

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Mark L. Bellamy, Jr.



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April 2, 2024

The Honorable Danny Diggs
State Senator
Senate of Virginia
P.O. Box 396
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Senator Diggs:

We, the undersigned members of the York County Board of Supervisors, are writing to express our support for the continued operation of On the Hill Gallery at its current location within the historic Burcher Cottage on 402 Main Street in Yorktown.

The Yorktown Arts Foundation (YAF), as stewards of Burcher Cottage and operators of On the Hill Gallery, has diligently maintained and transformed the space into a charming gallery and gift shop that is beloved by both locals and tourists. With a staggering 13,603 visitors last year alone, the gallery serves as a significant cultural and economic hub for our community.

The Foundation's outreach programs, such as Art in the Library, the Veteran's show, and make-and-take opportunities for children during community events, demonstrate their commitment to enriching the lives of residents and visitors alike. Furthermore, events like the Art Stroll not only attract art enthusiasts to our waterfront but also contribute to the vitality of local businesses.

On the Hill Gallery stands as the heart of the Yorktown Arts Foundation, providing a unique space for local artists to showcase their work and offering tourists a memorable memento of their visit to our historic area. The gallery's presence helps drive foot traffic from the waterfront up to Main Street, benefiting the entire local business community.

Vacating the building would not only deprive our community of a valuable cultural asset but also leave yet another empty space in Historic Yorktown, tarnishing the image of our county as a whole.

With a rich history spanning over 48 years, the Yorktown Arts Foundation is deeply rooted in our community, and we believe they should be allowed to continue their mission in a physical location within Historic Yorktown, the place where our nation's freedom was won. We urge you to support their efforts to negotiate a fair tenancy agreement that allows them to remain in their current location.

224 Ballard Street • P.O. Box 532 • Yorktown, Virginia 23690-0532 • (757) 890-3320

Fax: (757) 890-4002 • TDD (757) 890-3621 • Email: bos@yorkcounty.gov

A Hampton Roads Community

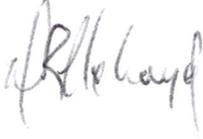
Any support you can provide in ensuring the continued operation of On the Hill Gallery would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



G. Stephen Roane, Jr., Chairman
Supervisor, District 4



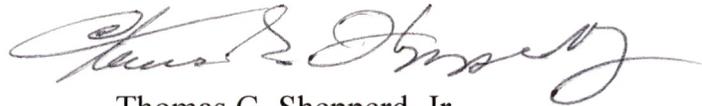
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