

Focus Group on Rental Housing Near the College

PURPOSE

“To conduct fact finding and discussion with the goal of making consensus recommendations for actions to serve the interests of each party and to improve the Williamsburg community as a whole.”

GROUND RULES

- No idea is a bad idea.
- Take turns speaking and do not interrupt others
- Listen to understand
- Don't blame, attach, or engage in putdowns
- Ask questions for the purpose of understanding and clarity
- Speak from interests, not positions
- Focus on the goal of the focus group
- The “three knock rule” whereby the facilitator has the ability to interrupt discussions by knocking on the table three times
- Maintain meeting timeliness

INTERESTS

- See the situation and look for the best outcomes for the city collectively
- Achieve positive change
- Achieve elasticity and flexibility for future generations
- Accommodate the diversity of homes and neighborhoods
- Maintain the viability and value of neighborhoods
- Recommend enforceable policies
- Achieve accountability and fairness
- Be forward thinking
- Consider the availability of student housing near the campus
- Strive for respectable, responsible, and safe neighborhoods
- Consider the city government to be an ally, not an enemy
- Achieve community confidence and trust in Focus Group recommendations
- Address current neighborhood issues before considering changes in occupancy limits
- Explore the role of the College in discussion and improve relations