

HOPKINS HOUSE TESTIMONY

Alexandria City Council Public Hearing
February 25, 2023

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submitted by
J Glenn Hopkins

Good morning, Mr. Mayor, and Members of City Council. My name is JGlenn Hopkins, and I am President of Hopkins House.

Joining me this morning are members of the Executive Committee of the Hopkins House Board of Trustees, including Julie Jakopic, Debra Arnett, Bud Hart, Elizabeth Partoyan.

I come before you to briefly speak about our participation in this project to redevelop the ARHA Samuel Madden Community.

This project, and the part Hopkins House plays in it, is about our shared history and our shared future as a city.

Hopkins House is an historic Alexandria institution, founded in 1939 by a group of Alexandria City public school teachers, and named in memory of Dr. J. Milton Hopkins, an African American physician and life-long Alexandrian.

The Hopkins House Preschool Academy which will be moved to this new community from its current location at Princess and N. Payne is named in memory of another lifelong Alexandrian and public-school teacher, Helen Day.

And, this new Hopkins House facility will be located just a few steps from the childhood home of Hopkins House alumnus Earl Lloyd, the first African American to play in the National Basketball Association.

Symbolized by the African Sankofa bird, Hopkins House is about moving forward on the wings of our shared history.

Quality childcare gives children a solid foundation on which to build their future achievements. In addition to helping children develop emotionally, socially, and physically, early care and education helps children develop a sense of self and family, and they learn that their actions, no matter how small, can help make this big world better.

Since 2019 our Trustees have been searching for a new place that would allow Hopkins House to increase the number of children, youth, and families we are able to serve but the cost of leasable space in Alexandria is far beyond what a small nonprofit organization can afford.

The invitation to partner with ARHA, Fairstead, Mill Creek Residential, and The Communities Group on this amazing redevelopment project was an answer to our prayers.