

MEMORANDUM

To: Leroy Battle (ARHA), Eric Keeler (City of Alexandria Office of Housing)
From: Boyd Sipe, M.A., RPA
Re: Ramsey Homes, City of Alexandria Section 106
Date: April 8, 2016

Thunderbird Archeology (Thunderbird), a division of Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc., of Gainesville, Virginia is assisting the Alexandria Housing and Redevelopment Authority (ARHA) of Alexandria, Virginia, Ramsey Homes, LP of Alexandria, Virginia, and the City of Alexandria Office of Housing with review of the proposed Ramsey Homes redevelopment project under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

In advance of the initiation of Section 106 review for the site, Thunderbird conducted several cultural resources studies pursuant to meeting local agency requirements. Thunderbird prepared the report Ramsey Homes, City of Alexandria, Virginia Historic Context and Significance Statement in June 2015. Said report was submitted to the Parker-Gray District Board of Architectural Review and City Council. Thunderbird prepared a Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of Ramsey Homes located in the City of Alexandria, Virginia and submitted this documentation to the National Park Service Heritage Documentation Programs of Washington, D.C., the Alexandria Black History Museum of Alexandria, Virginia, and the Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library of Alexandria, Virginia in December 2015.

On behalf of the City of Alexandria Office of Housing, Thunderbird formally initiated Section 106 coordination by contacting the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VA SHPO) and the owner (ARHA) on February 9, 2016. On this same date, Thunderbird also invited fourteen (14) local, state, and national governmental agencies and non-governmental groups to participate in the Section 106 process as consulting parties.

On March 1, 2016, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VA SHPO) requested additional information; completion of a project review form for the Ramsey Homes project. Thunderbird completed the review form, which was accepted by the VA SHPO on March 18, 2016.

As requested by ARHA, the VA SHPO, the City of Alexandria Office of Housing, and other consulting parties, on March 18, 2016 Thunderbird invited additional entities and individuals to consult on the project including: the Mataponi Indian Tribe, the Pamunkey Indian Tribe, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, National Public Housing Museum, the Parker-Gray District Board of Architectural Review, fifteen (15) residents of the Ramsey Homes, and the owners of fifty-six properties located in the close vicinity of the project site. Thunderbird also sent follow-up letters to all of the agencies and groups that failed to respond to the initial invitation letters on March 18, 2016.

As of the current date, the following consulting parties have affirmatively applied to the invitation: the Office of Historic Alexandria, Alexandria Archaeology, the Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission, and the Alexandria Archaeology Commission.

Thunderbird continues to prepare cultural resources documentation studies for the project. A draft report, *Documentary Study and Archeological Resource Assessment* was submitted to Alexandria Archaeology for review. Said report recommended that a Phase I/II archeological investigation (*Archeological Evaluation*) be conducted of the site. Upon agency concurrence and completion and finalization of these studies, reporting will be submitted to the VA SHPO and all Section 106 consulting parties for review.