



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Department of Historic Resources

Matt Strickler  
*Secretary of Natural Resources*

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Julie V. Langan  
*Director*

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April 30, 2019

Mr. Mark Jinks  
City Manager  
301 King Street, Suite 3500  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

RE: Vowell-Snowden-Black House, 619 South Lee Street, Alexandria

Dear Mr. Jinks:

As you may know, the Commonwealth of Virginia, Board of Historic Resources (Board) holds a historic preservation easement on the Vowell-Snowden-Black House property at 619 South Lee Street in Alexandria. The professional staff of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Historic Resources (DHR) administers the easement program on behalf of the Board.

Although the Commonwealth of Virginia and the City of Alexandria share similar goals, the terms, conditions, and restrictions set forth in a historic preservation easement held by the Board constitute a contract between the Board and the property owner and are separate and distinct from the ordinances and restrictions imposed by the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review (BAR). Because these processes are separate and distinct, the BAR has no ability to enforce the terms of such an easement and is not bound by those terms. Further, regardless of what the BAR may allow with respect to a property encumbered by an easement held by the Board, the property owner must still comply with the terms of the easement.

Any approvals or disapprovals made by DHR with respect to the easement on the Vowell-Snowden-Black House should have no determinative bearing on decisions made by the BAR, and any decision made by the BAR will have no determinative bearing on DHR's administration of the easement.

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We remain confident in DHR's administration of the easement program and in DHR's ability to steward the Commonwealth's historic assets. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie V. Langan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Julie V. Langan  
Director

cc: Mr. Clyde P. Smith, Chair,  
Board of Historic Resources  
Katheryn E. Surface Burks, Esq. (OAG)  
Catherine A. Shankles, Esq. (OAG)

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