

**From:** "Paul, Karen (Secretary)" <[Karen\\_Paul@sec.senate.gov](mailto:Karen_Paul@sec.senate.gov)>

**Subject:** DHR Easement File No. 100-0111

**Date:** October 10, 2018 at 9:46:12 AM EDT

**To:** "[julie.langan@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:julie.langan@dhr.virginia.gov)" <[julie.langan@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:julie.langan@dhr.virginia.gov)>



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October 5, 2018

By email to: [julie.langan@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:julie.langan@dhr.virginia.gov)

Julie V. Langan, Director

Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue

Richmond, VA 23221

Re: *Vowell-Snowden-Black House* (DHR Easement File No. 100-0111)

— Objection to Continued Approval of Construction Plans

Dear Ms. Langan,

This letter is written to support the Historic Alexandria Foundation's letter of objection to continued approval of construction plans for the Vowell-Snowden-Black property at 619 South Lee Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. As spelled out in the HAF carefully researched and reasoned presentation of all facts relevant to the request, it appears that current plans for development do indeed run contrary to the express intent of the original easement. As easements are an important vehicle for Alexandria to maintain its historic houses and streetscapes, it is vital that the Department of Historic Resources perform all due diligence when granting any divergence from the requirements of an easement. Further, as all of

Alexandria's open spaces seem to be either under development or protected by easements or Open Space Act, it is crucial that all decisions to bend or interpret these legal protective vehicles to other purposes not be undertaken lightly.

We therefore respectfully request that upon reconsideration of the applicant's request for work on the Easement Property for 619 S. Lee Street in Alexandria, that the application be denied. We agree with John Thorpe Richards's conclusion that "the proposed project does not satisfy the requirements of the Open Space Act, the express requirements of the easement the Department is entrusted to enforce, or the Department's policies for consideration of such requests.

Respectfully,

Karen D. Paul, President  
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