



**Update**  
**April 4, 2009**

# TOGETHER WE STAND

## Plan to Create a Proud, Unified Richmond Regional Community

**TOGETHER WE STAND** has been created to strengthen the fabric of the Richmond Regional Community, in an effort to make the Richmond Region the best possible place in the world to live, work and visit. Inherent in this mission is facilitating the formation of the Richmond Regional Community – transforming a collection of eight separate jurisdictional communities into **ONE** Proud, Unified Richmond Regional Community.

In the Richmond Region, local governments have moved slowly related to regional *cooperation*, let alone regional *collaboration*, and until Virginia’s laws are changed, there is little hope for movement on that horizon. In the end, change will only come because it is the will of the citizens of the Region. **TOGETHER WE STAND** intends to strengthen that will by continually promoting the many benefits of a regional approach to solving problems and creating opportunities – leading to the best possible quality of life for all of the 1.2 million residents of the Richmond Region.

Towards that end, **TOGETHER WE STAND** has formulated the *Plan to Create a Proud, Unified Richmond Regional Community*. The ultimate goal of this *Plan* is to create a community that is, quite literally, the best possible place in the world to live, work and visit. A general long term process has been defined and a specific short term plan has been developed to allow a constant wave of positive regional energy to wash over the Richmond Region, creating a growing regional momentum that will never wane. **TOGETHER WE STAND** will utilize five important resources to implement its plan:

- 1) The **TOGETHER WE STAND** Organization and its growing membership that is committed to continually strengthening the fabric of the Richmond Regional Community.
- 2) The **TOGETHER WE STAND** Websites – [www.twsrichmond.org](http://www.twsrichmond.org) and [www.richmondregion.net](http://www.richmondregion.net), and the Richmond Region Blog.
- 3) *Richmonds of the World*, a powerful collection of 80 communities around the world named Richmond.
- 4) The energy, ideas, and support of the individuals, businesses, organizations, governments and all other entities that see the many benefits from our collective efforts to strengthen the Richmond Regional Community.
- 5) The power of positive action, and its ability to breed more positive action.

## **LONG TERM RICHMOND REGIONAL PROCESS**

**TOGETHER WE STAND** is convinced the highest quality of life for all the citizens of the City of Richmond and the surrounding counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent and Powhatan can only be realized if these citizens see themselves as all living in the same community – **RICHMOND**. Once **WE** embrace the Richmond Region as one community, **RICHMONDERS** will find it easier and easier to cooperate and collaborate, and the *Plan to Create a Proud, Unified Richmond Regional Community* will gain the positive momentum needed to become a self-fulfilling prophesy. It is expected that this *Proud and Unified* process will take 25 years to achieve and **TOGETHER WE STAND** intends to play a critical part by continually:

- Encouraging, engaging and empowering the citizens of the Richmond Region to become more intentionally involved in their community.
- Identifying and promoting the many positive community benefits being realized through regional collaboration and cooperation.
- Increasing the number of community connections within the Region, and continually strengthening those connections.
- Working to regionally align each major subset of the Richmond Community:
  - The Business Community / The Civic and Non-Profit Community / The Creative Community / The Education and Scientific Community / The Faith Community
- Promoting and facilitating continued inspection and dialogue about all aspects of living in the Richmond Region.
- Using the power of the Richmond Region's past and present to positively influence its future, and the future of all mankind.

## **SHORT TERM RICHMOND REGIONAL PLANS**

**TOGETHER WE STAND** believes the timing is right for regionalism to transform the Richmond Region, and for the Richmond Region to then transform the Nation and the World. Therefore, on February 22, 2009, **TOGETHER WE STAND** declared Mutiny on the community vessel known as the Richmond Region, exhorting the citizens of the Region to take over this ship and together plan a course that secures the individual prosperity of all citizens through collaborative attention to the greater Richmond community. **TOGETHER WE STAND** also declared 2009 to be **The Year of Richmond**, inviting all Richmonders to join the Mutiny by celebrating the power of **WE** and becoming more intentionally and consistently involved in helping to build a *Proud, Unified Richmond Regional Community*.

## **MUTINY ON THE RICHMOND REGION**

On February 22, 2009, **TOGETHER WE STAND** declared Mutiny on the community vessel known as the Richmond Region because it is currently sitting on the rocks of stagnation, having been without a true captain and without a true course for so long. Certainly, this Mutiny intends to change the lack of cooperation and collaboration in the Richmond Region, but that is much more than a jurisdictional problem; our regional issues are simply one small example of a larger societal dysfunction – the rampant attention to **ME** at the expense of **WE**, most recently evidenced by the forces of **ME** that created our global financial crisis. Therefore, this Mutiny, starting in Richmond, intends to replace the **ME** forces currently driving our local, national and global social systems with **WE** forces that will create a better quality of life for all mankind. This Mutiny intends to change the **ME** society that places a higher value on sports figures than teachers, a higher value on consumer goods than the human rights of the workers making those goods. This Mutiny intends to reverse course on a **ME** society that would destroy its own natural environment, a society that would dare mortgage its children's future. And this Mutiny intends to fix once and for all the **ME** society that proclaims liberty for all while enslaving and devaluing certain citizens.

This Mutiny intends to inspire all citizens of the Region, **Richmonders**, to become more involved in their home, **Richmond**, whether they live in the Brandermill part of Richmond or the Charles City part of Richmond or the Church Hill part of Richmond. When the 1.2 million Richmonders in the Region stand together and develop the positive powers of cooperation and collaboration, **WE** can do anything. This Mutiny is about developing those powers and then sharing them with the Commonwealth, the Nation and the World.

## **2009 – THE YEAR OF RICHMOND**

**TOGETHER WE STAND** intends to use 2009 to firmly entrench the *Proud and Unified* message in the minds of all Richmonders by declaring 2009 as **The Year of Richmond**, and then making that declaration a self-fulfilling prophesy. First comes the **1,000,000 Hours / \$1,000,000 Campaign** where **TOGETHER WE STAND** asks every citizen of the Richmond Region to become a **TWS MEMBER**, offering Membership Dues equal to 10 hours of additional, selfless service to community and \$10.00 every 6 months to help build a proud, unified Richmond Regional Community. By the end of June 2009, **TOGETHER WE STAND** intends to engage 100,000 Richmonders as **TWS MEMBERS**, collectively offering 1,000,000 hours of community service and \$1,000,000 to strengthen the Richmond Regional Community.

## **RICHMOND DAY – MAY 24, 2009**

**TOGETHER WE STAND** established **Richmond Day** in 2007 to mark the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Landing at the Falls of the James River by Christopher Newport, the day the community of Richmond was conceived. Richmond Day in 2009 will solidify May 24<sup>th</sup> as the Richmond Region's Birthday, recognizing the anniversary of the landing in 1607 as the birth of what is now known as Richmond, home to 1.2 million Richmonders. Events and celebrations will be encouraged all over the Region and will include a family festival in Libby Hill Park in Church Hill, home of the View that named our community Richmond.

## **RICHMONDS OF THE WORLD**

2009 will also be known as the year that **Richmonds of the World** started the process of creating the global community of Richmond. There are 80 communities around the world named Richmond and in 2008 a delegation from Richmond Virginia travelled to Richmond upon Thames, our namesake in London, to officially start **Richmonds of the World**, which embraces a modern 21<sup>st</sup> century definition of Richmond as *Magnificent World* (from *riche*, Middle English, "having great value or worth, magnificent" and *monde*, French, "world"). By working together through **Richmonds of the World**, Richmonders can affect a magnificent world for each community of Richmond, and for the global community of Richmond. **Richmonds of the World** will change the World!

## **OTHER 2009 RICHMOND PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**

Throughout 2009 **TOGETHER WE STAND** will present a number of events and programs celebrating Richmond and encourages others to do likewise:

- **OUR RICHMOND** – Photography Project – Spring and Summer 2009
  - **OUR RICHMOND** is a photography project based on the theme "What makes the Richmond Region Special". Students in the Region will be asked to submit a photograph(s) of the person, place or thing that makes living in the Richmond Region special to them. The idea for **OUR RICHMOND** was first conceived in our Twin Community, Richmond upon Thames, and it is hoped that **OUR RICHMOND** will spread to all of the **Richmonds of the World**.
  
- **BIG YANKEE DOODLE** – Drawing Project – Fall 2009
  - This past October, the United Kingdom celebrated the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual **BIG DRAW**, a program of the Campaign for Drawing, a British Charitable organization. Each year, hundreds of thousands of British citizens of all ages participate in events and programs using drawing to engage with the past, present and future. In order to create a similar program here, with similar positive multi-cultural benefits for the community, **Together WE Stand** is coordinating the **BIG YANKEE DOODLE**, a drawing event for the Richmond Regional Community.

- **RICHMOND RIVER RACES** – September 5, 2009
  - Expected to become **the** signature event for **Together WE Stand**, the **Richmond River Races** will act as an annual Richmond Regional Pep Rally and celebration of the James River, held each year on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend. The **1<sup>st</sup> Richmond River Races** in 2009 will introduce the Richmond Region to a historic portion of the James River with a family friendly day of fun and games by the River, including **Richmond's Great River Race**, music, food and lots more. This event will be held at the site of the Richmond Region's inception in 1607, and is patterned after a similar river race and festival in Richmond upon Thames and London. It is hoped that the collaboration and cooperation that will go into planning the **Richmond River Races** will create many Regional Community connections that will continue on beyond the event.
  
- **THE GREAT INDIGNATION OF 2009** – through 2009 and beyond
  - The future of the Richmond Region is directly linked to its historic and powerful past. Harnessing that power will be a critical element in creating a proud and unified Richmond Regional Community and to do so properly, important landmarks and historic areas must be conserved and preserved in order to be made available for all of the public's enjoyment, in perpetuity. Currently, certain historic lands along the most historic portion of America's Founding River, the James River, have either left the public domain or are being considered as potential lands for private development. These lands, running from Intermediate Terminal to The Great Shiplock Park in the East End of the City of Richmond are historic not only for the Richmond Region, but for the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States of America. **The Great Indignation of 2009** is a campaign to persuade our elected officials in the City of Richmond and Commonwealth of Virginia to return these lands to the public domain, in perpetuity.

Ultimately, **TOGETHER WE STAND** intends this series of 2009 ideas and programs and events and collaborations, and those it inspires, to solidify the ***Plan to Create a Proud, Unified Richmond Regional Community*** in the hearts and minds of Richmonders everywhere. 2009 will be known forevermore as the **Year of Richmond**, not because of the celebrations that went on, but because of the power of the cooperation and collaboration that was born in Richmond Virginia and the many Richmonds of the World!

### **YEAR OF RICHMOND BECOMES THE DECADE OF RICHMOND**

The power of the **Year of Richmond** will lead into the **Decade of Richmond** (2010-2019) as the Richmonds of the World start to create a magnificent world for all mankind. In 2010, Richmond British Columbia will help present the Winter Olympics. From 2011 to 2015, Richmond Virginia will commemorate the American Civil War. In 2012, Richmond upon Thames will help present the Summer Olympics. It is a very powerful and important time to be a Richmonder!

# **TOGETHER WE STAND**

## **REQUEST FOR SUPPORT**

In order to be successful in its *Plan to Create a Proud, Unified Richmond Regional Community*, **TOGETHER WE STAND** intends to enlist the continued support of individuals, businesses, organizations and entities throughout the Richmond Region. Requested support is divided into two types:

### **1) SPREAD THE PROUD AND UNIFIED MESSAGE**

For the power of the Richmond Regional Community to truly take hold, the *Proud and Unified Message* must be spread enthusiastically and often, throughout the Region and beyond. **TOGETHER WE STAND** intends to engage all citizens of the Richmond Region as **TWS MEMBERS** and spheres of influence, encouraging and empowering them to be more intentionally involved in their community, and enabling them to enthusiastically spread the *Proud and Unified Message*.

### **2) SPONSOR THE PROUD AND UNIFIED MESSAGE**

**TOGETHER WE STAND** asks the individuals, businesses, organizations, governments and entities that understand the power of the *Plan to Create a Proud, Unified Richmond Regional Community* to positively impact all aspects of life in the Region to assist these efforts by offering their financial and other resources to help spread the *Proud and Unified Message* and influencing others to do the same.

**TOGETHER WE STAND**  
Building a Proud, Unified Richmond Regional Community

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**TOGETHER WE STAND ORGANIZATION WEBSITE:**

[www.twsrichmond.org](http://www.twsrichmond.org)

**TOGETHER WE STAND RICHMOND REGION WEBSITE:**

[www.richmondregion.net](http://www.richmondregion.net)

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