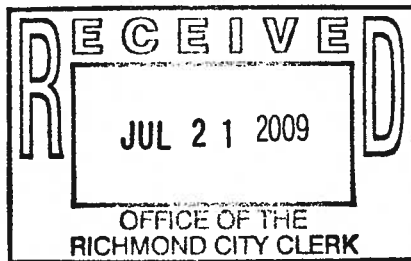




COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

G. MANOLI LOUPASSI
6002-A WEST BROAD STREET, SUITE 200
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23230
SIXTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT



COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
COURTS OF JUSTICE
EDUCATION
TRANSPORTATION

July 20, 2009

BY FAX

The Honorable Dwight Jones, Mayor of Richmond
The Honorable Kathy Graziano, President, Richmond City Council
The Honorable Members of City Council

Dear Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Graziano and Members of Council:

Tomorrow, one of my constituents, Mr. Paul Goldman, has been asked to make a presentation to Doug Connors' Land Use Committee about his plan for a Medical Complex as outlined in a column last month published by Style Weekly. As you know, both during my term on Council, and now as a legislator representing a part of Richmond, the future of my hometown has been a great concern to me. This is one reason I sponsored HB 1803 in the last General Assembly Session, and it was signed into law by former Richmond Mayor and now Governor, Tim Kaine.

Given all that is happening at the federal level today concerning health care generally, and here in Richmond concerning jobs, education and Shockoe Bottom's future specifically, I think Mr. Goldman's plan comes at the perfect time to allow us to address a true 21st century need. After discussing with him today the plan in further detail, I am writing this letter to express my support and urge all of you to strongly consider doing the same in regards to the proposal he will make to the Tuesday.

He will be advocating for the creation of a City Commission to review his Medical Complex plan, along with whatever else might be presented or considered by such a body. For as long as I can remember, many of us have been searching for a way to address issues of economic development, public health and transportation, job creation, historical recognition, East End revitalization, science education along with Shockoe Bottom's future. Mr. Goldman's plan, which he readily concedes needs work and review by those in our town with the appropriate expertise, does manage to pull these varied aspects into a workable whole, while at the same time enhancing and providing a unique synergy with the health care initiatives contained in VCU 2020 plan.

We need to get the best minds in our town together, put them on a fast track because our competition is not going to wait, and ask them to come back with their best recommendations in time for myself and other city legislators to take whatever action may be required at the 2010 General Assembly Session.

Let me point out that the Mayo Clinic complex in a town half the size of Richmond provides 30,000 jobs. Moreover, the top rated such facilities in America are located in 14 states, but not in Virginia, even though we are considered by wealth, education, and commerce as one of the nation's top 10 states. Surely given the forces defining the 21st century future of our region, state and nation, Virginia needs to be on that list in the future. For example, there is no reason this planned Medical Facility cannot become a leader in telemedicine, thus revolutionizing health care delivery to the rural Virginia counties all the way to the North Carolina and Tennessee borders along with communities in between.

Given that we are the Capitol City, and have several outstanding health care institutions already, we need to give this futuristic and expansive Medical Complex Plan the kind of consideration the future of our town and children have a right to expect. I hope you will support the creation of a Commission of our resident experts to consider and help accomplish the creation of such a facility. I remain,

Very truly yours,



G. Manoli Loupassi
Delegate 68th District