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## CITY COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 18, 2022

ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

MY NAME IS JACK SHARKEY. FOR OVER 50 YEARS, I HAVE LIVED ACROSS THE STREET FROM POLK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND A BACKYARD NEIGHBOR TO THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH. AS A PAST REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER, I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS DOCKET TO PUT IN A NEW UNNEEDED DRIVEWAY USING "FREE/GIFTED" OR HOWEVER YOU WANT TO DESCRIBE IT, CITY PROPERTY VALUED AT AROUND \$724,000 WITH ZERO CITY FUTURE ANNUAL TAXES.

AS A CONSERVAIONIST, I AM ALSO CONCERNED THAT THE UNNEEDED DRIVEWAY WILL EVENTUALLY KILL TWO VERY OLD 75 FT TREES DUE TO THEIR ROOT STRUCTURE AND LOWER BRANCHES BEING CUT TO MEET CITY STREET STANDARDS NECESSARY TO SUPPORT EMERGENCY, SANITATION AND POSTAL VEHICLES.

SECOND: THERE IS THE ISSUE OF SAFETY OF POLK ELEMENTARY STUDENTS. DURING SCHOOL DAYS THE STREETS SUROUNDING POLK AVENUE ARE FULL OF SCHOOL EMPLOYEE CARS THAT OVERFLOW THE SCHOOL'S PARKING LOT. BEGINNING AT 2:15 P.M. CARS BEGIN CIRCLING POLK AVE PAST THE PROPOSED 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.

AS I EARLIER STATED, THERE IS NO NEED FOR THE CHURCH TO OPEN UP A NEW DRIVEWAY TO ACCOMPLISH THE APPROVED CHURCH BUILDING IMPROVEMENT. THE OPENING OF N. PICKETT ST RIGHT-OF-WAY IN 2004 WAS OPPOSED AND DEFEATED BY LOCAL CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS, POLK SCHOOL BOARD & INTERESTED CITIZENS. IT IS A MATTER OF RECORD THAT THE CITY AGREED IN 2002 WITH THE NEIGHBORHOOD NOT TO ALLOW VEHICULAR ACCESS USING

THE N. PICKETT ST RIGHT-OF-WAY. THIS DRIVEWAY PROPOSAL VIOLATES THIS AGREEMENT.

LASTLY, I HAVE INITIATED A FORMAL REQUEST TO PURCHASE THE DEAD-ENDED N. PICKETT ST RIGHT-OF-WAY 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.

I ASK YOU TO DISAPPROVE THIS DRIVEWAY APPLICATION AND TO FAVORABLY RULE ON MY FORTH COMING APPLICATION MAKING THE N. PICKETT ST RIGHT-OF-WAY A "GREEN" SPACE. WE NEED TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN AND ENVIRONMENT FROM A DRIVEWAY THAT IS NOT NECESSARY TO THE CHURCH EXPANSION, AND FOR WHICH I UNDERSTAND, NO MONEY EXISTS! I WOULD ENCOURAGE THE COUNCIL TO ASK PASTOR CROSS WHAT THE TIME FRAME IS, IF ANY,

TO USE HIS VERY LIMITED CHURCH FUNDS FOR THIS NEW UNNEEDED DRIVEWAY RATHER THAN PUTTING THE FUNDS INTO UPGRADING HIS CURRENT CHURCH BUILDING.

IS IT GOING TO BE THE CITY GIFTING OF PROPERTY WORTH \$724,000 AND NO TAXES OR DOES THE CITY WANT A "GREEN" SPACE WITH REDUCED POTENTIAL INJURY TO OUR SCHOOL CHILDREN?

THANK YOU.



