



June 22, 2026

Board of Trustees
Richmond Waldorf School
1301 Robin Hood Road
Richmond, Virginia 23227

Dear Members of the Board:

On behalf of the Sherwood Park Civic Association, we write regarding the proposed acquisition of City-owned property adjacent to The Waldorf School and the proposal to permanently close the right-of-way as proposed in Ordinance 2026-109 in order to construct a 34-space parking lot on the former slip lane and adjacent greenspace.

We acknowledge the longstanding educational use of the Robin Hood Road campus, originally home to Luther Memorial School before its acquisition by the Waldorf community in 2017, and the positive contributions The Waldorf School has made since then. We also appreciate the School's efforts to engage residents and understand its desire to address parking and operational needs.

The Sherwood Park Civic Association supported the School's efforts in 2025. However, since then a broader public review through Planning Commission proceedings, staff reports, and community engagement has provided a fuller understanding of the proposal's long-term impacts. Based on that review, we have concluded that the proposed closure of public right-of-way and conversion of this space into a 34-space parking lot is not compatible with the vision, history, safety goals, and character of Sherwood Park.

Our concerns relate to the proposed use of this public property rather than opposition to The Waldorf School itself. Residents have raised issues including the loss of publicly accessible greenspace, impacts on the historic Olmsted-inspired landscape character of Sherwood Park and Brookland Parkway, pedestrian and bicycle safety, stormwater and environmental considerations, and the appropriateness of surface parking at a prominent neighborhood gateway.

We believe the future of this site should be considered within the broader question of highest and best public use consistent with Richmond 300 and long-term neighborhood interests. We are aware of City Council ordinances, being the Land Use Plan /RVA 300 and Vision Zero, which appear to be in conflict with proposed parking in the arrangements we have seen in conversations with Waldorf to date. As we understand the land purchase price to be a significant outlay by the school, we trust that consideration on these points will be a priority for Waldorf prior to purchase - if requested, we can share the specific citations with the school as a convenience. Additional evaluation of alternatives, including shared parking arrangements, transportation demand management strategies, or designs that minimize impacts on public space, may better balance the School's operational needs with preservation of neighborhood character and community assets.

We also recognize that broader infrastructure, pedestrian, and traffic improvements in this corridor remain City responsibilities and should not be placed on the School to resolve. However, these unmet needs reinforce the importance of careful stewardship of this public asset and underscore the value of preserving opportunities for future public improvements. In addition, as a highly visible gateway into Sherwood Park, decisions about this location should reflect long-term neighborhood identity as well as immediate functional needs. We encourage continued collaboration among the School, City staff, and neighborhood stakeholders to explore solutions that advance safety, accessibility, and community goals while respecting the unique character of the area.

Accordingly, the Sherwood Park Civic Association does not support the proposed acquisition and closure of the right-of-way for construction of a 34-space parking lot in its current form. We remain committed to working with The Waldorf School, City officials, and community stakeholders to identify solutions that support the School's mission while preserving the character, history, safety, and public spaces that define Sherwood Park.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to continued dialogue in a spirit of mutual respect and partnership.

Sincerely,

The Safety & Government Affairs Committee
Sherwood Park Civic Association