1.20 for the tax year beginning Jan. 1, 2021, pursuant to Va. Code § 58.1-3321(b), and increasing such rate from the Rolled Back Tax Rate of \$1.176 as computed in accordance with Va. Code § 58.1-3321(a).

Patron: President Newbille

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Finance and Economic Standing Committee meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

ORD. 2020-216

To close, to public use and travel, Anderson Street and an east-west alley that bisects Anderson Street located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Government Road and Glenwood Avenue consisting of 18,660± square feet, upon certain terms and conditions.

Patron: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Monday, October 19, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

ORD. 2020-217

To close to public travel certain medians located in Monument Avenue and North Allen Avenue at or near General Robert E. Lee Circle, to retain the City's legal interests in such medians, and to designate such medians as official City Parks, upon certain terms and conditions.

Patron: Ms. Gray

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Monday, October 19, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

ORD. 2020-218

To authorize the special use of the properties known as 1829 West Cary Street and 1831 West Cary Street for the purpose of outdoor dining areas, upon certain terms and conditions.

Patron: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Monday, October 19, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

ORD. 2020-219

To designate the City-owned properties known as 201 Hioaks Road, 315 Beaufont Hills Drive, 620 Rosemont Road, 2100 Colby Lane, 2606 Lynhaven Avenue, and 2903 Rear Ernest Road as public parks to be known by the names of Hioaks Park, Reedy Creek Wetland Park, Rosemont Road Park, Broad Rock Creek Park, and Ernest Road Park.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney, Mr. Jones and Ms. Trammell

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

ORD. 2020-220

To amend and reordain City Code §§ 2-927, concerning the general powers and duties of the Personnel Board, and 2-1264, concerning the creation of the personnel system, for the purpose of conforming the classes protected from discrimination under the City's personnel system to Va. Code §§ 2.2-3904 and 2.2-3905.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Governmental Operations Standing Committee meeting on Thursday, October 22, 2020, at 12:00 p.m.

Councilor Michael Jones inquired why ORD. 2020-117 was introduced and referred to the City Planning Commission rather than the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee.

Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown informed Council that due to ORD. 2020-117 addressing the closure of streets in the city, the proposed ordinance must be referred to the City Planning Commission.

REPORTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Members of Council provided reports and announcements regarding respective district meetings and activities.

Councilor Kristen Larson left the meeting.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell left the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

CITY CLERK

From: [Steven & Peggy](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [REDACTED] [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Office](#)
Subject: Pulse Corridor Plan
Date: Monday, September 14, 2020 3:22:19 PM

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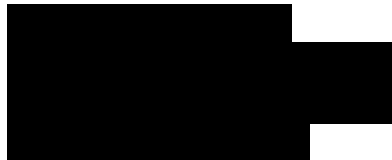
To Whom It May Concern:

We are 45+ year homeowners in the Fan District. We have read, reviewed and discussed this plan. We are very much concerned by the proposal to rezone land on the north side of Broad Street between Belvidere and Arthur Ashe Boulevard to B4, which would allow 20+ story buildings.

We don't want this portion of the Broad Street corridor to become an urban canyon, where the sunlight can't get through—and we are concerned about the impact on parking and city services. We support the coalition of neighborhood associations advocating for a height limitation of 12 stories, which is what the Pulse Corridor Plan in 2017 allowed. Twenty floors violates this limit.

It is inappropriate to implement wide-sweeping rezoning during a pandemic, when citizens cannot meet in person with their civic leaders.

Peggy L. Hombs
Steven C. Van Voorhees



From: [Mark Dray](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Rezoning Broad between Arthur Ash Blvd and Belvedere
Date: Friday, September 18, 2020 9:01:15 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Please do not approve the proposed rezoning change. The Stoney Administration has done enough to destroy the ambience and quality of life in Richmond. It needs to stop now.

Mark Dray

From: [Jerry Swerling](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Fan homeowner supports Broad Street rezoning
Date: Friday, September 18, 2020 3:34:25 PM

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I'm writing as an individual homeowner in the Fan who supports changing the zoning regs. in the area on the North side of Broad Street, in the area of VCU, to allow taller structures.

My primary reason for supporting this change is that given the city's small tax base, there is far too much reliance on individual homeowners, city-wide, who are seeing their property taxes go up by substantial amounts every year. No doubt this is having immediate effect on homeowners of lesser financial means, thereby exacerbating the city's sorry legacy of housing inequality.

In addition, if this trend continues it will soon make the city far less affordable for retirees like me, who came here in part because of the area's affordability and are more than willing to pay our fair share - especially if it helps the Richmond Public Schools (even though we don't have children in those schools) and other core city services.

Given the city's very limited industrial base it's safe to assume that pressure on individual homeowners will not ease unless we find creative ways to add substantially more commercial and residential tax generating capacity (including affordable units and within appropriate limitations) wherever we can, and the area north of Broad seems like a good place to start.

While I'm not a big fan of 30 story buildings in that area, I believe that if the zoning is changed, the number of 30 story structures that will actually be built, if any, will be minimal, given the nature of the market and the surrounding area. I also suggest that efforts be made to explain why the specific number 30 (rather than 26, 24, 20, etc.) is being proposed, and the likely *actual* impact of that number.

I've reviewed the counter arguments and am left speculating about the possibility that, to an extent, their underlying purpose is to protect the interests of developers and owners of multi-unit properties who control the current housing inventory in the area, and who would find themselves facing unprecedented competition from *any* large new entries into the market.

Sincerely,

Jerry Swerling
Professor Emeritus, University of Southern California



From: [Warren Fry](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Office](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Pulse Corridor
Date: Friday, September 18, 2020 5:58:31 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Sirs;

I want to express my opposition to the proposed high rise development on Broad Street, specifically in the Lombardy to Boulevard area. I believe that the proposed high density high rise housing would adversely affect the existing single home / residential neighborhood.

The Fan and particularly the Grace street homeowners have made great strides in creating a cohesive neighborhood and having 20 + story housing structures in their backyards would be a serious step in the wrong direction.

Please reconsider the city's development plans and restrict structures greater than those already allowed.

Thank you.

Warren A Fry
[REDACTED]

From: [Mathis Kirby Powelson](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: rezoning for Broad Street
Date: Friday, September 18, 2020 9:59:39 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

I am very concerned that 20 story buildings are being considered for Broad Street. I live in the lower part of the Fan and we already have almost no parking spots for home owners and we have seen a large increase in traffic with recent developments such as the large apartment building at the corner of Grace and Lombardy. The tall buildings will also decrease the natural lighting of Broad Street. And with more people there is sure to be more crime. Please consider those of us who live here and preserve our neighborhood.

Thank you.

--

[Mathis Kirby Powelson](#)



From: [2234](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Rezoning Broad street
Date: Saturday, September 19, 2020 7:44:29 AM

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I would like to register my objection to the 20 story provision in the proposed zoning. It is unfair to pass this type of plan during a pandemic. This is not essential and should and should not be decided without the public input. Thank you Ken Powell

Sent from my iPad

From: [Rich Weinstein](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: No to Rezoning Arthur Ashe Blvd
Date: Saturday, September 19, 2020 12:09:00 PM

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Hello,

I like to express my opposition to the proposed rezoning Broad Street between Belvidere Street and Arthur Ashe Boulevard.

No to 20 story+ Buildings.

We - the people who actually live in the city - have to endure the Pulse (two dead, so far) and that allows buildings up to 12 stories. This proposed rezoning violates that limit..

Also, in case you haven't noticed, there's a pandemic. So meeting and sitting down and going over the actual details is a little difficult right now. So, how about you just hold off for a bit?

Rich Weinstein

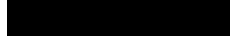


From: [Patricia Bell](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Rezoning Broad Street
Date: Sunday, September 20, 2020 10:09:30 AM

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Please please please do NOT approve rezoning Broad Street between Belvidere and Arthur Ashe Boulevard to allow construction of buildings 20 stories high. I feel even 12 stories is too much, having lived in the Fan close to Broad. Parking is already atrocious and to think that these residents will not have cars is disingenuous at best.

Patricia Bell



From: [Barbara Hartung](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Rezoning Broad Street
Date: Sunday, September 20, 2020 10:50:36 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Buildings should not exceed 12 stories.
20+ Stories is too high.

Barbara L. Hartung



Sent from my iPhone

From: [William Streicker](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: [spam]
Date: Sunday, September 20, 2020 2:59:18 PM


CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

As a resident of Monument Avenue for 40+ years, I object to the proposal to allow buildings up to 40 stories on the north side of Broad St. between Belvidere and Arthur Ashe Blvd.

My opinion is that:

- Even 20+ stories is too high.
- City Council adopted the [Pulse Corridor Plan](#) in 2017, which allowed buildings up to 12 stories in height. The proposed rezoning violates this limit.
- There are only six design guidelines that are intended to be guiding principles for the area, however, they are not legally enforceable.
- It is inappropriate to implement wide-sweeping rezoning during a pandemic when citizens cannot meet in person with their civic leaders. In fact, Attorney General Mark Herring advises that local governments “should carefully consider whether taking a given action during a meeting held by electronic communication means is truly essential and **should defer any and all decisions that can be deferred until it is once again possible to meet in person.**”

Please do not disregard our desire to maintain neighborhoods with human scale.

William Streicker


From: [Leslie Rubio](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#); [Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR](#); [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Newbille, Cynthia I. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#); [Mayor Levar Stoney](#); [Saunders, Lincoln - Mayor's Office](#)
Subject: Proposed Rezoning-Change introduced by the Planning Commission
Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 1:33:52 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

I am writing today as a concerned city resident. City council originally voted in 2017 to allow heights up to 12 stories on the North side of Broad Street. The current "back room" deal proposed by the planning commission undoes that vote and proposes to allow 20+ story buildings. This is NOT what city council signed off on in 2017. Council needs to ENFORCE their own decision!

Is there infrastructure to support these towers? Sewer, water, parking?
Are emergency services prepared for this kind of development?

The community has been left in the dark about this and we are not ready for a final council vote. Even our own Attorney General has advised that local governments should delay land use decisions until after the pandemic and quarantines are over.

Developers, city officials and neighborhood leaders need to be at the same table to discuss matters that affect OUR neighborhoods. Our city is an amazing city...with buildings and structures on Broad Street with historical value and meaning. We don't need to push 20+ story buildings into our landscape...why? There is no common sense case for the concentration of downtown high rise zoning districts amidst three story historic residential neighborhoods...ignoring the array of infill potential everywhere else.

This zoning amendment ignores equity. This amendment does not include mandates that will ensure developers provide affordable housing. But the more important reality is...this will DESTROY the historical landscape of our City...what makes it unique, what makes it a place that people want to visit. Why do we continue to bulldoze historic buildings and put up ugly eye sores that years from now will be looked on as architectural nightmares. We are unique! Great cities around the world continue to preserve and cherish the significance of their historical streets and buildings...preventing high rise construction and opening the door to zoning reform. Why must we destroy our beautiful city and ignore what makes it unique? I ask that you reject this plan and keep your word on the original vote from 2017. It's the RIGHT THING TO DO!

Concerned city resident,

Leslie Rubio


--

Leslie Rubio

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Clerk's Office](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Office](#)
Subject: NO to 20-Story Buildings on Broad between Arthur Ashe and Belvidere
Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 1:55:03 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear City Leaders,

I am writing as a resident of the Monument Avenue historic district to voice my opposition to the Planning Department's proposal to allow 20-story buildings on Broad St. between Arthur Ashe Boulevard and Belvidere.

While I support appropriate redevelopment and growth of this area along and North of Broad St, it is critical that the development relate in scale and context to the adjacent historic neighborhoods. Twenty-story buildings, similar in feel to a downtown buildings, have no place in an area like this - the scale is just too large juxtaposed to the lower hight residential and business buildings and neighborhoods across Broad.

Not only has this plan quietly been pushed through at a time when residents have been preoccupied by the worries of a pandemic and are unable to meet publicly with city leaders, but it directly contradicts the 2017 Pulse Corridor plan, which calls for maximum 12-story building heights.

Given the potential long-lasting effects of passing this proposal, I am asking City Council to vote no on Sept. 28, or at least to delay serious consideration of this proposal to a time when citizens are able to assemble and debate the pros and cons without the constraints of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Spencer Broadbent
[REDACTED]

From: [Rhonda Hening Davis](#)
To: [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#)
Cc: [City Clerk's Office](#); [Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR](#); [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Newbille, Cynthia L. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#); [Mayor Levar Stoney](#); [Saunders, Lincoln - Mayor's Office](#)
Subject: Richmond 300
Date: Thursday, September 24, 2020 5:24:27 AM

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Dear Kim,

I have briefly looked at the Richmond 300 re-zoning plan, and I have to express my dissent when it comes to B-4 zoning anywhere close to the Carver Community.

As a 15-year resident of Carver, I have worked very hard over the past decade and a half to make certain that my new presence in the community would reflect the views of those who were here before me. Our neighborhood has been inundated with high density for years, even though I have worked hard to prevent most of that process. I have been over-ridden many times by Council Members and even members of my own community, to prevent over-density.

As a member of the Carver Civic Association (CACIL) I have supported several projects that have left Carver with one of the most diverse multi-purpose neighborhoods in the city, uplifting marginally compromised members of society, uplifting small businesses, and uplifting owner-occupied residences. Some of the projects that I have not supported have resulted in very densely populated blocks--some of the most densely populated in the entire city.

Now the propositions imposed by the Richmond 300 Plan have called for zoning that will further change the density as well as the landscape of my neighborhood. Here I must draw a line. Carver has consented as a whole to way more density than I have ever consented to, and I find any zoning that threatens to further increase the density of our neighborhood not only egregious, but also very detrimental to our community.

I am opposed to any B-4 zoning in or anywhere near the Carver Community, for the reasons that I have stated above. I already envy others within the City who have a clear view of a sunrise or a sunset on any given day. The proposition of B-4 type zoning will further obstruct any skyline within the Carver Community, as well as outnumbering the citizens who work within our community tirelessly to make our neighborhood a more cohesive place in which to work and live. The Carver Community is a tight-knit neighborhood, and it doesn't come without plenty of effort on the parts of citizens here.

When the City failed to fund schools adequately, the Carver Community worked together to make up the difference and more. When the City has asked for compliance to their own ordinances, the Carver Community has worked to enforce them, even when City officials have failed. When the City is proposing to change the landscape and makeup of our community, I must say no.

The current architecture in Carver has no structure higher than 4 stories, without a special use permit. That is why I ask that we keep the current zoning exactly the same as it is. I would prefer that the community be involved whenever there are potentially life-changing structures proposed in or near our community. Moving forward on some of the proposed zoning in the Richmond 300 plan is an insult to many active members of our city--members on which you have counted in the past and who have delivered plentifully, often at our own expense.

While I appreciate your attempts to attract others and expand our fair City, I ask that you respect and appreciate those who are already here, and have worked to make the City a place of which we can all be proud. Our voices should matter to you.

Thank you,
Rhonda Hening Davis

From: [Anja Thomas](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: STOP: No Rezoning of Broad Street between Belvidere and Arthur Ashe Boulevard
Date: Thursday, September 24, 2020 10:56:08 AM

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Dear City Council, Planning Staff and Planning Commission:

Please do not turn Broad Street into more of what downtown looks like. Let's retain the town feel surrounding this area that abuts large residential neighborhoods and makes Richmond a great place to live. 20+ stories is too high; in fact, it exceeds the maximum height of 12 stories City Council adopted in the Pulse Corridor Plan in 2017. Furthermore, it is inappropriate to implement wide-sweeping rezoning during a pandemic when citizens cannot meet in person with their civic leaders.

Thanks for listening. Sincerely,

Anja Thomas



From: [Thomas Innes](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]; [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Bieber, Craig K. - City Council](#)
Subject: ReZoning Belvidere to Arthur Ashe Blvd
Date: Thursday, September 24, 2020 11:23:48 AM

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As a long time resident of the Fan District, I urge Council to leave the newly (2017) zoned Pulse Corridor Zoning in place. There is no reason to allow buildings to go from 12 stories to 20 stories. I would submit that there is still no evidence that the Pulse and the Bike Paths will create a huge market for residents that will not have cars and hence will live in buildings without adequate parking on site.

Merchants and their customers have lost significant parking already on Broad Street and the long term loss of businesses is still unknown. Compounded by the Covid crisis and the restructuring of retail, it is better to leave things alone and let merchants plan versus changing things everytime a new Planning Model comes into vogue.

To complicate matters, public input is limited and this is a recurring issue with the City of Richmond and certain GRTC initiatives when public notice and therefore comment is restricted. The public is at a significant disadvantage and for the most part unaware because Covid has limited the normal interaction between the parties.

Please leave the Zoning "As Is" and see what the real impact is of the plan before you make any modifications. Thank you for your consideration.

Tom Innes

[REDACTED]

--

Thomas N. Innes

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Clerk's Office](#); [Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR](#); [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Newbille, Cynthia I. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#); [Mayor Levar Stoney](#); [Saunders, Lincoln - Mayor's Office](#)
Subject: 20 story buildings on West Broad Street
Date: Thursday, September 24, 2020 11:41:07 AM

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am a Fan resident and am strongly opposed to allowing 20 story buildings on Broad Street. It is my understanding 12 story buildings are currently allowed. Adding 8 stories should not be considered. Please do not change your vote for 12 story buildings. We certainly do not need high rise buildings in Historic Richmond. We need to continue to survive as a community. If we wanted to live in or near high rise buildings we could move to New York City.

Matilda S. Shifflett

[REDACTED]

From: [Cindi Cobbs](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#); [Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR](#); [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Newbille, Cynthia I. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#); [Mayor Levar Stoney](#); [Saunders, Lincoln - Mayor's Office](#)
Subject: Proposed Rezoning for the Pulse Corridor
Date: Thursday, September 24, 2020 1:51:11 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am IN FAVOR of the proposed zoning change to allow for taller buildings along the Pulse Corridor. My only concern is to MAKE SURE that affordable housing is part of the planning process.

Cynthia Cobbs



From: [Janice Hall Nuckolls](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#); [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Newbille, Cynthia I. - City Council](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Stoney, Levar M. - Mayor](#); [Saunders, Lincoln - Mayor's Office](#); [Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR](#)
Cc: steve@stevenuckolls.com
Subject: Rezoning of West Broad St to allow 20+ story buildings
Date: Friday, September 25, 2020 9:19:23 AM


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We are against the proposed change to allow 20+ story buildings

- 20+ stories is too high.
- City Council adopted the Pulse Corridor Plan in 2017, which allowed buildings up to 12 stories in height. **The proposed rezoning violates this limit.**
- It is inappropriate to implement wide-sweeping rezoning during a pandemic when citizens cannot meet in person with their civic leaders. In fact, Attorney General Mark Herring advises that local governments "should carefully consider whether taking a given action during a meeting held by electronic communication means is truly essential and **should defer any and all decisions that can be deferred until it is once again possible to meet in person.**"

Quite frankly we are shocked that both the Planning Staff and Planning Commission approved this change. It is more than a little suspicious that the Planning Department has not been forthcoming in answering questions about the proposed rezoning.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice and Steve Nuckolls



From: [Julie Weissend](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#); [Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR](#); [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Newbille, Cynthia I. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#); [Mayor Levar Stoney](#); [Saunders, Lincoln - Mayor's Office](#)
Subject: Broad Street Rezoning - Put On the Brakes!
Date: Friday, September 25, 2020 11:18:27 AM

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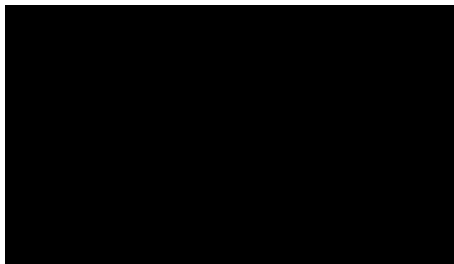
Greetings,

To start with, thank you all for working on behalf of Richmond and its citizenry. That being said, my perception is that too many things are happening behind closed doors. I am sure that we are all in agreement when it comes to wanting Richmond to become a better version of itself; a more sustainable, diverse and supportive community in all respects. To that end, we have more work to do. The City and your constituents have been moved to support the Pulse corridor plan and resulting zoning changes allowing for 12 story buildings along Broad Street. That's a lot of density, particularly compared to our current situation. I'm dubious that we can support the infrastructure that 12 story density would demand because our infrastructure (sewers as an example) fail us at our current, much lower density. That's a travesty.

We need a specific plan about what type of impact fees and budgeting the City is going to ask developers to pay to subsidize this kind of infrastructure repair and improvement in order to support even higher density. The public needs to know the plans, budgets and ramifications before we can effectively weigh in on how to move forward. I ask that no additional changes be made until these specifics are shared. If a developer wants to build a high rise in the subject area, they can do it on a SUP basis until the plans are thoroughly evaluated by everyone.

Sincerely,
Julie

[Julie W. Weissend](#), LEED AP ID+C



From: [Crist](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Broad street hearing
Date: Friday, September 25, 2020 2:30:39 PM

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We do not need to create a canyon on Broad Street. 20 stories is way too high.

Sent from Crist Berry's iPhone

From: [Louise Seals](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Too High on the High Rises
Date: Friday, September 25, 2020 2:35:53 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

My name is Margaret C. Seals and I am a Richmond taxpayer residing at 1819 Floyd Avenue. I writing to oppose the proposed rezoning to allow high-rise building of 20+ stories.

The proposed rezoning plan for the Pulse Corridor will result in overwhelming desirable, prosperous neighborhoods around it and turning a very livable city center into a mass of look-alike concrete towers surrounded by far too many loud and polluting motor vehicles and far too many people. The previous rezoning in 2017 provides more than enough height and capacity for the developers. Right now, the Pulse Corridor traffic moves well but throw in 4 or 5 20-story high-rises and their car-owning occupants and we are right back to jam-packed West Broad with the resulting spillover into the neighborhoods.

The city needs more housing but NOT more high-rises going for high prices, which these new units undoubtedly will command. Richmond needs lower-cost housing — ideally in all its neighborhoods -- so its teachers, firefighters and police officers can afford to live here and so the also-essential people keeping our grocery and other essential stores supplied, stocked and clean can also afford to live here. And don't forget all the city employees in Public Works, Parks, Utilities and so on who can't afford to live in the city.

This Pulse Corridor Rezoning Proposal is not the answer to the city's big housing needs. AFFORDABLE housing is what Richmond needs.

From: [Barrett, Kathleen](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: 20 story buildings on Broad St.
Date: Friday, September 25, 2020 2:41:03 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

I am a homeowner At [REDACTED]. I am opposed to new tall construction because of the congested streets and the critical shortage of parking. The requirements the city has allowed for proposed buildings is not nearly enough. We have lost parking 8 blocks of parking on each side of Grace Park.between Monument and Broad on Allen Avenue because of the Lee Statue problems. We have paid the city for parking passes but we can't find parking. We are competing with VCU students.

We have invested in the city, pay high real estate taxes and you are driving us out of a city we love.

I ask you to think of the permanent residents instead of putting up tall rental property for transient housing. The Fan is losing its charm. This is adding insult to injury after Monument Ave has been Historically destroyed. Oh, and we just received increased tax assessments.

Thank you for listening.

Kathleen BURKE Barrett

Sent from my iPad

From: [Pattie Kennedy](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Re -zoning Broad
Date: Friday, September 25, 2020 2:49:13 PM

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-

To whom it May Concern,

- 20+ stories is too high.
- City Council adopted the [Pulse Corridor Plan](#) in 2017, which allowed buildings up to 12 stories in height. The proposed rezoning violates this limit.
- There are only six design guidelines that are intended to be guiding principles for the area however, they are not legally enforceable.
- It is inappropriate to implement wide-sweeping rezoning during a pandemic when citizens cannot meet in person with their civic leaders. In fact, Attorney General Mark Herring advises that local governments “should carefully consider whether taking a given action during a meeting held by electronic communication means is truly essential and **should defer any and all decisions that can be deferred until it is once again possible to meet in person.**”

Pattie Kennedy

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Paul Gilding](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Amy Marschean](#); [Andy Wilson](#); [Annie Bloomsburg](#); [Bev Pflugrath](#); [Beverly Soble](#); [Bruce Adams and Dennis Anderson](#); [Bruce and Kathy Macalister](#); [Cynthia Bailey](#); [Dennis Anderson](#); [Emily and Alan Wingfield](#); [Gary Thompson](#); [Howard Casway](#); [Janet Wilson](#); [Jennifer Fidura](#); [Jennifer Whiteside](#); [Jescey French](#); [Judy Philpott](#); [Kathy Harris](#); [Mary Ann Curtin](#); [Mary Kate Felch](#); [Mary Lynn Tischer](#); [Mary Sabre Monroe](#); [Nathan Hatfield](#); [Patti Meire](#); [Susan Massart](#); [Gray, Kimberly B.](#) - City Council
Subject: Rezoning of Broad St Between Belvidere and Arthur Ashe Blvd
Date: Friday, September 25, 2020 3:11:49 PM

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I am writing to oppose the rezoning for the following reasons:

- A building of 20+ stories is too high.
- City Council adopted the [Pulse Corridor Plan](#) in 2017, which allowed buildings up to 12 stories in height. The proposed rezoning violates this limit.
- There are only six design guidelines that are intended to be guiding principles for the area; however, they are not legally enforceable.
- It is inappropriate to implement wide-sweeping rezoning during a pandemic when citizens cannot meet in person with their civic leaders. In fact, Attorney General Mark Herring advises that local governments “should carefully consider whether taking a given action during a meeting held by electronic communication means is truly essential and **should defer any and all decisions that can be deferred until it is once again possible to meet in person.**”

I urge the City Council to reject the Planning Commission's approval of this ill-advised zoning change, and I add my voice to that of the Fan District Association in opposing this measure.

Paul Gilding



From: [Susan Snyder](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: New zoning
Date: Friday, September 25, 2020 3:14:13 PM

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Dear zoning commission,

As a resident of the fan I urge you not to increase the height allowable limit of buildings in our neighborhood. I can't imagine why 12 stories is not sufficient for any new buildings. That is what was promised us when the Pulse was approved and we would encourage you to keep to that height.

Thank you very much!!!

Susan Snyder

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Mathis Kirby Powelson](#)
To: [Thomas Innes](#)
Cc: [City Clerk's Office](#) [REDACTED]; [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Office](#)
Subject: Re: ReZoning Belvidere to Arthur Ashe Blvd
Date: Friday, September 25, 2020 3:31:55 PM

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I wholeheartedly agree with Tom's assessment of this situation.

Mathis Kirby Powelson
[REDACTED]

On Thu, Sep 24, 2020 at 11:22 AM Thomas Innes <tom@tominnes.com> wrote:

As a long time resident of the Fan District, I urge Council to leave the newly (2017) zoned Pulse Corridor Zoning in place. There is no reason to allow buildings to go from 12 stories to 20 stories. I would submit that there is still no evidence that the Pulse and the Bike Paths will create a huge market for residents that will not have cars and hence will live in buildings without adequate parking on site.

Merchants and their customers have lost significant parking already on Broad Street and the long term loss of businesses is still unknown. Compounded by the Covid crisis and the restructuring of retail, it is better to leave things alone and let merchants plan versus changing things everytime a new Planning Model comes into vogue.

To complicate matters, public input is limited and this is a recurring issue with the City of Richmond and certain GRTC initiatives when public notice and therefore comment is restricted. The public is at a significant disadvantage and for the most part unaware because Covid has limited the normal interaction between the parties.

Please leave the Zoning "As Is" and see what the real impact is of the plan before you make any modifications. Thank you for your consideration.

Tom Innes
[REDACTED]

--

Thomas N. Innes
[REDACTED]

--

From: [ellen.ryan](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Rezoning of Broad St.
Date: Friday, September 25, 2020 4:03:24 PM

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I am against the rezoning of Broad Street between Belvedere and Arthur Ashe Boulevard. Much of the street backs on to a Historic Neighborhood where the buildings are residential and most 2-3 stories high. To rezone to allow 20 story buildings will only benefit the developers coffers, it will add nothing to the character of the neighborhood. It is sad to see, yet again, that money talks so loudly. This issue had been addressed and settled prior to the Pulse line being built. What caused it to be raised again?

Thank you for you time. Ellen Ryan

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Clerk's Office](#); [Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR](#); [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Newbille, Cynthia I. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#); [Mayor Levar Stoney](#); [Saunders, Lincoln - Mayor's Office](#); [Cyane Crump](#)
Subject: Re-zoning
Date: Friday, September 25, 2020 4:03:53 PM

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I am frightened by how little public input seems to matter these days.

First the Pulse line deal was run down our collective throats with the neighborhood associations barely being able to comment. They found out about the deal by accident, and it was all we could do to get a few concessions.

Now this re-zoning is being shaped in a way that goes against the wishes of multiple neighborhood associations. Do we no longer get any say in how our neighborhood is developed? Since when does the bureaucracy get to force their unwanted vision on residents who like their neighborhood the way it is. Put the increased density where it is wanted.

If this passes, even City Council is also given less input in future development. The department of community development is supposed to work with communities, not dictate to them, nor redevelop them against their will.

Please listen to the citizens and not the bureaucrats. Honor the deal that was already made, and keep the number of stories low and let the neighborhoods control their own development.

Sincerely,

Clark Glavé

[REDACTED]

From: [Jillian Goldenbaum](#)
To: [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [City Clerk's Office](#); [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR](#); [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Newbille, Cynthia L. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#); [REDACTED]; [Saunders, Lincoln - Mayor's Office](#)
Subject: Opposal to Rezoning of Broad btw Belvidere and Arthur Ashe Blvd
Date: Friday, September 25, 2020 4:22:03 PM

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I am opposed to the proposed 20+ story buildings on Broad Street between Belvidere Street and Arthur Ashe Boulevard.

The proposed plan will be an eyesore for the neighborhoods and will further divide the Carver and Scott's Addition neighborhoods from the Fan and the Museum District by acting as a visual barrier. This is also a violation to the Pulse Corridor Plan which limits buildings to 12 stories. The height of buildings on this sector of Broad Street was already debated and voted on by City Council in 2017. Tall buildings are meant for downtown areas not for historical residential areas. The infrastructure of tall buildings with residents will also cause issues with parking and traffic which are already an issue in the neighborhoods. Tall buildings will be a strain on city sewage. Can the city's aging infrastructure handle 20+ story buildings in the proposed neighborhoods on Broad Street?

Please vote no on the rezoning of Broad Street between Belvidere Street and Arthur Ashe Boulevard.

Thank you!

-Jillian Goldenbaum

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Broad Street Zoning
Date: Friday, September 25, 2020 4:35:49 PM

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I am writing to state my dismay at the recent Zoning Board approval of a change which would allow buildings up to 20 stories to be built along the Pulse Corridor on Broad Street. As a resident of a nearby neighborhood I am distressed as to how this would change the character of our historic area. The original plan, and one with which I am comfortable, was to allow buildings no taller than 12 stories. I see no need for the much higher buildings. They would be an eyesore, would ruin the ambiance of a beautiful historic district and would probably remain empty.

I urge you to move swiftly to not allow this change to take place.

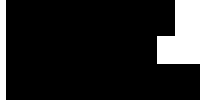
Sally Molenkamp
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Gayle Fix](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#)
Subject: Rezoning Issue
Date: Friday, September 25, 2020 5:44:29 PM

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I strongly disagree with the rezoning proposal to allow 20 story buildings on the north side of W Broad between Belvedere and Arthur Ashe. An artist's rendition of such monstrosities next to historic areas with only 3 to 4 stories demonstrates how absurd such a recommendation is. I love our city and our neighborhood - I would hate to see some of that character and atmosphere destroyed by this totally unnecessary proposal. Just three years ago, City Council and the Planning Commission, after much public interaction, approved rezoning of no more than 12 stories in that area and that should be honored.

Gayle W Fix



From: [Chris Cox](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#); [Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR](#); [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Newbille, Cynthia I. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#); [Mayor Levar Stoney](#); [Saunders, Lincoln - Mayor's Office](#)
Subject: Objection to the Newly Proposed 20 + Story Buildings on West Broad St.
Date: Saturday, September 26, 2020 9:53:16 AM

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Ladies and Gentlemen of the Council, Elected Officials, Mr. Mayor,

Having just read Jonathan Marcus' [editorial in Style Weekly](#), I strongly object to the NEWLY proposed development along the 2000 block of West Broad Street. As Council is aware, the agreed-to proposal restricted the building height to 12 stories at maximum, scaled and distributed for height and density of commercial and living space, depending on the neighborhood on which the high-rises would be imposed. The all-new proposal has no limit to building height as that is to be determined by depth of the lot, which leaves the door open to skyscrapers butting up against two to three story historical homes and businesses in adjacent neighborhoods.

The City of Richmond has a proud architectural legacy that would suffer terribly by a downtown high-rise park looming over the largest collection of Victorian buildings in the country. The effect on portions of The Fan, Jackson Ward and Carver would be devastating. Is the infrastructure equipped to handle the increased parking, sewer and water needs? Or will the neighborhoods be expected to absorb the overflow traffic? Will more emergency response personnel be needed for the increase in population? Where will that funding come from and is the City prepared to fund and train rather than defund new and existing first responders? The Mayor has called for more affordable housing to be built. Will our newly essential workers be able to afford to live in these units?

There are far too many unknowns and in a time when the Virginia Attorney General advises that local governments delay land use decisions until after the pandemic quarantines, we are *not* in a position to adequately address any of these concerns. Developers, city officials, and neighborhood leaders need to collaborate *in person* with maps, renderings, and site tours to devise a zoning ordinance that genuinely addresses the legitimate concerns of *all* stakeholders. There is far too much at stake to do otherwise.

Respectfully,

T. Christopher Cox

From: [Denise Kern](#)
Cc: [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [City Clerk's Office](#); [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR](#); [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Newbille, Cynthia L. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#); [REDACTED] [Saunders, Lincoln - Mayor's Office](#)
Subject: Opposed to Rezoning of Broad Street between Belvedere to Arthur Ashe Blvd
Date: Saturday, September 26, 2020 1:55:33 PM

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I am strongly opposed to the proposed rezoning to allow 20 story buildings on Broad Street between Belvidere Street and Arthur Ashe Boulevard. This proposed height change is in violation of the Pulse Corridor Plan which limits buildings to 12 stories high. Buildings 20 stories high should be in the downtown area not in a mixed residential zone.

Furthermore these tall buildings will look and may act as a barrier between Carver and Fan areas.

Also the proposed designs usually do not reflect the final product. Once zoning is approved there is little if no recourse to stop developers from changing designs.

Parking is an issue in cities Increase density creates additional parking problems. Over the years many projects in Richmond have failed, Ex. Sixth street Market -partial reason - no available free parking or any easily accessible parking.

Other issues concern infrastructure - can our aging sewer lines that have a maximum capacity accommodate 20 story buildings.

Finally, we are in the midst of a pandemic
Many residents do not have internet access. Attorney General Mark Herring advises that local governments "should carefully consider whether taking a given action during a meeting held by electronic communication means is truly essential and **should defer any and all decisions that can be deferred until it is once again possible to meet in person.**"

-
- 20+ stories is too high.
- City Council adopted the [Pulse Corridor Plan](#) in 2017, which allowed buildings up to 12 stories in height. The proposed rezoning violates this limit.
- There are only six design guidelines that are intended to be guiding principles for the area (see page 5 [here](#)); however, they are not legally enforceable.
- It is inappropriate to implement wide-sweeping rezoning during a pandemic when citizens cannot meet in person with their civic leaders. In fact, Attorney General Mark Herring

advises that local governments “should carefully consider whether taking a given action during a meeting held by electronic communication means is truly essential and **should defer any and all decisions that can be deferred until it is once again possible to meet in person.**” You can read his [opinion](#).

•

The proposed plan will be an eyesore for the neighborhoods and will further divide the Carver and Scott's Addition neighborhoods from the Fan and the Museum District by acting as a visual barrier. This is also a violation to the Pulse Corridor Plan which limits buildings to 12 stories. The height of buildings on this sector of Broad Street was already debated and voted on by City Council in 2017. Tall buildings are meant for downtown areas not for historical residential areas. The infrastructure of tall buildings with residents will also cause issues with parking and traffic which are already an issue in the neighborhoods. Tall buildings will be a strain on city sewage. Can the city's aging infrastructure handle 20+ story buildings in the proposed neighborhoods on Broad Street?

Please vote no on the rezoning of Broad Street between Belvidere Street and Arthur Ashe Boulevard.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Elsa Woodaman](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#); [Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR](#); [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Newbille, Cynthia I. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#); [Mayor Levar Stoney](#); [Saunders, Lincoln - Mayor's Office](#)
Subject: Broad Street Rezoning Must be Postponed!
Date: Saturday, September 26, 2020 4:33:52 PM

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Esteemed City Council Members and Mayor,

As a civically active and concerned citizen, I cannot understand how or why Council is being asked to vote on a rezoning ordinance that blatantly disregards Council's authority and the will of Richmond's citizenry. In 2017, Council voted and approved the 12-story height restriction along the northside of Broad Street's historic corridor. The Planning Department's new ordinance proposes outrageous zoning with no height restrictions, other than those limited by the depth of a lot. It also reveals the Planning Department's backroom decisions that at best utterly disregard Richmond residents, and at worst indicate a startling deference to developers.

In a letter to Council this week, Mr. Olinger correctly notes that he met with the West Grace Street Association on numerous occasions. However, he egregiously misleads Council about the content of these discussions. For years, the Association members met personally and in good faith with Mark Olinger and staff. These difficult talks yielded a compromise: a restriction that would allow for density while respecting the fabric of the surrounding neighborhoods. As such, 12-story buildings would be the absolute height limit for buildings north of Broad. When and why did Mr. Olinger suddenly betray our good faith and best interests? Did he pretend to collaborate with us to shut us up and to buy time while he cooked up a different deal behind closed doors? His letter implies that we have been working together as a team and in agreement. Nothing could be further from the truth and nothing could be more deceptive.

Twenty-story buildings along West Broad's historic corridor would dwarf Jackson Ward, Carver and the Fan. Buildings of this nature would rob homes of sunlight, privacy and a quality of life we citizens deserve. Such absurdly tall buildings would also devalue Richmond's important architectural patrimony for generations. I am extremely concerned that Mr. Olinger and his Planning Department, whom we employ and pay, are betraying Richmond's own residents. For what purpose, I cannot say.

Sincerely,
Elsa Woodaman

From: [Edward Barlow, II](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#); [Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR](#); [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Newbille, Cynthia I. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#); [Mayor Levar Stoney](#); [Saunders, Lincoln - Mayor's Office](#)
Subject: Pulse Corridor Plan Rezoning Ord. Nos. 2020-103, 2020-104, and 2020-105
Date: Saturday, September 26, 2020 5:38:44 PM
Attachments: [Attorney General Mark Herring Opinion dated Mar 20 2020 1.pdf](#)

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Honorable Members of City Council,

I am a longtime resident of the City of Richmond and have spent the last 10 years in the Museum District. Currently I serve as Secretary of the Monument Avenue Preservation Society ("MAPS") and, in that capacity, I write you today regarding the Pulse Corridor Plan approved by City Council in 2017, and the proposed rezoning of the area on the north side of Broad Street between Belvidere Street and Arthur Ashe Boulevard. Specifically, MAPS is concerned that the proposed rezoning strays from the Pulse Corridor Plan by allowing 20+ stories by right, as opposed to the 12 stories allowed by the Pulse Corridor Plan.

In 2017, MAPS joined seven other neighborhood and civic associations in supporting the Pulse Corridor Plan, which encouraged growth and higher density by allowing building heights of up to 12 stories (TOD -1 zoning) on the north side of Broad Street next to the Fan. We still advocate for and support properly scaled and properly distributed density and believe the TOD-1 zoning proposed by the Pulse Corridor Plan adequately addresses growth in and around our neighborhoods.

MAPS does not believe the requested expansion of the B-4 zoning classification in this area best serves our city for a multitude of reasons. The decisions made now will set the stage for the next century. We believe our community should have an opportunity to discuss further the potential impacts of this decision and for that we request that you **VOTE NO** on the proposed rezoning on Monday, September 28, 2020.

Virginia's Attorney General issued an opinion specifically on this topic on March 20, 2020. As stated in his opinion, Code 2.2-3708.2(A)(3) permits a public body to meet by electronic communication means for the duration of the declared emergency, but **only for meetings whose "purpose... is to address the emergency."** The Attorney General advises that local governments "should carefully consider whether taking a given action during a meeting held by electronic communication means is truly essential and **should defer any and all decisions that can be deferred until it is once again possible to meet in person.**" See attached document.

On March 12, 2020, Governor Ralph Northam issued Executive Order Fifty-One declaring a state of emergency to help Virginia better respond to the threat posed by the COVID-19 virus. We are still in a state of emergency today and ask you to continue to operate under the guidance of the Attorney General.

Respectfully,

Edward Barlow
Secretary, MAPS

From: [martin.murphy](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Broad Street rezoning
Date: Sunday, September 27, 2020 1:13:33 PM

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Good morning,

We oppose the Broad Street rezoning plan in its present form. It has been developed without adequate input from residents of the nearby neighborhoods. It will allow 20+ story buildings on the north side, which would greatly exceed the 12-story limit allowed in the Pulse Corridor Plan. The 2-1 setback rule in the proposed plan will allow buildings to rise to heights approaching 200 feet in close proximity to the north side of Broad Street, which greatly exceeds the height of existing buildings along that part of the Broad Street corridor. Buildings of that height will produce an extreme architectural imbalance between the north and south sides of Broad Street. In contrast, VCU has erected attractive five-story mixed use buildings that provide a nice, harmonious balance on the north and south sides of Broad while providing for both housing and street-level commercial use. That is much more in keeping with what we would like to see in the rezoned district. Please reject the current rezoning plan.

Martin and Kathleen Murphy



From: [Linda](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#); [Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR](#); [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Newbille, Cynthia I. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#); [Mayor Levar Stoney](#); [Saunders, Lincoln - Mayor's Office](#)
Subject: Rezoning - Broad Street
Date: Sunday, September 27, 2020 1:39:28 PM

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Please delay the zoning vote on Broad Street until I can read what this zone issue is about. I have not heard from my council representative about this happening, no newsletter, no "next door" fyi, no public announcement or any other measure of citizen communications. I know it's my *"fault"* because I don't get the city council's newsletter (is there such a thing?) *or watch the council's meetings*.

By the way, where do I get this information. Does the council produce a public agenda for the council?

Thanks, Linda Shelton
District

From: [Shannon O'Neill](#)
To: [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [City Clerk's Office](#); [Newbille, Cynthia L. - City Council](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Saunders, Lincoln - Mayor's Office](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#); [Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#); [Mayor Levar Stoney](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#)
Subject: Drop Rezoning Ordinance until FOIA request is met!
Date: Sunday, September 27, 2020 2:02:50 PM

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Hi,

I live and work in the city and request that City Council and the Planning Commission be as transparent as possible when it comes to new construction in the city. I have heard two candidates argue about “backroom” deals, yet here we are once again—lacking transparency, trying to push something through before the public notices. Do better. Navy Hill was a disaster for similar reasons and Council came together to voice their concerns. I urge you to do the same here—not all real estate and development is good for the city.

The fact that a request for FOIA on these plans have been IGNORED and Council is planning to vote on this tomorrow (!) is ridiculous. I urge you to drop the proposed rezoning ordinance from the agenda for Monday, Sept. 28. The City Council vote cannot fairly proceed while the Planning Dept. refuses to deliver public information, as happened on Friday, September 25, when the FOIA request stalled, two days before the Sept. 28 City Council meeting.

This latest push to continue to allow developers plans run roughshod over our cityscape with little to no time for public input is irresponsible at best. I have watched Historic Jackson Ward have these gigantic apartment complexes land on the neighborhood with little to no regard for the residents or historic integrity. It would be nice to know what the real (Not projected) occupancy rates are especially now that our economy is not exactly thriving—how many more expensive apartments do we need? 1. First, here are some practical but critical concerns: do our neighborhoods have the infrastructure (sewer, water, parking, transit, etc.) to support these towers? Are emergency services prepared for this new kind of development? During this "defund the police" time, will more police be hired for higher density? Firefighters alone will need new training and equipment for buildings of this height. These questions are not being answered at any level by the Planning Commission. 2. We are not ready for a final Council vote. The Virginia Attorney General advises that local governments should delay land use decisions until after the pandemic quarantines are over. We invite developers, city officials, and neighborhood leaders to collaborate in person on a zoning ordinance that addresses the concerns of all stakeholders when we can meet in person with maps, renderings, and on the ground tours when the quarantine is over. 3. Neighborhoods adjacent to the Broad Street corridor unanimously support properly scaled and distributed density and commercial development. The city will be best served by mid-rise construction that welcomes new residents and new business across a broad swath of

Richmond, including all thoroughfares where we enjoy development possibility. There is no common sense case for the concentration of downtown high rise zoning districts amidst three-story tall, historic residential neighborhoods, while ignoring the array of infill potential everywhere else. 4. Proposed rezoning ignores equity. We need a firm equity plan in place before, not after rezoning is in place. The currently proposed zoning does not include mandates that will ensure developers provide affordable housing for essential workers, such as supermarket employees, who cannot afford to live close to their places of work. 5. We should embrace a long term vision that honors our precious, fragile architectural legacy. The cherished cities of the world, such as Paris, Barcelona, and our nearby Charleston thrive in part by preventing high rise construction in historic neighborhoods. The proposed zoning opens the door to descent into an “Anytown, USA” cityscape that has nothing to do with the Richmond we want to nurture

From: [Beth Rocheleau](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [Newbille, Cynthia I. - City Council](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#)
Subject: Pulse Corridor Rezoning
Date: Sunday, September 27, 2020 2:26:59 PM

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Dear City Council Members,

it is with much concern as a City of Richmond resident that I write this email to you today. I am extremely concerned about the vote which is set to take place on Monday, September 28, 2020 regarding rezoning along Broad Street.

The previously adopted Pulse Corridor Plan allowed for buildings up to 12 stories in height. Now, during a pandemic, when citizens are unable to meet in person with their representatives, the City of Richmond Planning Commission chooses to put to a vote wide-sweeping changes to the Pulse Corridor plan adopted in 2017. First of all, this is unfair to city residents. Secondly, I have to wonder how much work was done reviewing all factors to even consider allowing 20+ story buildings along Broad Street.

Has the Planning Commission taken into account the large number of apartment buildings coming on the market in the Scott's Addition area and the Manchester area? Has the Planning Commission looked at the decreased enrollment at VCU which is already widely acknowledged by VCU administrators? Is there really a need for 20+ story buildings at this time? I think not.

Furthermore, this will set a precedent in this area of the City. Yes, I live in the City of Richmond but this is not downtown. These potential high rises will negatively impact the surrounding residential neighborhoods which are close to the area being considered for rezoning. Was there not a reason that the previously adopted Pulse Corridor Plan allowed only buildings up to 12 stories high? Is it really the vision of the City of Richmond Planning Commission to see multiple 20+ story buildings in this corridor along Broad Street?

I ask you to please vote "NO" on September 28th and to consider waiting until all concerned citizens can have a say in person regarding this change. Please consider the impact this change will have on many citizens who live within this area of the City of Richmond. Thank you for your consideration.



From: [Jane Carlson](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]; [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Office](#)
Subject: Zoning Belvidere to Arthur Ashe Blvd
Date: Sunday, September 27, 2020 4:52:21 PM

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As a decades-long resident of the Fan District, I am weighing in to ask City Council to leave in place the current Pulse Corridor zoning.

Taking into account how people are working and living in the world of COVID, it makes little sense to change the existing zoning now.

Current PULSE ridership is not maximized. For Rent signs continue to emerge in the neighborhood. The growing awareness of the need for trees and green space should be taken into account if increased density is considered. We do not know where and how people will be working, studying and living post-pandemic. Until the answers to many of these questions begin to be known, I urge City Council to leave the zoning as it is now and going forward to observe the changes in our needs and lives before modifying current zoning.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jane Carlson
[REDACTED]

From: [Sharon Fuller](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Pulse Corridor Plan- Request to Delay Vote
Date: Sunday, September 27, 2020 7:49:00 PM

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On Monday, September 28, 2020 City Council is scheduled to vote on the Pulse Corridor Plan. As a citizen of Richmond since 1975, I have seen the city grow and mature into the vibrant locality that it is today rich in historical neighborhoods with incredible new areas of development. I believed that the citizens had a voice and were essential to the progress.

Currently this is not the case during a time of the COVID pandemic. Citizen attention has been diverted, The original Pulse Plan approved by Council in 2017 agreed to 12 stories maximum height, not 20 stories as the rezoning indicates in the new Pulse Corridor Plan. I request that the vote be deferred until citizens can meet with their civic leaders and be a part of planning the growth of Richmond for the next 30 years.

Thank you,
Sharon D. Fuller
Resident of the First District

From: [Jill and Ken Sykes](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#); [Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR](#); [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [REDACTED]; [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Newbille, Cynthia I. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#); [Mayor Levar Stoney](#); [Saunders, Lincoln - Mayor's Office](#)
Subject: City Council Vote re Richmond 300 on September 28
Date: Sunday, September 27, 2020 8:55:39 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear City of Richmond officials:

We agree with the City that the "North of Broad Street" development project is important. We are unconvinced, however, that the issue is so time-sensitive as to require resolution before COVID public gathering restrictions are lifted. We strongly urge an open, interpersonal, public debate before irrevocable decisions are made about it. If we are compelled to move now on this issue, we want to highlight a few important points that may have been made before but surely are worth repeating

The City of Richmond must not proceed to approve the construction of buildings taller than **twelve** stories in the "north of Broad Street corridor". It appears that those who would plan to do so -- some alliance of housing developers and City officials -- just do not take proper account of the equities of taxpayers and homeowners in the nearby Fan district. It has been or should be made abundantly clear that our quality of life and property values would be seriously diminished by the great increase in neighborhood population density implied in this project.

Further, it appears that the procedural handling of this proposal might lend weight to an argument that any "greater good" benefit (more low-income housing, greater City tax base) is little more than a facade meant to obscure the workings of a City and commercial developer partnership that intends to greatly enrich a few and help concentrate operational control over the City's finance and planning functions. The current proposal to alter City zoning regulations seems, in part, in stark conflict with elements of the "Pulse" stipulations and restrictions that allowed for buildings of up to twelve stories in the corridor in question, that were approved by the City council.

The increase in population and population density that will come with the construction of multi-story (some perhaps as high as 20 stories) buildings in a now lightly-populated urban space has many negative implications that the City must not ignore. Among them, the increase in traffic, traffic flow troubles, parking shortages, noise (both vehicular and human-made) are clear problems that any urban planners must realize and solve or at least minimize. Then the city must convince those affected by the proposed development -- especially those nearby residents and property owners -- that they will benefit from the development and that negative consequences will be properly addressed. We think that the urban planners and the City still have lots of work to do both solving and explaining before those of us who live nearby in the historic Fan District are convinced.

Simply put, we think what the City is doing and plans to do is detrimental to Fan property owners and taxpayers collective interests, and is wrong. And further we think that the City is going about it in all the wrong ways and it knows it.

Voices of the non-developer and the never-been-a-politician need to be raised and need to be heard. Please take this correspondence as one of those voices, speaking up.

Respectfully yours,

Kenneth Sykes
Fan Resident

From: [cindy wofford](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: city council on Sept 28TH -REQUEST TO SPEAK
Date: Sunday, September 27, 2020 9:29:59 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

I am requesting to speak at the City Council meeting on Monday, September 28th regarding the Pulse Corridor planning committee's proposal.
Many thanks for adding me to your agenda.
Cindy Wofford

From: [Penelope Fletcher](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Office](#)
Subject: Proposed zoning for Broad Street
Date: Sunday, September 27, 2020 11:10:15 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

I am writing to object strongly to the proposed zoning allowing up to 20 story buildings on Broad Street. This is simply too high for an area that is one block away from a residential street. It will completely disrupt life for residents and those who use Broad Street as an important thoroughfare.

The fact that this proposal is being considered during a pandemic with limited access to our city officials for a public discussion is disturbing. Nothing with this great an impact on so many people should be considered under these circumstances.

I would prefer that you reject this proposal, but at the very least, I request that you table this decision until we have returned to more normal operations that permit more robust public discussion.

Penelope C. Fletcher



Sent from my iPad

From: [Anne Leigh Kerr](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Office](#)
Subject: Pulse Corridor Plan
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 7:28:23 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

I reside at [REDACTED] in Richmond's Fan District and I am opposed to the 20 story height level for the Pulse Corridor Plan. Allowing buildings with this height would negatively alter the neighborhood. While there are some taller apartment buildings and academic buildings there are very few that rise to 20 stories. I fear this change will cause our area to lose the neighborhood feel and look like downtown. Please vote to limit the height to a reasonable level that fits in with our historic area. Thank you for your consideration.

Anne Leigh Kerr

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Vote Yes on Ord 2020-103
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 8:05:41 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Council members,

Please vote Yes on Ord 2020-103, the Pulse Corridor Rezoning ordinance. We must loosen the zoning along the Pulse Corridor to allow for denser, more transit-oriented development that gets people out of cars, supports the new BRT infrastructure, and puts amenities near people. This stretch of the Corridor is critical for the future success of the Pulse. This rezoning also aligns with recommendations from the Richmond 300 Plan, which has studied this area for years and made recommendations based on feedback from thousands of Richmond residents.

Vote Yes on Ord 2020-103.

Sincerely,

Doug Allen, AICP

[REDACTED]

From: [Steven Farber](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Rezoning Proposal
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 8:50:51 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

I am opposed to the rezoning proposal for Broad between Belvidere and Arthur Ashe.
Twenty stories is too high !

Steven Farber


Sent from my iPhone

From: [julia.seward](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Broad Street Rezoning
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 8:59:23 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.


Members of Council:

I strongly urge City Council to ***require height limitations on all Broad Street buildings that are within site line of established residential neighborhoods like the Fan and Carver.*** The proposed Broad Street rezoning has removed height requirements and suggests some buildings **20+ stories high.**

I strongly support the Pulse Corridor revitalization but this was not included in a plan developed by the City and residents. The compromised agreement was for 12 stories. **City neighborhoods across Richmond where families grow are a huge asset to our economy and lifestyle. Each should be respected for its character and scale.**

I also strongly urge Council to request that **Planning engage in a sincere, honest, well-conceived plan of citizen outreach as we all struggle with the pandemic. There has been limited citizen input opportunity since March.** This process is critical for citizen voice to be heard. We need a process that truly engages people as we live in the New Normal - **before and not after any rezoning is approved.**

Many thanks for all the Council members do for us all

Julia Seward


From: [Eric Jensen](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Agenda Item #28 - Council Meeting 9/28/2020
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 9:48:41 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Ms. Reid,

If you would please forward this correspondence to the councilmembers in advance of the meeting this evening, I would appreciate it.

Councilmembers,

I write to express frustration that the council has planned to vote on ORD. 2020-103 (Agenda Item #28) at tonight's virtual meeting, despite that Attorney General Herring has issued an advisory opinion suggesting that non-emergency business be postponed until meetings can be held in person, and with public comment. That opinion can be found here: <https://www.oag.state.va.us/files/Opinions/2020/Sullivan-Opinion-Request.pdf>, but I will quote one relevant portion, for your convenience:

"public bodies should carefully consider whether taking a given action during a meeting held by electronic communication means is truly essential and should defer any and all decisions that can be deferred until it is once again possible to meet in person."

Since ORD. 2020-103 plainly is not a re-zoning in response to emergency conditions in the City of Richmond, I write to ask that a decision on its merits be deferred until it is once again possible to meet in person. I join Janis Allen, President of the Historic Jackson Ward Association in her opinion that "there are still significant questions, issues, and concerns that need to be addressed."

Indeed, the mere existence of dozens of emails either in support of or in opposition to, the proposal, would seem to suggest that the issue is of consequence and interest to the public at large, and that the merits have not been settled to the satisfaction of many residents in the City of Richmond.

Given that, it is my understanding that one of the neighborhood associations which has expressed opposition to the rezoning plan has submitted a FOIA request for email correspondence related to the plan that has not yet been satisfied, I cannot be convinced that the public has been adequately served by the debate on this issue leading up to tonight's vote, or that the public comment period has served its purpose.

In any regard, I expect that it will be an easy decision to postpone the vote on the ordinance at tonight's proceedings, because it plainly can be postponed, and therefore, it should be, according to Mr. Herring's advisory opinion.

Thank you in advance for your adherence to the spirit of the law on this issue.

Kind Regards,

Eric Jensen

From: [Clare Tilton](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Vote NO
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 9:53:19 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Honorable Members of the Richmond City Council,

Please VOTE NO to the proposed rezoning of Broad St. between Belvidere Street and Arthur Ashe Boulevard. 20+ stories is too high for these neighborhoods and will cause undue stress on area neighbors. I cannot attend the hearing for these proposed changes because of the pandemic-- and, I am dismayed that this is going forward when voices cannot be fully heard on the negative impact of such changes.

Please honor the neighborhood voices and reject this rezoning.

Thank you for your service and time.

Best,

Clare Tilton



From: [Eric Jensen](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Re: Agenda Item #28 - Council Meeting 9/28/2020
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 9:53:48 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

I failed to include my full name and address in the correspondence below - in case it is of consequence, I am a resident of the City of Richmond:

Councilmembers,

I write to express frustration that the council has planned to vote on ORD. 2020-103 (Agenda Item #28) at tonight's virtual meeting, despite that Attorney General Herring has issued an advisory opinion suggesting that non-emergency business be postponed until meetings can be held in person, and with public comment. That opinion can be found here: <https://www.oag.state.va.us/files/Opinions/2020/Sullivan-Opinion-Request.pdf>, but I will quote one relevant portion, for your convenience:

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Indeed, the mere existence of dozens of emails either in support of or in opposition to, the proposal, would seem to suggest that the issue is of consequence and interest to the public at large, and that the merits have not been settled to the satisfaction of many residents in the City of Richmond.

Given that, it is my understanding that one of the neighborhood associations which has expressed opposition to the rezoning plan has submitted a FOIA request for email correspondence related to the plan that has not yet been satisfied, I cannot be convinced that the public has been adequately served by the debate on this issue leading up to tonight's vote, or that the public comment period has served its purpose.

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Thank you in advance for your adherence to the spirit of the law on this issue.

Kind Regards,

Eric S. Jensen, Jr.

Eric Jensen

On Mon, Sep 28, 2020 at 9:48 AM Eric Jensen <jensenuva@gmail.com> wrote:

Ms. Reid,

If you would please forward this correspondence to the councilmembers in advance of the meeting this evening, I would appreciate it.

Councilmembers,

I write to express frustration that the council has planned to vote on ORD. 2020-103 (Agenda Item #28) at tonight's virtual meeting, despite that Attorney General Herring has issued an advisory opinion suggesting that non-emergency business be postponed until meetings can be held in person, and with public comment. That opinion can be found here: <https://www.oag.state.va.us/files/Opinions/2020/Sullivan-Opinion-Request.pdf>, but I will quote one relevant portion, for your convenience:

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Since ORD. 2020-103 plainly is not a re-zoning in response to emergency conditions in the City of Richmond, I write to ask that a decision on its merits be deferred until it is once again possible to meet in person. I join Janis Allen, President of the Historic Jackson Ward Association in her opinion that "there are still significant questions, issues, and concerns that need to be addressed."

Indeed, the mere existence of dozens of emails either in support of or in opposition to, the proposal, would seem to suggest that the issue is of consequence and interest to the public at large, and that the merits have not been settled to the satisfaction of many residents in the City of Richmond.

Given that, it is my understanding that one of the neighborhood associations which has expressed opposition to the rezoning plan has submitted a FOIA request for email correspondence related to the plan that has not yet been satisfied, I cannot be convinced that the public has been adequately served by the debate on this issue leading up to tonight's vote, or that the public comment period has served its purpose.

In any regard, I expect that it will be an easy decision to postpone the vote on the ordinance at tonight's proceedings, because it plainly can be postponed, and therefore, it should be, according to Mr. Herring's advisory opinion.

Thank you in advance for your adherence to the spirit of the law on this issue.

Kind Regards,

Eric Jensen

From: [Allan-Charles Chipman](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comments for Resolution NO. 2020-R054 for Pay Parity and Resolution No 2020-R053 on Affordable Housing
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 9:59:24 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Good Morning,

I am calling to speak on Resolution 2020-R054 and Resolution 2020-R053. I am providing my written comments below:

Res 2020-R054

I believe in equal pay for equal outcomes and support Stephanie Lynch's resolution to make sure that we are equally supplementing pay for our public defenders. This bill is also supported by Virginia Defenders a coalition of Richmond Public Defenders and I stand in their call to pass this resolution. I also support a budget amendment so that whatever remainder of the amount sent to prosecutors be reallocated equitably to public defenders for the remainder of the year if no additional funds will be given from the current fiscal year to achieve pay parity. Thank you Councilwoman Lynch for initiating this process.

RES 2020-R053

I stand in support of organizations such as RISC who have long been calling for the \$10 million dollars for the Affordable Housing Trust fund. I hope that this resolution will be passed. However more than a resolution which does not have power to actually implement the demand made by RISC, I hope we get to the core issues of the disparities. The resolution speaks of cost burdened households. However, the Richmond 300 report shows that cost-burdened households have increased just under 10% from 2000-2016. This is due to rising housing values fueled by tax abatement programs. Some of the tax delinquent properties sold are due to people on low income and fixed income being pushed out due to development. Beyond resolutions let's make sure we aren't publicly subsidizing the problem the affordable housing trust fund intends to fix.

Thank you,

Allan-Charles Chipman

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature and any accompanying text or contact information that might have been present.

From: [Stephanie Prokopis](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Pulse Corridor Plan
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 10:00:40 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Good Morning,

If you would consider and forward this message to councilmembers prior to the meeting this evening, I would greatly appreciate it.

I implore the council to consider the ways in which high rise buildings in the museum area, Scott's Addition, and fan would tarnish our Richmond charm. In addition to changing the aesthetics, composition, and magnetism of this area, please consider the lack of parking options available for patrons and tourists alike. Please consider nearby establishments and residents. Please consider future tourism as an industry. The negative consequences should be weighed very carefully.

There are many other things to consider in such a decision which is why originally, this vote was asked to be postponed. If it is my understanding that one of the neighborhood associations which has expressed opposition to the rezoning plan has submitted a FOIA request for email correspondence related to the plan that has not yet been satisfied, I cannot be convinced that the public has been adequately served by the debate on this issue leading up to tonight's vote, or that the public comment period has served its purpose.

In any regard, I expect that it will be an easy decision to postpone the vote on the ordinance at tonight's proceedings, because it plainly can be postponed, and therefore, it should be, according to Mr. Herring's advisory opinion.

Thank you in advance for your adherence to the spirit of the law on this issue.

Kind Regards,
Stephanie Prokopis

From: [Jennifer Surratt](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment for 9/28/20
Date: Sunday, September 27, 2020 5:58:26 PM


CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Greetings,

I wish to share my support for two items on the agenda this evening. They are small steps towards creating a more equitable and just city for all. I urge all members to vote YES on these items.

1. Resolution 54: To request that the Mayor propose, for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and for every fiscal year thereafter, a budget that includes funding in the amount of at least \$10,000,000.00 for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
2. Resolution 55: To request that the Mayor make such recommendations for budget amendments for Fiscal Year 2021 or otherwise propose an annual budget for Fiscal Year 2022 that would achieve pay parity between the employees of the City of Richmond's Office of the Public Defender and the City of Richmond's Commonwealth's Attorney's Office.

Jennifer Surratt



From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Defender Pay Parity
Date: Sunday, September 27, 2020 10:43:02 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Councilwoman Lynch and Robertson's Resolution 54 supporting pay parity for Richmond public defenders. Equal funding for public defense guarantees passionate, experienced attorneys stay in the Richmond public defenders to fight for Richmond's citizens.

Moreover, it demonstrates to the general public that the city prioritizes justice - not prosecution. The current pay disparity intentionally prioritizes convicting Richmond's citizens by providing incentive to talented, civic-minded attorneys to join the commonwealth's attorney's office rather than the public defender's office.

I hope you will support Resolution 54, and tell Mayor Stoney pay parity for Richmond public defenders is critical to working towards a more equitable criminal justice system and that it should be added back into the upcoming budget cycle.

John O'Malley
[REDACTED]

From: [Sabina Thaler](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Comment: Resolution 054
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 12:26:02 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Council:

I urge you to support Councilwoman Lynch and Robertson's Resolution 54 supporting pay parity for Richmond public defenders. I've been a public defender for five years and have watched the talented attorneys in my office leave at a rate of nearly one a month. Many who leave become local prosecutors, and most, if not all, list the 40% pay raise provided by supplements from this City as a factor that contributed to their decision.

Public defenders provide a voice to marginalized communities---those who are rarely heard. We protect children, adults, and communities from the systemic racism that continues to infect our criminal justice system; and we provide resources that make our community safer. An effective public defender is a trial attorney with the presence to command a courtroom, the passion to inspire confidence in her client, the work ethic to meticulously investigate and prepare a case, and the drive to do it all over again for the next client.

We are a rare breed, made rarer still by the financial consequences of devoting our life to public service. Look, you know how much we make. After deducting law school loans, health insurance, rent, etc., from our state salary, it becomes hard to justify staying in this profession, which is why most don't. Presumably, the City recognized the importance of retaining talented government attorneys when it agreed to supplement Commonwealth's attorneys' salaries to a tune of \$7 million a year. We are simply asking for the same recognition: Please provide equitable funding for public defenders.

Equitable funding will help ensure that our community retains public defenders who have the talent and gumption to be the advocates your constituents deserve. The life of a public defender is difficult. For example, I recently represented a Black man who was stopped by police while walking on a sidewalk. It was daytime and according to police they only seized him because his pants were sagging, which they suspected might indicate he had something unlawful in his pants. Ultimately, a judge ruled this an unconstitutional search and seizure. But to get to the point that I could effectively litigate the matter, I had to watch hours upon hours of body camera footage which I also transcribed (such footage is often provided by the Commonwealth 1 or 2 days before the hearing). Next, I researched any and all possible counterarguments. Then, I prepped my cross-examination, which included rewatching the hours of body camera footage and creating video clips of the parts of the footage I intended to play during my questioning. I fell asleep well after midnight having done this level of preparation for several cases that were being heard the same day. I slept a few hours (probably 3) and arrived at 8 a.m. to the courthouse. My 9 a.m. hearing took place around 1 p.m. that afternoon. I was on my feet bouncing between clients and

attorneys and the judge in the interim. Public defenders aren't allowed to be exhausted. The same day I successfully argued my client's constitutional rights were violated, I was appointed to several other cases with similar constitutional violations. We cannot afford to be tired.

Your constituents deserve talented advocates who are willing to put in the time to provide effective representation. Often, effective representation requires 70-80+ hours each week. We are human beings who went to school for a really long time and were drawn to this profession because we dreamt of helping our clients and their families. But, we also want families of our own. Equal funding for public defense guarantees passionate, experienced attorneys stay in the Richmond public defender's office to fight for Richmond's citizens.

I hope you will support Resolution 54, and tell Mayor Stoney pay parity for Richmond public defenders is critical to working towards a more equitable criminal justice system and that it should be added back into the upcoming budget cycle.

Sabina B. Thaler

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Daniel Hogan](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment - Resolution 54
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 2:06:41 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of Councilwoman Lynch and Robertson's Resolution 54 supporting pay parity for Richmond public defenders. Equal funding for public defense guarantees that passionate, experienced attorneys stay in the Richmond public defenders office to fight for Richmond's citizens.

I hope you will support Resolution 54, and tell Mayor Stoney that pay parity for Richmond public defenders is critical to working towards a more equitable criminal justice system and that it should be added back into the upcoming budget cycle.

Dan Hogan, Esq.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Ashley Lewis](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Support Resolution 54
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 3:28:00 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council,

I am writing in support of Councilwoman Lynch and Robertson's Resolution 54 supporting pay parity for Richmond public defenders. Equal funding for public defense guarantees passionate, experienced attorneys stay in the Richmond public defender's office to fight for Richmond's citizens.

I hope you will support Resolution 54, and tell Mayor Stoney pay parity for Richmond public defenders is critical to working towards a more equitable criminal justice system and that it should be added back into the upcoming budget cycle.

*Sincerely,
Ashley Jones*

From: [Maggie Pitts](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Pay Parity for Public Defenders
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 7:32:54 AM

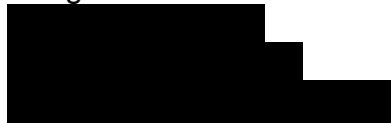
CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Good morning

I am writing in support of Councilwoman Lynch and Robertson's Resolution 54 supporting pay parity for Richmond public defenders. Equal funding for public defense guarantees passionate, experienced attorneys stay in the Richmond public defender's office to fight for Richmond's citizens. This work is critical to building a more equitable city.

I hope you will support Resolution 54, and tell Mayor Stoney pay parity for Richmond public defenders is critical to working towards a more equitable criminal justice system and that it should be added back into the upcoming budget cycle.

Margaret Pitts



From: [Jena Mayfield](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Comment on Resolution 54
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 7:34:55 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

I am writing in support of Councilwoman Lynch and Robertson's Resolution 54 supporting pay parity for Richmond public defenders. Equal funding for public defense guarantees passionate, experienced attorneys stay in the Richmond public defender's office to fight for Richmond's citizens.

I hope you will support Resolution 54, and tell Mayor Stoney pay parity for Richmond public defenders is critical to working towards a more equitable criminal justice system and that it should be added back into the upcoming budget cycle.

Jena Mayfield



From: [Allee Bradford](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Support of Resolution 54
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 7:51:26 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

I am writing in support of Councilwoman Lynch and Robertson's Resolution 54 supporting pay parity for Richmond public defenders. Equal funding for public defense guarantees passionate, experienced attorneys stay in the Richmond public defenders to fight for Richmond's citizens.

I hope you will support Resolution 54, and tell Mayor Stoney pay parity for Richmond public defenders is critical to working towards a more equitable criminal justice system and that it should be added back into the upcoming budget cycle.

Thank you,

Allison Bradford




From: [Rebecca Pensak](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: In support of pay parity
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 7:51:56 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

I am writing in support of Councilwoman Lynch and Robertson's Resolution 54 supporting pay parity for Richmond public defenders. Equal funding for public defense guarantees passionate, experienced attorneys stay in the Richmond public defender's office to fight for Richmond's citizens and the safety of the community.

I hope you will support Resolution 54, and tell Mayor Stoney pay parity for Richmond public defenders is critical to working towards a more equitable criminal justice system and that it should be added back into the upcoming budget cycle.

Rebecca Pensak

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area, obscuring the name and any handwritten notes or dates that might have been present.

From: [Clyde Fisher](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Richmond Public Defender Pay Parity
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 7:59:34 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Good Morning:

I am writing in support of Councilwoman Lynch and Robertson's Resolution 54 supporting pay parity for Richmond public defenders. Equal funding for public defense guarantees passionate, experienced attorneys stay in the Richmond public defender's office to fight for Richmond's citizens.

I hope you will support Resolution 54, and tell Mayor Stoney pay parity for Richmond public defenders is critical to working towards a more equitable criminal justice system and that it should be added back into the upcoming budget cycle.

Thank you for your support.

Clyde N. Fisher, Chief Investigator

[REDACTED]

--

Clyde N. Fisher
Chief Investigator
Richmond Office of the Public Defender

[REDACTED]

From: [Zachary Gaver](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Defender Pay Parity
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 8:27:07 AM

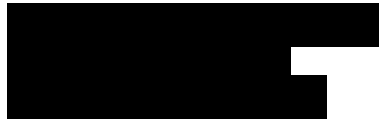
CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am writing in support of Councilwoman Lynch and Robertson's Resolution 54 supporting pay parity for Richmond public defenders. Equal funding for public defense guarantees passionate, experienced attorneys stay in the Richmond public defenders to fight for Richmond's citizens.

I hope you will support Resolution 54, and tell Mayor Stoney pay parity for Richmond public defenders is critical to working towards a more equitable criminal justice system and that it should be added back into the upcoming budget cycle.

Zach Gaver



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From: [Molly O'Rourke](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Pay Parity for Richmond Public Defenders:
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 8:56:31 AM

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Good morning,

I am writing in support of Councilwoman Lynch and Robertson's Resolution 54 supporting pay parity for Richmond public defenders. Equal funding for public defense guarantees passionate, experienced attorneys stay in the Richmond public defender's office to fight for Richmond's citizens.

I hope you will support Resolution 54, and tell Mayor Stoney pay parity for Richmond public defenders is critical to working towards a more equitable criminal justice system and that it should be added back into the upcoming budget cycle.

Molly O'Rourke
Mitigation Specialist
Richmond Public Defender's Office



From: [Annalisa Feinman](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment - Resolution 54
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 9:32:51 AM

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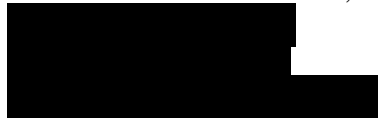
Good Morning,

I am writing in support of Councilwoman Lynch's Resolution 54 supporting pay parity for Richmond public defenders. Equal funding for public defense guarantees passionate, experienced attorneys stay in the Richmond public defender's office to fight for Richmond's citizens.

I hope you will support Resolution 54, and tell Mayor Stoney pay parity for Richmond public defenders is critical to working towards a more equitable criminal justice system and that it should be added back into the upcoming budget cycle.

Thank you,

Annalisa Stanton Feinman
Assistant Public Defender, Richmond Office of the Public Defender



From: [Geoffrey Tucker](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Support for Resolution 54
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 9:49:40 AM

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Good morning,

I am writing in support of Councilwoman Lynch and Robertson's Resolution 54 supporting pay parity for Richmond public defenders. Equal funding for public defense guarantees passionate, experienced attorneys stay in the Richmond public defender's office to fight for Richmond's citizens.

I hope you will support Resolution 54, and tell Mayor Stoney pay parity for Richmond public defenders is critical to working towards a more equitable criminal justice system and that it should be added back into the upcoming budget cycle.

Sincerely,
Warren Geoffrey Tucker

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Marissa Boyce](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Resolution 54 - in support
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 9:53:47 AM

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Good morning!

I live and work in the city, and am writing in support of Councilwoman Lynch and Robertson's Resolution 54 supporting pay parity for Richmond public defenders. Criminal justice reform is paramount in this day and age. Equal funding for public defense guarantees passionate, experienced attorneys stay in the Richmond public defender's office to fight for Richmond's citizens. As a property owner, I am dedicated to this city and its future success. I strongly support allocating a portion of my taxes to help this endeavor.

I hope you will support Resolution 54. A vote of "yes" tells Mayor Stoney that pay parity for Richmond public defenders is critical to working towards a more equitable criminal justice system. I hope you agree with me that it should be added back into the upcoming budget cycle.

Marissa Boyce, 5th district

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Beth Vann-Turnbull](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Written Comments for Richmond City Council Meeting - 09.28.2020
Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 4:15:56 PM
Attachments: [Richmond City Council - Support for Ord. No. 2020-191 09.23.2020.pdf](#)

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September 23, 2020

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Richmond City Council
900 E. Broad Street, Suite 305
Richmond,??Virginia 23219
??

Dear Members of the Richmond City Council:

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I am writing as Executive Director of Housing Families First, a Richmond-area 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, in support of Ordinance Number 2020-191. This ordinance enables the City to meet the needs of low-to-moderate income residents, including those facing homelessness, by re-appropriating and appropriating CDBG-CV, ESG-CV, and HOPWA-CV first and second round funding.

??

Housing Families First is being recommended to receive \$75,000 in CDBG-CV and \$50,000 in ESG-CV funds for the *Bringing Families Home* program, a partnership between Richmond Public Schools?? (RPS) Center for Families in Transition (C-FIT) and our agency. This partnership provides housing counseling, housing search services, and financial assistance with move-in costs for students and their families in RPS that are facing homelessness. Together, we expect to provide permanent housing for over 200 Richmond families (more than 500 students and family members) over three years.

??

Housing Families First has raised \$585,000 in private funding to date to support this innovative housing-education partnership. However, with demand growing from RPS families, we are requesting a total of \$125,000 identified in this ordinance to add another full-time School Housing Navigator and more financial assistance for deposits and first month??s rent.?? When families have a permanent place to call home, students can more fully participate in virtual and in-person learning. This, in turn, helps to improve academic outcomes for the students and the schools.

??

In addition to the *Bringing Families Home* program, Housing Families First operates *Hilliard House*, the largest emergency shelter for families with minor children in Greater Richmond, and it also is one of three primary providers of rapid re-housing services in the region. During the last 12 months, 461 children and adults have participated in our housing programs with 282 (61%) identifying the City of Richmond as the place in which they became homeless. More importantly, 93% of our program participants exited our programs into permanent housing over the past year.

??

Housing Families First is able to achieve excellent results on behalf of families because of our culture of collaboration and partnership. We have exceptional partners ??? including Homeward, HomeAgain, The Salvation Army, CARITAS, and Commonwealth Catholic Charities to name a few ??? and we strive to be an exceptional partner. Families in the City and the region succeed when we work together earnestly and collaboratively.

??

To that end, I implore you to support Ordinance Number 2020-191 not only to help fund Housing

Families First programs, but also to fund the excellent work of our partners in homeless services. If I can provide additional information, please contact me at [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED]

??

Thank you for your leadership and thoughtful consideration of this ordinance.

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Sincerely,

??

Beth Vann-Turnbull
Executive Director

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Housing Families First

3900 Nine Mile Road, Henrico VA 23223 · Phone: 804-236-5800 Fax: 804-236-8313 · housingfamiliesfirst.org

September 23, 2020

Richmond City Council
900 E. Broad Street, Suite 305
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Members of the Richmond City Council:

I am writing as Executive Director of Housing Families First, a Richmond-area 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, in support of Ordinance Number 2020-191. This ordinance enables the City to meet the needs of low-to-moderate income residents, including those facing homelessness, by re-appropriating and appropriating CDBG-CV, ESG-CV, and HOPWA-CV first and second round funding.

Housing Families First is being recommended to receive \$75,000 in CDBG-CV and \$50,000 in ESG-CV funds for the *Bringing Families Home* program, a partnership between Richmond Public Schools' (RPS) Center for Families in Transition (C-FIT) and our agency. This partnership provides housing counseling, housing search services, and financial assistance with move-in costs for students and their families in RPS that are facing homelessness. Together, we expect to provide permanent housing for over 200 Richmond families (more than 500 students and family members) over three years.

Housing Families First has raised \$585,000 in private funding to date to support this innovative housing-education partnership. However, with demand growing from RPS families, we are requesting a total of \$125,000 identified in this ordinance to add another full-time School Housing Navigator and more financial assistance for deposits and first month's rent. When families have a permanent place to call home, students can more fully participate in virtual and in-person learning. This, in turn, helps to improve academic outcomes for the students and the schools.

In addition to the *Bringing Families Home* program, Housing Families First operates *Hilliard House*, the largest emergency shelter for families with minor children in Greater Richmond, and it also is one of three primary providers of rapid re-housing services in the region. During the last 12 months, 461 children and adults have participated in our housing programs with 282 (61%) identifying the City of Richmond as the place in which they became homeless. More importantly, 93% of our program participants exited our programs into permanent housing over the past year.



Housing Families First

3900 Nine Mile Road, Henrico VA 23223 · Phone: 804-236-5800 Fax: 804-236-8313 · housingfamiliesfirst.org

Richmond City Council

September 23, 2020

Page 2

Housing Families First is able to achieve excellent results on behalf of families because of our culture of collaboration and partnership. We have exceptional partners – including Homeward, HomeAgain, The Salvation Army, CARITAS, and Commonwealth Catholic Charities to name a few – and we strive to be an exceptional partner. Families in the City and the region succeed when we work together earnestly and collaboratively.

To that end, I implore you to support Ordinance Number 2020-191 not only to help fund Housing Families First programs, but also to fund the excellent work of our partners in homeless services. If I can provide additional information, please contact me at [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED]

Thank you for your leadership and thoughtful consideration of this ordinance.

Sincerely,

Beth Vann-Turnbull
Executive Director
Housing Families First

From: [Kelly King Horne](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Statement on Ordinance 2020-191
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 8:39:10 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear members of City Council,

In mid-March, a national state of emergency was declared in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of increased risks of virus exposure and transmission for people experiencing homelessness, the federal government is providing significant one-time resources through the CARES Act ESG-CV and CDBG-CV funding allocations. These funds are intended to address the immediate crisis and to reduce the risk of virus exposure and transmission and to provide options for people experiencing homelessness to safely self-isolate when needed. The City of Richmond and Henrico County are direct recipients of CARES Act funding as is the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VaDHCD).

The Greater Richmond Continuum of Care (GRCoC), a network of homeless service providers and supporters, has reviewed the CARES Act funding opportunities and determined priorities and strategies to work together to meet the needs of our neighbors experiencing homelessness during this public health and economic crisis. These priorities and strategies are based on client and program data, provider surveys, coordinated service meetings, individual conversations with providers, feedback from program participants, and a review of recommendations from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Centers for Disease Control.

Our overall priorities are to support programs that mitigate the immediate threat of COVID-19 for people experiencing homelessness with a focus on providing safe, indoor accommodations with access to handwashing and sanitation and to connect people to stable housing. Our community will prioritize resources for those who are unsheltered and those at highest risk because of their homelessness.

Our community has an opportunity to use stimulus funds provided by the CARES Act, including the funding allocated in Ordinance 2020-191, to close service gaps for our neighbors experiencing homelessness and to mitigate the threat of the virus. This funding will be coordinated with other regional funding sources and private funding in the community. ESG-CV providers will continue to monitor these efforts using the federally required Homeless Management Information System. This shared database allows our community to ground our efforts in data rather than anecdotes and to focus on the needs of each household we serve. Homelessness is a complex and debilitating crisis. By working together and aligning limited resources, we can best meet the needs of our neighbors experiencing homelessness during this difficult time.

Thank you for your attention,

Kelly King Horne
Executive Director
Homeward