

ANNUAL CORPORATE SPONSORS



June 19, 2015



Arlington County Board  
2100 Clarendon Boulevard  
Suite 300  
Arlington, Virginia 22201



Dear Chairman Hynes:



The Arlington Chamber of Commerce commends the County Board for instructing the County Manager to explore options for creating a public-private partnership with Forest City Enterprises to redevelop Ballston Common Mall into Ballston Quarter. The Chamber also recognizes the critical importance of the Board's direction to the County Manager to complete the approval process by the end of the year.



The Chamber understands that there are details still to be worked out and encourages the County to work towards a partnership acceptable to both sides with all due diligence. The mall has outlived its useful life and is in need of a transformation to remain an economic engine for the County. The mall's success not only benefits the residents and business people who eat, shop, and spend time there, but all Arlington citizens via its potential as an economic development catalyst. Undoubtedly a revived Ballston Quarter would help the surrounding commercial leasing market which is experiencing the highest vacancy rates in history. The redevelopment will have a huge impact on Ballston and ultimately all of Arlington.



Again, we applaud the Board for their recent action and encourage the County to adhere to the proposed timeline in order to accomplish the approval process this year to ensure that the project accomplishes the County's economic development and place-making goals.



Sincerely,





Kevin Shooshan  
Chair

Kate Roche  
President & CEO



CC: Arlington County Board members Jay Fisette, Libby Garvey, Walter Tejada, John Vihstadt