EXHIBIT NO. $\frac{1}{12-8-03} = \frac{35}{11-15+03}$

Docket Item #15 VACATION #2003-0006

Planning Commission Meeting November 6, 2003

ISSUE:

Consideration of a request for vacation of right-of-way on the Franklin and

South Royal Streets public rights-of-way.

APPLICANT:

William Savage and Ilona Garrad

represented by Harry Hart, attorney

LOCATION:

700 South Royal Street and a portion of Franklin Street

ZONE:

RM/Residential

<u>PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION</u>, <u>NOVEMBER 6, 2003</u>: On a motion by Mr. Komoroske, seconded by Mr. Jennings, the Planning Commission voted to <u>recommend approval</u> of the request, subject to compliance with all applicable codes, ordinances and staff recommendation. The motion carried on a vote of 5-0. Mr. Wagner was absent. Mr. Dunn recused himself.

Reason: The Planning Commission agreed with the staff analysis.

Speakers:

Harry Hart, the applicant's attorney, spoke in support of the request.



STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends **approval** subject to compliance with all applicable codes and ordinances and the following conditions:

- 1. The applicant shall pay fair market value for the area to be vacated as determined by the Office of Real Estate Assessments. (T&ES)
- 2. The vacated area is to be consolidated into the adjoining property. (T&ES)
- 3. Easements must be reserved for all existing public and private utilities within the area to be vacated. (T&ES)

DISCUSSION:

- 1. The applicant, William H. Savage and Ilona S. Garrard, by Harry P. Hart, attorney, request the vacation of an area at the corner of Franklin and South Royal Streets.
- 2. The subject parcel is one lot of record with approximately 26 feet of frontage on South Royal Street, 64 feet of frontage on Franklin Street, and a total lot area of 1,108 square feet. The applicant sees to the maintenance of the vacant property, and it is currently planted with grass and bordered with plants, shrubs, and flowers. The applicant's property at 700 South Royal Street is one lot of record with approximately 43 feet of frontage on South Royal Street, 73 feet of depth, and a total lot area of 2,928 square feet. The property is occupied by a residential townhouse of 828 square feet. The surrounding area is occupied by residential townhouses.
- 3. The applicant requests a vacation of approximately 1,108 square feet of Franklin Street to consolidate it with their existing property at 700 South Royal Street (see attached plat). If the vacation request is approved, the applicant's total lot area will total 4,036 square feet, adding 26 feet of frontage on South Royal Street. The applicant's attorney advised staff that the applicant has no immediate plans to build upon the vacated area, however, the applicant does have plans to sell the consolidated property in the near future.
- 4. According to Section3-1106 (C) of the zoning ordinance, the maximum permitted floor area ratio in the RM zone is 1.5. The lot at 700 South Royal Street now includes 2,928 square feet of land and a 828 square feet townhouse; the existing floor area ratio is .28. Technically, an additional 3,564 square feet could be added to the existing building under the zoning regulations. If the proposed vacation is approved and the additional land consolidated into the existing lot, the current building will amount to a .21 floor area ratio and an additional 5,226 square feet of additional building area could be built.
- 5. From a right-of-way perspective, City Council adopted a policy in 1979 stating that the City would entertain requests to vacate the public right-of-way along Franklin Street by the adjacent property owners (Ordinance #2425). Since that time, the City Council has approved a number of requests for vacations along Franklin Street. Some recent approvals include: 1,245 square feet at 109 Franklin Street (VAC#2001-0004), 50 square feet at 108 Franklin Street, at South Union (VAC #2000-0002), and 599 square feet at 111 Franklin Street (VAC#99-0008).
- 6. <u>Master Plan/Zoning:</u> The subject property is zoned RM/Townhouse zone, and is located in the Old Town Small Area Plan.

STAFF ANALYSIS:

Staff supports the applicant's request for a vacation of the public right-of-way located adjacent to 700 South Royal Street, and notes that the proposed vacation request is similar to other vacations that the City Council has previously granted along Franklin Street. The proposed vacation will leave 66 feet of public right-of-way as required by the 1979 ordinance. In addition, the vacation will not interfere with public use of the sidewalk, traffic or other public uses along Franklin Street, as the requested land is currently an open grassed area adjacent to the applicant's residence and has a public sidewalk.

Staff is concerned about the increased density allowed for the property as a result of the vacation. On the other hand, this particular block has been the subject of other successful vacation requests. In fact the proposed vacation will bring the property line out to a point consistent with adjacent properties. Therefore, staff is recommending approval as a matter of consistency.

STAFF:

Eileen P. Fogarty, Director, Department of Planning and Zoning;

Barbara Ross, Deputy Director; Valerie Peterson, Urban Planner.

CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

Legend: C - code requirement R - recommendation S - suggestion F - finding

<u>Transportation</u> & <u>Environmental Services</u>:

- R-1 The applicant shall pay fair market value for the area to be vacated as determined by the Office of Real Estate Assessments.
- R-2 The vacated area is to be consolidated into the adjoining property.
- R-3 Easements must be reserved for all existing public and private utilities within the area to be vacated.

Code Enforcement:

F-1 No comment.

Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities (Arborist):

F-1 No comments.

Real Estate Assessments:

F-1 See attached.

Police:

F-1 No objections.

APPLICATION: VACATION

VAC # 2003-0006

PROPERTY LOCATION:	700 S. Roy	val Street						
TAX MAP REFERENCE:	80.02-08-25		ZONE: RM					
APPLICANT'S NAME: _	PLICANT'S NAME: William H. Savage and Ilona S. Garrard							
ADDRESS: 314 Franklin Street, Alexandria, VA 22314								
PROPERTY OWNER'S NAM	IE: Same as Above	(Owner of abutting area to	b be vacated)					
ADDRESS:	Same as Abov	<u>e</u>						
VACATION DESCRIPTION	: Vacation of 1,	108 sq. ft. of the Frankl	in & S. Royal Street Rights					
of way adjacent to his proper	ty. This is in conce	ert with the adopted C	ity Council precedent and					
policy on vacation of the exce	ess Franklin Street F	Right of way.						
THE UNDERSIGNED hereby applies for the Code of the State of Vi		ce in accordance with t	he provisions of Chapter 10					
THE UNDERSIGNED having obtained p of Alexandria to post placard n to Article XI, Section 11-301	otice on the property	, for which this applica	tion is requested, pursuant					
THE UNDERSIGNED also attests that surveys, drawings, etc., require knowledge and belief.	t all of the informat red of the applicant	ion herein provided and action true, correct and actions and actions are true.	specifically including all ccurate to the best of their					
Harry P. Hart		Harry	1. Hart					
Print Name of Applicant	t or Agent	Hg	mature					
307 N. Washington Str	eet	703-836-5757	703-548-5443					
Mailing Address		Telephone #	Fax #					
Alexandria VA 22314		August 26, 2	2003					
Alexandria, VA 22314 Mailing Address	•		ate					
DO NOT WRI	TE BELOW THIS	LINE - OFFICE	USE ONLY					
=======================================		=======================================	=======================================					
Augliontina Filinas	•							
Application Filing:date rece	>	fee paid	date paid					
Legal Advertisement:								
Action - Planning Commission	n:							
Action - City Council:								



August 27, 2003

DESCRIPTION OF THE VACATION OF A PORTION OF FRANKLIN STREET AND SOUTH ROYAL STREET CITY OF ALEXANDIA, VIRGINIA

Beginning at a point on the southerly right-of-way line of Franklin Street, said point of beginning being in the line of Lot 500, Resubdivision of Emile and Kathryn Burn Property, said point of beginning also being a corner common to Lot 1, Block 3, Yates Gardens; thence running with the southerly right-of-way line of Franklin Street and the line common to said Lot 1, N80°49'00"W 58.97 feet to a point; thence running with the easterly right-of-way line of South Royal Street and the line common to said Lot 1, S38°03'58"W 10.26 feet to a point; thence running through South Royal Street, N09°30'00"E 25.99 feet to a point; thence running through Franklin Street S80°49'00"E 63.88 feet to a corner common to Lot 500, Resubdivision of Emile and Kathryn Burn Property; thence running with the line common to said Lot 500, S09°30'00"W 17.00 feet to the point of beginning, containing 1,108 square feet.

 $P:\ \ Survey \ \ Documents \ \ M\&B. doc$

HART, CALLEY, GIBBS & KARP, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW

307 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314-2557

TELEPHONE (703) 836-5757 FAX (703) 548-5443 hcgk.law@verizon.net

August 28, 2003

VAC 2003-0006

OF COUNSEL CYRIL D. CALLEY

RETIRED ROBERT L. MURPHY, 2001

Mr. Don Zdancewicz Bowman Consulting Group 2111 Eisenhower Avenue, Ste. 302 Alexandria, VA 22314

Re:

700 S. Royal Street - 25 ft. Setback Line

Dear Mr. Zdancewicz:

HARRY P. HART

HERBERT L. KARP

MARY CATHERINE H. GIBBS

I have attached a copy of a 1941 subdivision plat by Edward J Holland on which is shown a 25' building restriction line (BRL). This BRL is a private covenant and is not a zoning setback line. It is my opinion that the intent of the covenant was to ensure that no building encroached any further than 25' from the respective owner's property line.

Since we are requesting a vacation for the Savage and Garrard property at 700 S Royal Street, I am requesting that you show on the attached plat not only the existing BRL, but also a revised setback line to reflect a new BRL conditioned upon the approval of the Vacation request by the City of Alexandria. This revised BRL should reflect a 25'setback once the vacation of 1,108 sq. ft. of the Royal and Franklin Street rights is approved by the City of Alexandria. As we discussed, this revised BRL will reflect the setback in concert with the covenant. This office has examined numerous instances where the 25' setback has been ignored by Yates Garden lots. There are also numerous instances of buildings that extend beyond extensions of BRL's. This whole area of the City is very inconsistent and nonuniform as to setbacks.

My intent in making this request is to ensure that my client's rights are preserved. I believe this rationale is sound and is in concert with the original intent of the covenant. Finally, since this is a private covenant setback line and not a zoning setback line, there is no need to review this request with the City of Alexandria attorney.

If you need additional information or clarification, please give me a call.

Very truly yours,

Harry P. Hart

cc: Mr. William H. Savage

9



DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENTS

301 King Street, City Hall Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Phone (703) 838-4646 Fax (703) 706-3979

ci.alexandria.va.us

September 15, 2003

TO:

DATE:

BARBARA ROSS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

PLANNING AND ZONING

THROUGH: CINDY SMITH-PAGE, DIRECTOR

REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENTS

FROM:

TIM FRANCIS, SENIOR APPRAISER

REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENTS

SUBJECT:

ESTIMATED VALUE OF RIGHT-OF-WAY TO BE VACATED

APPLICATION FOR VACATION #2003-0006

Per your request, I have reviewed the proposed right-of-way to be vacated adjacent to the property of at 700 South Royal Street. The attached plat indicates that the portion of Franklin Street to be vacated contains a total of 1,108 square feet of land. A review of our tax map records indicates the area of the adjacent lot at 700 South Royal Street (Tax Map 080.02-08-25) contains a total of 2,928 square feet of land. The estimated value of the street, "as if" vacated, is contingent on the accuracy of these measurements. The total proposed site would, therefore, contain a total of 4,036 square feet (2,928 SF + 1,108 SF = 4,036 SF).

Based upon my review of current assessment data and subject to the limiting conditions stated in this memorandum, it is my opinion that the right-of-way to be vacated had an estimated fair market value, as of the date of the application for vacation (August 29, 2003), of:

Thirty-Four Thousand Dollars (\$34,000).

I have estimated the value of the right-of-way to be vacated using the latest real estate assessments for the abutting properties. This method employs the process adopted by City Council on November 10, 1987 that attempts to measure the contributory value of the right-ofway as it relates to the larger parcel as-if assembled. Therefore, the appraisal problem can be stated as: What is the incremental difference between the estimated fair market value of Lot 25 (700 South Royal Street) as-is, and the estimated fair market value of the single larger parcel created by adding the vacated right-of-way? In addition, issues of "highest and best use" must

I:wp\TFrancis\STVAC\700SROYL.wpd

also be considered. That is, would the addition of the vacated street result in a substantial increase in the value of the adjacent property, such as allowing the owner to expand, or otherwise extensively modify the existing improvements?

In this instance, the market would value the land based on its size, expressed on a per-square-foot basis. The January 1, 2003 assessment of Lot 25 was \$320,500 or \$109.46 per square foot (\$320,500/2,928 SF = \$109.46 per square foot). This is consistent with the per-square-foot assessment of lots of similar size in the immediate area.

Indication of value for the <u>proposed</u> assembled parcels:

Potential site area: 4,036 square feet X \$109.46 per square foot = \$441,800 (rounded).

Indication of value for Lot 25 before adding the vacated right-of-way:

2.928 sq. ft. of land X 109.46/SF = 320,500 (rounded)

Initial estimated contributory value of vacated right-of-way:

Assessed value of property after vacation	\$441,800
Assessed value of property before vacation	320,500
Difference	\$121,300

Adjustment for Excess Land Value

In this instance, the 1,108 square-foot incremental increase in the size of lot after assemblage is not needed to support the improvement and would not result in a substantial change in the value of the property, which lies in an RM zone. Accordingly, the additional square footage attributable to the vacated street would be viewed as "excess land". The third edition of <u>The</u> Dictionary of Real Estate Appraisal defines excess land as:

"In regard to an approved site, the land not needed to serve or support the existing improvement. In regard to a vacant site or a site considered as though vacant, the land not needed to accommodate the site's primary highest and best use."

Previously, in cases similar to this, the department has applied a discount equivalent to 28% of the incremental difference in value. Therefore, the value of the vacated street to the larger parcel is estimated as: Thirty-four Thousand Dollars (\$121,300 X 0.28 = \$34,000, rounded).

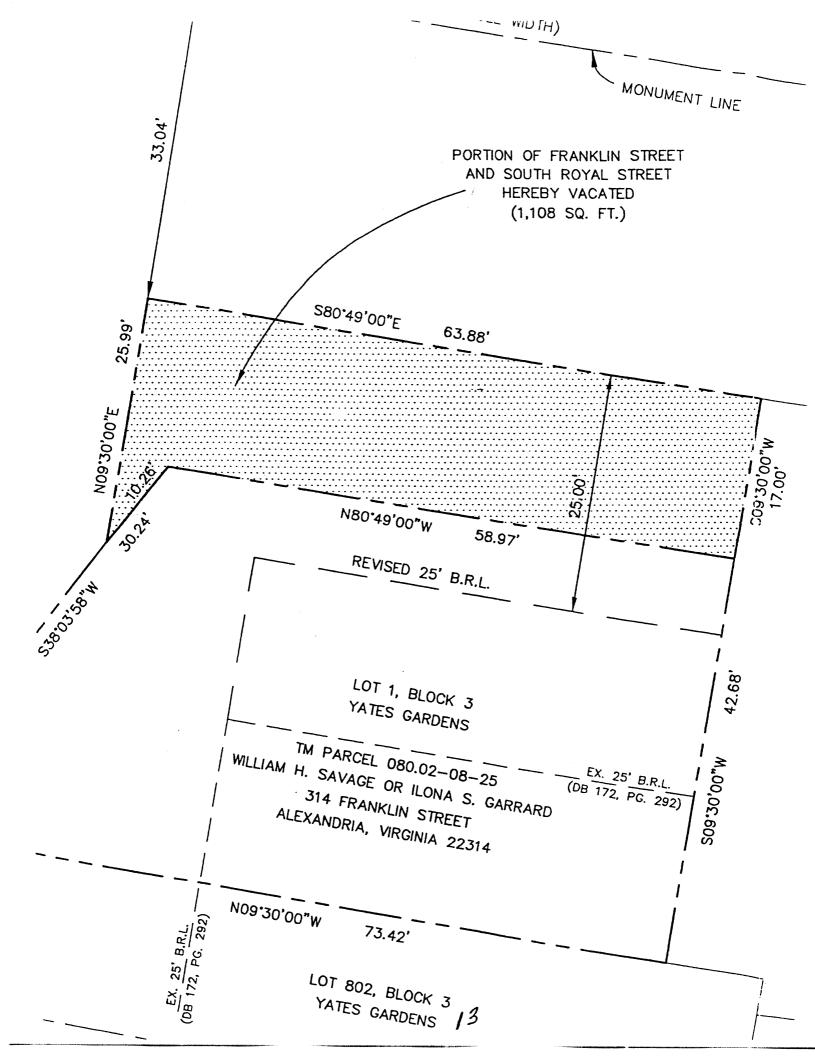
It should be clearly understood that an appraisal has not been made of the subject properties or of the properties abutting the right-of-way. The estimate of value assumes that marketable title to the right-of-way to be vacated will be conveyed to the abutting property owner unencumbered.

Further, my opinion of fair market value considers the zoning and permitted land uses in place as of the date of valuation that effect "highest and best use" determinations. Finally, the discounted value above is contingent on the assumption that the additional size of the lot after assemblage is

not sufficient to	allow the adjacent ov	vner to make a s	substantial addit	tion to the existing
improvements.				

Attachment:

1-Vacation Plat



DATE: JUNE 4, 1982

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: DOUGLAS HARMAN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJ: VACATION OF A PORTION OF FRANKLIN STREET

AT SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET

ISSUE: Value of vacated area.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Council reaffirm the previous value of \$10.00 per sq. ft. for commercial land vacated along Franklin Street.

24 82 (.12 82 also see item

- 2. That the above price apply to all vacations filed before July 1, 1982.
- 3. That as of July 1, 1982, the price increase 10%.
- 4. That in future years the price increase an additional 10% each July 1st until the entire area approved to be vacated has been completed.
- 5. That a similar escalation be applied to the \$5.00 per sq. ft. price previously set for residential land along Franklin Street being vacated.

DISCUSSION: City Council, in 1979, approved the concept of reducing the width of Franklin Street between Union and Washington Streets from 100' to 66' right-of-way. At that time, the Council set a policy of charging \$5.00 per sq. ft. for vacated residential land in this area and \$10.00 per sq. ft. for vacated commercial land in the area. This value was less than fair market for several reasons: it encouraged the vacations, put land on the tax roll and the vacated areas were encumbered by the requirement of being consolidated into existing lots and not being left as separate parcels. The applicants also paid all legal costs of getting the vacations approved.

In some recent vacation approvals the Planning Commission has recommended fair market value, which in this case could be as high as \$27.00 per sq. ft. considering present corner lot appraisal. Council did not act directly on the value issue and the vacation was approved.

Since several years have passed since the original price was set, some increase could be justified. However, these cases when filed were still being quoted the previously approved Council set price. Thus it is felt that vacations requested to date should be given the old price, but a gradual escalation should be set in place. The escalation would encourage adjacent owners to file and to complete the total vacations. Approximately one-third of the area approved in concept has actually proceeded through the vacation process.

PAGE 2
JUNE 4, 1982
VACATION OF A PORTION OF FRANKLIN STREET
AT SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET

 $\frac{\hbox{DOCUMENTS:}}{\hbox{Request (Docket Item $\#51$ of 5-25-82 City Council Meeting).}}$

 $\underline{\text{FISCAL}}$: \$17,000 revenue sure if we hold price for current requests; full fair market value would probably stop all future vacations.

STAFF: Dayton L. Cook, Director of T&ES; Cyril D. Calley, City Attorney.

FAGELSON, SCHONBERGER, PAYNE AND ARTHUR

ATTORNEYS AND GOUNSELLORS AT LAW

40 WYTHE STREET

ICORNER WITHE AND N. ROYAL STREETS

POST OFFICE BOX 297

ALEXANDRIA. VIRGINIA 22313-0297

17031 548-8100

June 2, 1982

OF COUNSEL
VICTOR G TRAPASSO
HERBERT S BILLOWITZ

CHARLES A ROTHOUSE IRVING BROWNSTEIN** JOHN & FAGELSON ANDREW H WORTZEL

BURNARD M FAGELSON

JAMES G ARTHUR

ROY C BRAGG IRETIREDI EUGENE SCHONBERGER ROBERT A PAYNE

ROBERT & DEICHMEISTER

* VA AND DC BARS
** D C AND NEW YORK
BARS ONLY

Mr. Dayton Cook, Director Department of Transportation and Environmental Services City of Alexandria Alexandria, VA 22314

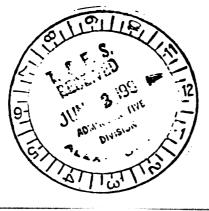
Re: Vacation of a Portion of Franklin Street fronting City Tax Parcel 80.02-02-24 & 25. Land of George Faigen and Seymour Faigen.

Dear Mr. Cook:

This letter will confirm our conversation of this date. When we began the subject vacation we understood that the fair market value established by the City for the vacated right-of-way would be \$10.00 per square foot. Our client did not feel that this was a legitimate fair market value, because the 1700 square feet in question has no value as an independent parcel of land and can only have a limited marginal value as an increment to the existing lot. Even its value as an addition to the existing lot is problematical because of the existence of a long term lease.

We do not wish to create any difficulties to the City in this matter, but if the City is unwilling to take the value of \$10.00 per square foot for a total value of \$17,000.00, which my client had originally understood would be the City's established price, we can only regretfully ask the City not to go forward with the Ordinance of Vacation.

BMF:1h



Very truly yours,

Bernard M. Fagelson

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Hon. Mayor and Members of Council Alexandria, Virginia

Re: Vacation of public right-of-way at north side of Franklin Street, east of South Washington Street

The undersigned have viewed the above-named property.

In our opinion, no inconvenience would result from discontinuing and vacating the same.

John C. Doud, Chairman 203 Yoakum Parkway #611 Alexandria, Va. 22304

Nancy Dunning | 213 E. Oxford Street Alexandria, Va. 22301

rs. Lillian Patterson

1034 Woods Place Alexandria, Va.

ORDINANCE NO. 2705

AN ORDINANCE to vacate a portion of the north side of Franklin Street, a public right-of-way, located east of South Washington Street and west of South Saint Asaph Street in the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

WHEREAS, the said vacation has been approved by the planning commission at one of its regular meetings; and

WHEREAS, procedures required by law, including the posting of notice to the land proprietors affected, have been followed; and

WHEREAS, viewers were duly appointed by the Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and have made their report; and

WHEREAS, in consideration of the report of said viewers recommending the said vacation, and of other evidence relative thereto, it is the opinion of the Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, that the portion of the public right-ofway, hereinabove mentioned and hereinafter described, is not needed for public use and that it is in the public interest to vacate it; and

WHEREAS, the planning commission has recommended the sale of said portion of the public right-of-way to the abutting land owners, George and Seymour Faigen; and

WHEREAS, George and Seymour Faigen wish to acquire such vacated property as provided in section 15.1-366 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, at the price of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) per square foot and on the terms and conditions recommended by the planning commission; therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That the hereinafter described portion of the north side of Franklin Street, a public right-of-way, located east of South Washington Street and west of South Saint Asaph Street in the City of Alexandria, Virginia, be and the same hereby is vacated and abandoned:

Beginning at a point at the northeasterly intersection of South Washington Street and Franklin Street, marking the southwesterly corner of the property of George Faigen and Seymour Faigen; thence with the northerly right-of-way line of Franklin Street and the southerly line of said Faigen property South 80° 49' 00" East, 123.42 feet to a point on

the westerly side of an alley marking the southeasterly corner of the Faigen property; thence through Franklin Street the following courses: South 09° 30' 00" West, 17.00 feet; thence North 80° 49' 00" West, 108.34 feet; thence North 35° 39' 30" West, 21.27 feet; thence North 09° 30' 00" East, 1.92 feet to the point of beginning and containing 1,984 square feet of land.

Section 2. That the hereinabove described portion of the public right-of-way be consolidated with the purchasers' abutting property known as 607 Franklin Street and 622-630 South Washington Street, and that said portion of the public right-of-way shall not be used as a separate lot of record.

Section 3. That the title of and an informal memorandum explaining this ordinance shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation published in the city not later than five days following its introduction together with a notice containing the time and place for a public hearing. The city clerk shall have the full text of this ordinance printed in sufficient numbers to supply copies to meet request. The city clerk shall note the date of introduction and first reading, the date of publication, the date of the public hearing, and the date of the second reading and final passage in the minutes of the meeting. This ordinance shall be deemed to be passed on the date of its final passage, but shall not be effective until the date a certified copy is recorded as deeds are recorded, and there is payment to the City of Alexandria in the sum of Nineteen Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Dollars (\$19,840.00). Such recordation shall be indexed in the name of the City of Alexandria, but shall be done by the applicant, at his own expense.

CHARLES E. BEATLEY, JR. Mayor

Final Passage: June 22, 1982

EXHIBIT NO. _____

12-8-03

HART, CALLEY, GIBBS & KARP, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW

307 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314-2557

HARRY P. HART MARY CATHERINE H. GIBBS HERBERT L. KARP

TELEPHONE (703) 836-5757 FAX (703) 548-5443 hcgk.law@verizon.net

December 3, 2003

OF COUNSEL
CYRIL D. CALLEY

RETIRED
ROBERT L. MURPHY, 2001

The Honorable William D. Euille, Mayor and Members of City Council c/o Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council City Hall, Room 2300 Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: Vacation # 2003-0006, 700 S. Royal Street

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of Council:

Based upon the discussion at the City Council meeting on November 15th, 2003, the Applicants propose the following condition limiting development to assuage the concerns expressed by the members of Council:

"The property owners may not construct any buildings or improvements on the vacated area other than approved perimeter fencing and may not use the vacated land area to derive any increased floor area, subdivision rights or additional dwelling units for the lands adjacent to the vacated area. This restriction shall appear as part of the deed of vacation and shall also appear as a note on the consolidation plat, both of which shall be approved by the Director of Planning and Zoning prior to recordation."

In addition, the Applicants believe that other owners who have vacated land on Franklin Street in the past have used the additional land as the basis for increased floor area and have built within that vacated area. As a result, the applicants would also like to suggest that with this limiting condition, the percentage of fair market value that they are required to pay be reduced. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Harry P. Hart

Ms. Eileen Fogarty, Department of Planning & Zoning

Mr. William Savage

cc: