

Vienna Town Council
Town of Vienna
127 Center Street South
Vienna, VA 22180

RE: Support for Acquisition of 125 Church Street and 200 Dominion Road

Dear Mayor Colbert and Members of the Town Council,

We are writing to express our support for the Town of Vienna's proposed acquisition of the blighted office property at 125 Church Street NW and the historic bank building at 200 Dominion Road NE. This thoughtful initiative offers a rare and meaningful opportunity to remove a long-standing eyesore, introduce a regional attraction byway of the proposed Visitor Center, and restore one of Vienna's most iconic structures for public use.

The office building currently located at 125 Church Street NW has long been in disrepair and no longer serves the needs of the community. We fully support the plan to demolish this building and construct a new Visitor Center, which would serve as a welcoming point for residents and visitors, offering local information, history, and connections to Vienna's thriving business and cultural scene. The location—adjacent to the W&OD Trail and within walking distance of Church, Dominion, and Mill Street—is ideal for such a civic use.

We are equally enthusiastic about the Town's plan to restore the former bank building at 200 Dominion Road NE for a public-facing purpose. This historically significant structure holds architectural and cultural value and should be preserved for the community. A use that invites public access will not only bring life back to this beautiful building but also enhance walkability and pedestrian interest along Dominion Road and the trail. We are mostly agnostic to the use of the facility but if there is an opportunity for Town businesses to provide their goods for sale or as vendors within the facility that would be of interest to the business community.

As the Town advances this vision, we urge you to include a shared parking agreement between the two sites to support both interim and long-term success. Specifically, we recommend:

- Making public parking available at 125 Church Street NW immediately upon acquisition, even before redevelopment begins. This will help relieve current parking pressures and support trail and business access.
- Maintaining publicly accessible parking on the site after the Visitor Center is

completed, including during business hours and evenings/weekends, to serve trail users, business patrons, event attendees, and generally support surrounding commercial areas.

We also respectfully request that the Town preserve the existing parking on the west side of the W&OD Trail, adjacent to these properties. These spaces play a vital role in the viability of dozens of legacy businesses within the Town's unique industrial center. Any dual use or trail widening effort should not impact those leased spaces from Church Street through Caboose Brewery on the west side. Their continued availability will be essential as we work to balance trail enhancements with everyday community needs.

Overall, this project is a clear example of smart, community-oriented investment that combines preservation, public service, and sustainable development. We applaud the Town's leadership for pursuing this opportunity and strongly support the proposed acquisitions and associated improvements.

Sincerely,

Vienna Town Business Liaison Committee