

ANNUAL CORPORATE SPONSORS



October 20, 2017

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

Dear Chairman Fisette:

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce offers our support for the Residential Parking Working Group's draft report and recommendations. We appreciate the significant efforts of the working group members, County staff and stakeholders leading up to this point.

As Arlington evolves, it is essential to continue to revisit established policies in order to ensure they continue to meet our current and future needs. The Chamber has the position that our developers should have the ability to park at their properties at the rate the market dictates. By reducing the minimums, developers will be able to make decisions regarding their buildings' parking levels based on market needs for their property rather than meeting regulatory requirements.

However, the Chamber feels strongly that these changes not be paired with excessive additional community benefit requirements in order to achieve reductions. The proposed reduction in parking minimums furthers County goals regarding transportation and transit. Businesses should not have to absorb additional costs to advance other County goals for their efforts to achieve this County priority. Developers are already burdened with significant additional costs associated with approvals and this should not be another added to the list. We strongly caution against any proposal in which developers would have to buy down the parking, which ultimately may incentivize them to simply build the parking and keep the asset on their books.

Thank you for your consideration, and for the opportunity for input.

Sincerely,



Kate Bates  
President & CEO

CC: Arlington County Board members Libby Garvey, John Vihstadt, Katie Cristol, Christian Dorsey and County Manager Mark Schwartz