

Yorkshire of Williamsburg Homeowners Association, LLC
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185
September 20, 2016

Dear Senator Norment:

On behalf of the residents of both the City of Williamsburg and James City County, we wish to express our deep appreciation to you for your support of our efforts to find a more suitable location for the Gateway group home.

As we move forward in opposing this irregular and poorly coordinated action by the Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board (CSB) in concert with Gateway Homes we will continue to keep you and your staff informed as to any new or changing information.

By invitation, this past Friday, I, along with fellow Yorkshire board members Mike Dallas and Jerry Howell, along with Sharon Scruggs and Larry Sturm from The Woods Association, met with two representatives of Gateway Homes and their attorney. Also attending were David Coe, Executive Director of Colonial Community Services Board, the City Attorney of Williamsburg and several additional staff.

I am attaching the questions which were posed to the Gateway Homes representative and their attorney and their respective replies. Among other things, what was significant is that Gateway Homes stated:

They did not consider the area or community in which this home would be placed, only the structure itself. They did visit the site, but did not notice or care that there was a pre-K-12 school within 270 linear feet from the property, in addition to a college and four other daycare and/or elementary schools both in the city and county that are easily within walking distance from this home.

The residents of this home, will be individuals with “severe and persistent mental illness” [Gateway’s own words] which will or may include those who have been involved in violent acts but have not been found guilty due to their plea of not guilty by reason of insanity.

The residents of this home will be medicated and free to roam throughout the immediate and surrounding areas.

According to David Coe, the Executive Director of our local CSB, the Hampton-Newport News CSB did not follow the normal protocol that the CSB who receives the monetary grant places the home[s] in that CSB’s region and notifies the other CSBs of their actions. None of the other CSBs were ever notified, including the Colonial CSB that Hampton-Newport News was considering or had actually signed a lease for this property here in Williamsburg.

Senator Norment, the apparent deception and disingenuous attitude of all parties involved in this series of events beginning with the Hampton-Newport News CSB and continuing with the Gateway Homes, Middleburg Bank & Trust and Nachman Realty/Century 21 is extremely disappointing.

The opposition to this site continues to gain significant traction. We are in the process of developing a formalized “umbrella” organization to include all homeowners throughout Williamsburg and James City County to address this safety issue.

I encourage you to read the attached report of our meeting with Gateway, our questions, and their responses. Please be assured of our steadfast opposition to the introduction of this safety and security risk to our community and the exceptional support of our communities in the immediate and surrounding area. We believe the opposition to our efforts to find a more suitable location comes from a very small vocal minority - many of whom do not even live in the City of Williamsburg or James City County. You have our support now ... and in the future.

Again, thank you for your exceptional representation of our region in Richmond and for providing such important support and leadership regarding this issue. Likewise, we look forward to supporting your continued work on our behalf as Senator.

With personal regards,
Members of the Board of Directors
Edward Wm. Brandt III
President