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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCCUPY RICHMOND AND RICHMOND TEA PARTY NOT JOINING FORCES

December 9, 2011 – Richmond, Virginia

To whom it may concern:

It has come to the attention of the Occupy Richmond's General Assembly that various media sources have suggested Occupy Richmond may be "joining forces" with the Richmond Tea Party. Occupy Richmond does not support nor condone the Richmond Tea Party, and denies any allegations that the two organizations are officially working together. Individual members are absolutely within their rights to address any political, social or economic entity they choose, but without a modified consensus from the General Assembly, they do not represent Occupy Richmond. Occupy Richmond's General Assembly has yet to reach a consensus on any stance on the Tea Party.

We have previously expressed our belief in the First Amendment rights of all citizens to petition their government for redress of grievances without cost or penalty, including, but not limited to, Occupy Richmond and The Richmond Tea Party. This should not be a controversial principle, but it has now become one. This controversy has not been created by Occupy Richmond or The Richmond Tea Party. It is the creation of media outlets, both local and national, for the purpose of creating sensationalism to help sell newspapers and/or advertising. A story about a citizen created and lead organization supporting the rights of all citizens does not sell. "A Rumble in Richmond" is a much more sensational and appealing narrative, and serves to further divide an already deeply divided populace. Stories such as these are a distraction, and keep all of us from meeting the responsibility of holding those in power accountable- including those same media outlets intent on creating this controversy.

As a group that prides itself on being comprised of the 99%, we stand together with those of all creeds and ideologies in an attempt to share our vision of a better world with each other and our community. Occupy Richmond will continue to stand with any person or group who experiences the oppressive nature of our government in its attempts to silence dissent and criticism. The government has forgotten that it does not control the people; instead it is the people who control the government. We're all here to remind them.

Occupy Richmond



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* No one person has been elected to speak on behalf of the entire organization. The contact information provided is given only for verification and follow-up purposes.



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