



March 18, 2022

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

Dear Chair Cristol,

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce supports Marymount University's application for a site plan amendment to enable them to convert 133 units from residential use to hotel use at the Rixey Building on Glebe Road. This building has 267 units in total, which are currently used as student residences for seniors and graduate students. With this change, just under half of the units would be used to establish a hotel.

Marymount has begun a new Hospitality Management Program, and seeks to provide internships and experiential learning opportunities for its students. By giving them this hands-on opportunity to manage a hotel, the students can be much better prepared for the hospitality industry when they graduate. The pandemic caused a great deal of instability in the hospitality industry, resulting in employee shortages across all position levels, particularly within the hotel sector. Marymount's hands-on program will help rebuild that workforce, and provide a sustainable workforce pipeline for the hospitality sector in Arlington and throughout the region moving forward.

Arlington has lost 1,600 hotel rooms in the past two years, and as demand returns, these rooms will fill a need, while creating a new educational opportunity for students at Marymount. With the Holiday Inn across Fairfax Drive applying to be redeveloped to a residential building, these rooms will replace some of these nearby units that will be taken offline. Additionally, the new rooms will contribute additional revenue to the County through the Transient Occupancy Tax. We respectfully request that you approve the site plan amendment. Thank you for your consideration.

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 Christian Dorsey and members Matt de Ferranti, Libby Garvey, and Takis Karantonis; County Manager Mark Schwartz; Courtney Badger, Department of Community Planning, Housing, and Development; Rob Gibson, Department of Environmental Services; Marc McCauley, Arlington Economic Development