



For Immediate Release
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Residents Encouraged to Submit 'eComments'

Harrisonburg, VA – The City of Harrisonburg is encouraging its residents to learn more about the recent proposal of the Hotel and Conference Center and submit their comments through an online platform.

City Council recently approved a request to hold a public hearing on October 14, during the regularly scheduled City Council meeting, on the Hotel and Conference Center project.

In the spring of 2013, James Madison University (JMU) received and accepted an unsolicited proposal for a Hotel and Conference Center project. Initial concerns on the part of the JMU Foundation and the City regarding language in the various legal documents for the project led to the termination of negotiations earlier this summer.

Further discussions between all parties continued and have led to contractual language that is acceptable to all and brings the partners to the point of accepting the public's comments for the project.

This agenda item has been published early for the public to have additional time to read the materials provided and give input through an online forum. The remainder of the agenda will be published later in the week.

Be Heard Harrisonburg is an online forum where citizens can post comments on projects and share ideas. Through the eComments feature, registered users have the ability to post comments on the upcoming City Council meeting agenda items.

All comments are viewable to registered users and those who visit www.BeHeardHarrisonburg.org. Members of City Council and the City's administration also review the agenda that is uploaded to their iPad. When a comment is submitted, City Council members are immediately able to see the comment that coincides with the agenda item.

Comments can be submitted from the time the agenda is posted until 9:00 a.m. the morning of the City Council meeting. To begin posting your comments, register at www.BeHeardHarrisonburg.org. After the registration process, click on "meetings" and the October 14 meeting will be listed.

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 50,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.