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Virginia Beach City Council
2401 Courthouse Drive

Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Dear Members of the City Council,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed construction of a mixed-use residential, retail, and parking structure immediately behind the Tidewater Veterans Memorial.

As a dedicated member of this community and someone who holds deep respect for those who have served our nation, I find it troubling that the current strategic plan for the Central Business District fails to acknowledge or protect the historical and symbolic significance of the Memorial in its existing location. The Memorial is more than a landmark; it is a solemn and sacred space that honors the sacrifices of our veterans and should be treated with the highest regard.

Despite repeated requests for the Memorial to be specifically addressed in the strategic planning process, these concerns appear to have gone unheeded. This omission sends a disheartening message to our veterans, their families, and all citizens who recognize the importance of preserving such spaces with dignity and respect.

I urge the City Council to reconsider the current plans and to ensure that any development in the area of the Tidewater Veterans Memorial not only preserves the visibility and sanctity of the Memorial but also includes clear language in the strategic plan recognizing its importance. The Tidewater Veterans Memorial should be a defining area for the Central Business Strategic Plan and enhance the visibility and demonstrate the City of Virginia Beach’s commitment to service and sacrifice for our country. The Virginia Beach veterans’ community would rally behind that idea and support the continued idea of the city planning for this area.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I hope you will take the necessary steps to address this oversight and engage the public in a transparent and respectful dialogue about the future of this important site.

Sincerely,

Loren V. Heckelman

Captain, U. S. Navy (Ret)