

EL703500472US

Josephine Black Pesaresi
13835 North 51st Street
Scottsdale, Arizona 85254

April 15, 2019

EXPRESS MAIL

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23221.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

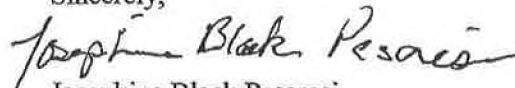
I am the daughter of the late Associate Justice Hugo L. Black. In 1969 my father donated a conservation and open space easement to preserve the historic house and adjoining garden and tennis area of his property at 619 South Lee Street in the historic district of Alexandria, Virginia. The easement deed was accepted by your predecessor the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, which agreed to enforce it, and was approved by Governor Mills Godwin. In 1973 the easement was reiterated and executed by me and all of my father's heirs and their spouses. Unfortunately I am the only remaining signer.

The easement that my father gave and I with my family signed specified that except for tiny exceptions the house would be preserved and "No building or structure shall be built." This was recorded in the land records of Alexandria and binds later purchasers and requires that your department enforce it. I assume that you have copies of these documents.

In the past month it was brought to my attention by friends in Alexandria that some plan is underway by a new owner to tear off an old portion of the house, and also to build very large new additions that would cover much of the adjoining garden area, all contrary to the conservation and open space easement that my father signed and that I and others of my family signed. I never received any notice from the new owners, and none from you, that such a destructive action was proposed.

I wish to register my strong objection to any such violations of the conservation and open space easement, and I ask that you exercise your duty to enforce it, as Virginia promised my father to do. I also request that you send me copies of all proposals and files pertaining to 619 South Lee Street, and keep me informed of any further communications regarding this property that my father loved so much and acted legally to preserve for the future.

Sincerely,


Josephine Black Pesaresi

cc: Governor Ralph Northam

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