

From the Desk of
Pharrell Williams

Pharrell Williams
Miami, FL

October 5, 2021

Dear Mr. Duhaney,

I love the city of Virginia Beach. I've always loved the city of Virginia Beach and most importantly our people. It's a part of my beloved 757.

When we did the festival, it was to ease racial tension, to unify the region, bring about economic development opportunities and broaden the horizons of the local business community. *We achieved those things!* I wish the same energy I've felt from Virginia Beach leadership upon losing the festival would have been similarly channeled following the loss of my relative's life.

I love my city, but for far too long it has been run by- and with toxic energy. The toxic energy that changed the narrative several times around the homicide of my cousin, Donovan Lynch, a citizen of Virginia, is the same toxic energy that changed the narrative around the mass murder and senseless loss of life at Building Number 2.

I sang about a room without a roof, but I am tired of kindly and politely being shown the door.

Until the gatekeepers and the powers-that-be consider the citizens and the consumer base, and no longer view the idea of human rights for all as a controversial idea... I don't have any problems with the city, but I realize the city hasn't valued my proposed solutions, either.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the initials 'P.W.' in a cursive, stylized font.

Pharrell Williams