



October 19, 2021

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

Dear Chair de Ferranti,

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce supports the proposed amendment to Site Plan No. 167 to remove seven trees, to preserve one tree originally slated for removal, and to plant 11 additional new trees in the Crystal City Water Park. Further evaluation of the work required for the park update approved in March has shown that this amendment is necessary to allow for completion of the work to realize the vision of this park update. Moreover, the proposed amendment has received staff and community support.

As is noted in the staff report, preservation of the seven trees proposed for removal is not feasible under the approved plans for the Water Park update. The design of the park's elements was carefully considered to ensure that the approved elements would best support the community and a mix of active and passive park uses. In preparing to implement this design, it was found that four trees would conflict with necessary infrastructure for the water wall, one with the construction of the new ADA ramp from Crystal Drive, and two with planned streetscape and grading improvements. It was also found that one tree slated for removal can be preserved. The applicant is asking to preserve that tree, along with planting 11 additional new trees to replace those to be lost.

Arlington County staff and community leaders concur with the application. Planning staff found that "the proposed amendment involving a net loss of six (6) additional existing trees will not adversely impact public health or safety; be detrimental to the public welfare; or conflict with the master plans of the County." Neither the Forestry and Natural Resources Commission nor the Parks and Recreation Commission expressed any major concerns, and the Crystal City Civic Association expressed support for the amendment.

This amendment will help fulfill the vision articulated for the Crystal City Water Park. We encourage you to support it and 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 Katie Cristol and members Christian Dorsey, Libby Garvey, and Takis Karantonis; County Manager Mark Schwartz; Olivia Sontag, Department of Community Planning, Housing, and Development; Joanne Gabor, Department of Environmental Services; Max Ewart, Department of Parks and Recreation