

ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

MY NAME IS JACK SHARKEY. I HAVE LIVED ACROSS THE STREET FROM POLK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR OVER 50 YEARS. AS A REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER, I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS DOCKET TO PUT IN A NEW UNNEEDED; I REPEAT, UNNEEDED DRIVEWAY FOR THE CHURCH ADDITION USING "FREE" CITY PROPERTY FOR THREE REASONS:

FIRST: THE UNNEEDED DRIVEWAY WILL EVENTUALLY KILL A VERY OLD 75 FT TREE WITH A 45 FT CANOPY DUE TO ITS ROOTS STRUCTURE BEING CUT FOR THE DRIVEWAY/CITY STREET WHEN THE CHURCH DECIDES TO DEVELOP THEIR BACK PROPERTY WITH TWO OR MORE SINGLE- FAMILY DWELLINGS. YOUR APPROVAL WILL REQUIRE SERIOUS TREE BRANCH TRIMMING TO ACCOMMODATE EVEN TODAYS VEHICULAR TRAFFIC INCLUDING FIRE TRUCKS, EMERGENCY AND POSTAL VEHICLES. THE LEFT SIDE OF THE TREE HAS ALREADY BEEN HARMED BY TRIMMING FOR ELECTRICAL WIRES.

SECOND: THERE IS THE ISSUE OF SAFETY OF POLK ELEMENTARY STUDENTS AND PATRICK HENRY COMBINED WITH DOUGLAS MACARTHUR STUDENTS.

DURING SCHOOL DAYS THE STREETS SUROUNDING POLK AVENUE ARE ABSOLUTELY FULL OF SCHOOL EMPLOYEE CARS, OVERFLOWING THE SCHOOL PARKING LOT. THE MORNING DROP-OFF BY BUSES AND CARS PRESENTS SOMEWHAT OF A SKILL BY ALL DRIVERS TO GET THE KIDS TO THE SCHOOL'S FRONT ENTRANCE.

HOWEVER, BEGINNING AT 2:15 P.M. THE "BUMPER CAR RIDE" AT THE CARNIVAL BEGINS. PICK-UP CARS ARE CIRCLING ALL OVER POLK AVE UP PAST THE PROTESTED NEW CHURCH DRIVEWAY, DOWN TO PEGRAM ST MAKING IT SOMETIMES IMPOSSIBLE TO ENTER OR LEAVE MY DRIVEWAY ON RAPIDAN CT, WHICH SERVES AS THE MAIN TURN-AROUND EITHER TO PARK OR GO BACK EAST OR WEST LOOKING FOR THEIR CHILDREN EXITING THE SCHOOL.

THERE IS NO NEED FOR THE CHURCH TO OPEN UP ANOTHER DRIVEWAY TO ACCOMPLISH THE CHURCH BUILDING IMPROVEMENT. IT DOES, HOWEVER, HIGHLY IMPACT THE SAFETY OF ALL POLK STUDENTS AND DRIVERS. IT IS ASTOUNDING THAT WE HAVE NOT HAD A SERIOUS CAR ACCIDENT OR STUDENT INJURY. THE OPENING OF N. PICKETT ST IN 2004 WAS OPPOSED AND DEFEATED BY LOCAL CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS, POLK SCHOOL BOARD & INTERESTED CITIZENS.

THIRD: I HAVE INITIATED A REQUEST TO THE CITY FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE DEAD-ENDED UNDEVELOPED N. PICKETT ST, NORTH OF POLK AVENUE, FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE TO PUT SAID PROPERTY INTO A CONSERVATION PROGRAM. THERE IS FAR TOO LITTLE "GREEN" SPACE WITHIN THE CITY AND THIS PURCHASE IS ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND, INCREASES THE CITY TAX BASE, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, STABILIZES THE TRAFFIC AROUND POLK SCHOOL BY NOT OPENING UP A DRIVEWAY/CITY STREET CLOSER TO THE

SCHOOL. WE HAVE A SERIOUS TRAFFIC PROBLEM NOW THAT WILL ONLY INTENSIFY AS POLK SCHOOL GROWS WHICH IT HAS DONE EVERY YEAR SINCE 1965; NOW WITH 774 STUDENTS. IT IS A MIRACLE THAT NO CHILD HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY INJURED OR KILLED WITH THE CIRCUS IN PICKING UP KIDS FROM SCHOOL.

I PLEAD WITH YOU TO NOT APPROVE THIS APPLICATION BY THE CHURCH AND TO FAVORABLY RULE ON MY FORTH COMING APPLICATION FOR A "GREEN" SPACE. WE NEED TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN AT BOTH ENDS OF POLK AVENUE AND NOT KILL A WONDERFUL OLD TREE FOR A DRIVEWAY THAT IS NOT NECESSARY TO THE CHURCH EXPANSION AND FOR WHICH I UNDERSTAND, NO MONEY EXISTS! I ENCOURAGE YOU TO PERSONALLY SEE FOR YOURSELVES WHAT THE SERIOUS IMPACT OF YOUR FAVORABLE DECISION WOULD RENDER.

THANK YOU.

