



December 11, 2019

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

Dear Chair Dorsey,

Metropolitan Park Phases 6/7/8 will help us realize the opportunity that Amazon's headquarters offers to Arlington. Comprising two sustainably-designed office buildings, retail, child care, open space, transportation improvements, and more, this project will deliver benefits for its neighbors and the broader Arlington community. The Arlington Chamber of Commerce encourages the County Board to approve this site plan.

The Metropolitan Park project is the second stage of Amazon's headquarters, following space that Amazon has leased and begun to staff. The 2.1 million square feet of Class A office will bring vibrancy to its location. Combined with the eventual third stage in nearby Pen Place, this site will facilitate the planned hiring of 25,000 employees across the next decade. Small businesses will have opportunities to flourish in the buildings' 69,000 square feet of space for retail. Amazon plans to curate a range of retail offerings for these sites. One of the largest retail spaces will be dedicated for child care, helping to meet one of Arlington's most pressing community needs and the objectives of the Child Care Initiative.

The benefits for our community stretch far beyond the economic engine. Amazon is committing \$14 million for open space improvements, including an expanded green space at the center of Metropolitan Park. The pledged park master planning process will activate and enhance the expanded park and surrounding open space in collaboration with the neighborhood. A \$5 million investment will improve transportation around the project, with multimodal improvements to roads, sidewalks, streetscape, fully-protected bike lanes, and bus shelters. Renewable energy will power the LEED Platinum office space by 2030, helping to meet the goals of Arlington's Community Energy Plan. Moreover, the contribution of \$20 million to the Affordable Housing Investment Fund – the largest ever by a developer – builds on Amazon's existing commitments to help Arlington meet our housing affordability needs and the goals of the Affordable Housing Master Plan.

Welcoming Amazon offered Arlington a unique path to create jobs, support local business, and gain a partner committed to building a stronger community. We can take a big step forward by approving the Metropolitan Park site plan. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Bates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Bates
President & CEO

CC: Arlington County Board Vice Chair Libby Garvey and members Katie Cristol, Matt de Ferranti, and Erik Gutshall; County Manager Mark Schwartz; Peter Schultz and Matt Mattauszek, CPHD Planning Division