



NRCA, P.O. Box 3242, Alexandria, VA 22302

August 26, 2021

Alexandria City Council  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Wilson and Council Members:

North Ridge Citizens' Association (NRCA) respectfully submits its priorities regarding the recruitment of the next City Manager.

The City Manager has a central role in shaping current policies and directing operations that have long-range ramifications for generations of future Alexandrians. The City Manager should seek to honor our City's historic past, support local infrastructure to benefit residents and small businesses, and defend quality of life issues threatened by over-development and densification. More specifically, this role demands a leader who will:

- Preserve the character of the City of Alexandria;
- Consider the views of residents over outside interest groups or business interests;
- Commit to transparency in the decision-making at City Hall;
- Recognize that quality of life and the environment are paramount and that citizens' interests come before developers';
- Preserve and protect the City's natural resources, river access, tree canopy, open spaces, parks, and recreational areas;
- Respect the diversity of housing options and safeguard the character of single-family neighborhoods;
- Improve the quality of public education through innovative initiatives (not solely through capital investments);
- Provide guidance to staff to ensure a consistent vision regarding the values and priorities of the City; and
- Work with City employees through their unions in a positive and productive manner.

Finally, we recommend that the City Council engage the community more formally in the recruitment of this position and other important leadership positions in the future. We recommend that civic leaders (such as a representative from the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations) work alongside the City Council to review candidates and promote public confidence in the final decision.

Sincerely,

John Fehrenbach  
President