



October 17, 2019

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

Dear Chair Dorsey,

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce requests that the County Board defer the request to advertise public hearings on the modifications of bonus density and height provisions. Upon first review of the proposal, there are many elements—particularly those related to housing affordability—that strike us as positive changes. However, there are other elements that have broad implications, with which we are still grappling. We believe that the best result will come from considering all of the proposed amendments together, hence our request to defer the entire advertisement for a month.

The potential impacts of the proposed changes are complex, and require study and review to understand completely. However, many in the business and development community first learned of the proposal when it was introduced at the Zoning Committee meeting on September 17. County staff has engaged with the business community since, including with our Government Affairs & Economic Development Committee yesterday. But we have just started to process these exchanges, ask questions, and form responses. A brief delay in the advertisement will give the community time to provide feedback and the County staff time to improve the proposal based on this feedback before bringing it forward for a County Board action.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kate Bates' in a cursive script.

Kate Bates  
President & CEO

CC: County Board Vice Chair Libby Garvey and Members Katie Cristol, Matt de Ferranti, and Erik Gutshall; County Manager Mark Schwartz; Claude Williamson, Director, Jennifer Smith and Kimberly Vacca, Planning Division, and Richard Tucker, Housing Division, Department of Community Planning, Housing, and Development