

**Jackie Henderson**

**From:** Justin Wilson  
**Sent:** Monday, February 25, 2013 11:06 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Allison Silberberg; John Chapman; Timothy Lovain; Paul Smedberg; Del Pepper  
**Cc:** Rashad Young; James Banks; Jackie Henderson  
**Subject:** 224 N. Fayette  
**Attachments:** 224 N Fayette.doc

**Colleagues:**

Paul & I have been working to pull together a resolution to show our support for the private fund-raising efforts aimed at preserving 224 N. Fayette, as well as reiterate that the City will not be the purchaser of this property.

We intend to offer the attached resolution tomorrow evening for consideration.

This version is acceptable to Bill Cromley, and Jim and Rashad have seen this as well.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

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*City of Alexandria, Virginia*

**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2013  
TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR & MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: COUNCILMEN PAUL SMEDBERG & JUSTIN WILSON  
SUBJECT: 224 N. FAYETTE STREET

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Colleagues:

As we arrive to the conclusion of the two year marketing period dictated in the settlement of the litigation relating to the City's approval of a demolition permit for 224 N. Fayette Street, there are signs that the private landowner is inclined to provide additional time for a purchaser to come forward.

Additionally, while certainly overdue, there are signs that private efforts to secure the financial resources necessary to purchase and preserve the property are becoming more organized. With those factors in mind, we believe that a statement of City policy will assist those efforts. As such, we would propose the following resolution:

**WHEREAS, the building at 224 N. Fayette Street was constructed using Federal Funds in 1944 as the Carver Nursery School and was used to educate African-American children; and**

**WHEREAS, the building later became the William Thomas American Legion Post 129; and**

**WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria acknowledges that the building is meaningful for our community and helps tell the story of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Alexandria; and**

**WHEREAS, in 2009 a land-owner with a reputation for thoughtful and sensitive development in the Parker-Gray Historic District purchased the property with plans to redevelop; and**

**WHEREAS, the Parker-Gray Board of Architectural Review approved demolition of the property in July of 2009; and**

**WHEREAS, the Board of Architectural Review's decision was appealed to the City Council, which upheld the decision of the Board of Architectural Review in October of 2009; and**



**WHEREAS; after an appeal of the City Council's decision in Circuit Court, a settlement agreement allowed two years for the City to market the property for acquisition and preservation; and**

**WHEREAS; no purchaser has come forward during this period of time to acquire the property for any use; and**

**WHEREAS; under the terms of the settlement agreement, the landowner has the ability to now proceed with demolition; and**

**WHEREAS; any extension to that time period would be at the sole discretion of the landowner; and**

**WHEREAS; the City Council wishes to authorize the City Manager to proceed with actions designed to support private efforts to raise the necessary resources to acquire and preserve the property.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA:**

- 1) That the City Council recognizes the patience of the landowner in allowing additional time for purchasers to come forward.**
- 2) That the City Council endorses efforts in the community to raise the necessary resources to acquire the property.**
- 3) That the City Manager is authorized to utilize existing Staff to assist in researching available grants, donations and Federal or State appropriations that may assist in private efforts for the acquisition and preservation of this property.**
- 4) That the City Manager is authorized to recommend to City Council reasonable accommodations (both financial and with land-use authority) to the landowner and potential purchasers to support any extension of time for purchasers to come forward.**

**Cc: City Manager Rashad Young; City Attorney James Banks; Planning Director Faroll Hamer**

