

Craddock Civic League



March 3, 2008

Joanna Hall, President

Craddock Civic League
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Attention:

**Virginia Department of Housing and
Community Development (DHCD).**

The Jackson Center
501 North Second Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219-1321

**Portsmouth Redevelopment
Housing (PRHA)**

801 Water Street, Suite 200,
Portsmouth, VA 23704.

Portsmouth City Council

801 Crawford Street
Portsmouth, Virginia 23704

To All Concerned Parties:

The Craddock Civic League voted Tuesday, March 3, 2009 to support the City of Portsmouth and the Portsmouth Redevelopment and Housing Authority in applying for Neighborhood Stabilization funds from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The Craddock Civic League is excited that there is help being provided by the DHCD for foreclosed and vacant properties within the Craddock Community and that if the funds are awarded, the Authority will work in partnership with the City to implement the Program. The Craddock Civic League appreciates this opportunity to partner with the Portsmouth City Council and supports the City Council in passing a resolution on February 24, 2009 in support of this funding application.

The Craddock Civic League along with Craddock Residents awaits the announcement of Portsmouth's award of the funds because currently one of the proposed three neighborhoods that would receive help is Craddock, specifically, a portion of the historic district which has the highest rates of properties in some stage of foreclosure. The Craddock Civic League and Craddock Community realize the effect of vacant properties within a neighborhood. Vacant properties attract crime and do not promote or attract homeowners to the community. With the current economic downturn, the Craddock Community has been hit hard with foreclosures. The Craddock Community greatly needs and desires this emergency assistance that is to be provided to state and local governments to acquire and redevelop foreclosed properties that might otherwise become sources of abandonment and blight within their communities.

The currently proposed action to purchase foreclosed single-family homes, complete any rehabilitation necessary and sell them to eligible owner-occupants will aid and build upon all of the hard work of the Craddock Civic League, Craddock "Neighborhood Watch" and NIO in restoring and revitalizing the Craddock Community. The Craddock Community supports the Neighborhood Stabilization plans restrictions that will ensure affordability and owner-occupancy for the foreclosed properties.

The Craddock Civic League, Craddock Community Organizations and Craddock Residents are delighted to provide community input and answer any questions. We are fully aware that the plans are not yet finalized and are open to helping in the formalization, finalization and execution of the plan.

This program will confirm the City of Portsmouth Council's commitment to the Craddock Neighborhood. It will encourage would-be homebuyers to invest their future and finances into Craddock by purchasing homes within the neighborhood.

The Craddock Civic League submits this letter of support to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, the Portsmouth Redevelopment and Housing Authority, and Portsmouth City Council and asks that all parties support this Program by awarding the Plan Funds to the City of Portsmouth and the Craddock

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May 5, 2009

Neighborhood. Please help Cradock to restore its historic streetscapes and build a strong community by supporting this innovative and forward thinking initiative. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joanna Hall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joanna Hall, President

JH/jh