



July 28, 2023

To Mayor Wilson, Alexandria City Council, Alexandria Planning Commission, and City Manager Parajon:

The North Ridge Citizens Association respectfully requests that action on proposals under the Zoning For Housing initiative be taken no earlier than the first quarter of calendar year 2024 and preferably later.

We urge the City to abide by Resolution 2597, City of Alexandria Handbook for Civic Engagement (2015):

“Ensure that prior to the adoption of public policies which will significantly impact the quality of life of members of the community, (1) the nature of the proposed policy or action has been fully disclosed, (2) the public has had reasonable opportunity to be informed, consulted, involved, or to collaborate on the proposed action, and (3) the decision-making body has had sufficient opportunity fairly to consider and reflect before acting“

The process that the City has undertaken to date and has outlined for presentation and final approval runs afoul of Resolution 2597. According to the current timeline, the proposed policy details would not be fully disclosed before publication of the Planning Commission docket for September 5, 2023. Council action could then take place as soon as November 14, 2023, when the first legislative meeting is scheduled. This hurried schedule is unnecessary and unwarranted. It would prevent citizens and citizen associations from meaningfully reviewing and considering the proposed policy and providing feedback to the Planning Commission and City Council before action on what the Mayor has described as “the most ambitious housing effort in the City’s history.” While ‘engagement sessions’ have been held over the past year, the information provided in those sessions has been very general and principally focused on issues and goals rather than substance. No concrete policy proposals or specific text language has been presented. As a result, the public has not been truly informed or consulted.

To do justice to “the most ambitious housing effort in the City’s history,” a fuller picture of a reimagined City and a plan for how it will function must be disclosed to City residents in a manner that empowers them to participate in its development. We request that sufficient time be allowed for that picture and plan to be articulated by City leadership and for the voices of citizens, their associations, and the general public to be heard.

On behalf of the members of the North Ridge Citizens’ Association...

Sincerely,

V.B. “Tack” Richardson III

President,

North Ridge Citizens’ Association