



January 20, 2023

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

Dear Chair Dorsey,

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce supports Item 33 on the January 21 County Board Agenda: Missing Middle Housing Ordinance Request to Advertise. Allowing for more density and a greater diversity of housing types in Arlington's single-family neighborhoods is an important component of ensuring that Arlington is a welcoming place to residents across all income levels, which is important to our workforce as well as to our community.

We are concerned that a cap on permits will minimize the positive effects that this ordinance could bring on housing affordability, and therefore we encourage the Board to forgo a cap. Given the nature of the process, it is unlikely that many builders would go through the trouble of rezoning when they can build more expensive homes by-right without the hassle and expense.

The Chamber supports the goal of this ordinance, and we urge the County to move forward with the ordinance. We appreciate the extent to which the County has engaged with the public on this matter. Advertising the ordinance is the next step in continuing our community conversation about Missing Middle Housing, and so we encourage the County Board to vote to advertise public hearings for this March. Additionally, we hope that the County remain mindful that this ordinance is just one portion of the larger effort to promote attainable housing in Arlington.

Thank you for your consideration of our 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 Matt de Ferranti, Katie Cristol, and Takis Karantonis; County Manager Mark Schwartz; Planning Director Anthony Fusarelli; Principal Planner Matthew Ladd.