



# City of Cambridge

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

PLANNING & ZONING

1025 N. WASHINGTON STREET

CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND 21613

TELEPHONE: 410-228-3790 EXT 103

FAX: 410-228-3814

## Memorandum

**Date:** February 14, 2022  
**To:** Commissioners of Cambridge  
**From:** Pat Escher, A.I.C.P., City Planner  
**Regarding:** A Request to Acquire the Property Located at 700 Phillips Street by Groove City Black Heritage & Culture Group





700 Phillips Avenue

Ms. Taylor with Groove City Black Heritage & Culture Group came before Council at their December 13, 2021 meeting and requested that the City donate the property located at 700 Phillips Street to Groove City Black Heritage & Culture Group so that they can provide additional services for the City's youth by providing art and cultural programming to youth, teens and families. The Council and Ms. Taylor had an informative discussion with the Council requesting additional information regarding their programming.

Ms. Taylor met with President Commissioner Cephas to further discuss this matter. Ms. Taylor has provided several letters of support and is requesting the Council consider selling the property to her organization.

The City acquired the property from Dorchester County with CDBG grant funds as part of the Pine Street revitalization efforts. The purchase price was \$3,535.00. If the City wants to transfer the property to Groove City Black Heritage & Culture Group. The City will have to make arrangements with the State to account for transfer of the property.

Commissioner Malkus recommended that if the property was to be sold to Ms. Taylor's organization, that the City should have first right of refusal in the event the Groove City Black Heritage & Culture Group should discontinue their operations.



January 17, 2022

City of Cambridge  
City Commissioners  
City Manager

Dear Commissioners and City Manager,

I am writing in support of the Groove City Black Heritage & Culture Group Inc obtaining the building located at 700 Phillip Street near Wells Street, which is centrally located in the heart of the historical Pine Street District.

Over the past three years, The Groove City Black Heritage & Culture Group have made significant contributions to economic development and tourism in the city of Cambridge. They have successfully executed several cultural events, that includes Groove City Culture Fest which is one of the largest cultural events on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Their events and programs have included children and families of this community and visitors. They also support efforts to revitalize business on historic Pine Street by creating opportunities for entrepreneurs to promote their business and do business from June – October. Their efforts and programs are unique and have made a positive impact in Cambridge especially in the Pine Street corridor.

I support their efforts and advocate for this organization to have a place in the community, especially in the historical Pine Street district where they grow their services and can continue to provide art and cultural programming to youth, teens and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jymil Thompson'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jymil Thompson  
John and Janice Wyatt Foundation  
Program Director

*Dorchester*  
**Center for the Arts**  
*Creating Community Through the Arts*

321 High Street, Cambridge, MD 21613 • 410-228-7782 • 410-221-6589 (fax)  
www.dorchesterarts.org

January 10, 2022

City of Cambridge, MD  
City Commissioners: Brian Roche, Lajan Cephas (acting Mayor),  
Jameson Harrington, Sputty Cephas, Chad Malkus  
City Manager: David Deutsch

Dear Commissioners and City Manager;

I am writing in support of Groove City Black Heritage & Culture Group, Inc. obtaining the building located at 700 Phillip Street near Wells Street, which is centrally located in the heart of the historical Pine Street District in Cambridge, MD.

Over the past three years, Groove City Black Heritage & Culture Group has made significant contributions to economic development and tourism in the city of Cambridge. They have successfully executed several cultural events, including Groove City Culture Fest - one of the largest cultural events on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Their events and programs have included children and families of this community as well as visitors. They also support efforts to revitalize business on historic Pine Street by creating opportunities for entrepreneurs to promote their business and do business from June – October. Their efforts and programs are unique and have made a positive impact in Cambridge - especially in the Pine Street corridor.

Groove City Black Heritage & Culture Group is an asset to Cambridge. Dorchester Center for the Arts has supported their efforts through grant funding, and looks forward to continued partnership to expand cultural arts opportunities. I support their efforts and advocate for this organization to have a place in the community, especially in the historical Pine Street district, where they can both continue and grow their services to youth, teens and families.

Sincerely,



Barbara J. Seese  
*Executive Director*



# NEW BEGINNINGS

Youth & Family Services

*Our MISSION is to provide low-income communities with human services toward self-sufficiency of each individual and their respective family.*

January 9, 2022

City of Cambridge  
City Commissioners  
City Manager

Dear Commissioners and City Manager,

I am writing in support of the Groove City Black Heritage & Culture Group Inc obtaining the building located at 700 Phillip Street near Wells Street, which is centrally located in the heart of the historical Pine Street District.

Over the past three years, The Groove City Black Heritage & Culture Group have made significant contributions to economic development and tourism in the city of Cambridge. They have successfully executed several cultural events, that includes Groove City Culture Fest which is one of the largest cultural events on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Their events and programs have included children and families of this community and visitors. They also support efforts to revitalize business on historic Pine Street by creating opportunities for entrepreneurs to promote their business and do business from June – October. Their efforts and programs are unique and have made a positive impact in Cambridge especially in the Pine Street corridor.

I support their efforts and advocate for this organization to have a place in the community, especially in the historical Pine Street district where they grow their services and can continue to provide art and cultural programming to youth, teens and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Theresa Stafford".

Theresa Stafford,  
Executive Director

[newbeginningsfamily@comcast.net](mailto:newbeginningsfamily@comcast.net)

<http://newbeginningsyouth.wixsite.com>

522 Greenwood Avenue Cambridge, Maryland 21613 Phone 410.228.1950 Fax 410.228.0024

*"Changing Lives One Experience At A Time"*



Jones  
Mini  
Mart

November 26, 2021

Cindy Stone  
Director  
Community Development Programs  
Maryland Dept. of Housing and Community Development  
7800 Harkins Rd.  
Lanham, Md 20706.

Dear Ms. Stone:

I am writing in support of the Groove City Black Heritage & Culture Group Inc and its effort to obtain the building located at 700 Phillip Street, which is centrally located in the heart of the historical Pine Street District.

Over the past three years, The Groove City Black Heritage & Culture Group Inc. has made significant contributions to economic development and tourism in the city of Cambridge. They have successfully executed several cultural events, including Groove City Culture Fest which is one of the largest cultural events on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Their events and programs have included children and families of this community as well as visitors. This year, as a part of the revitalizing business efforts on historic Pine Street, they were able to create opportunities for entrepreneurs to promote their business and do business from June – October. During the month of December, will have a community event, which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year executing this event, named "Christmas on Pine." Vendors will setup and the community can come out and shop local for the holiday. Most importantly, this activity will bring together families in the community, celebrating the holiday season together and giving back. Their efforts and programs are unique and have made a positive impact in Cambridge especially in the Pine Street Historic District.

I support their efforts and advocate for this organization to have a place in the community, especially in the historical Pine Street District where they can grow their services and can continue to provide art and cultural programming to youth and families.

Sincerely,

DiAden Jones  
for King Total