



April 5, 2022

Anthony Fusarelli, Jr.  
Planning Director  
Arlington County Department of Community Planning, Housing, and Development  
2100 Clarendon Blvd, Suite 700  
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Fusarelli,

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce is writing regarding the proposed 4% increase in development fees. While we are not necessarily in opposition to this proposal, we do have some concerns about it, and we are hopeful that, if enacted, it will enable the Department of Community Planning, Housing, and Development (CPHD) to allow for improvements in service levels and avoid any further fee increases for many years to come.

We are pleased to see that CPHD will hire 16 new full-time employees, which we hope will help keep service levels up and enable projects to move through more efficiently. That said, we are concerned that with this fee increase in place, CPHD is only proposing to maintain or slightly increase current service levels. The Chamber is willing to support reasonable fee increases that result in increased service levels, but we cannot support a fee increase that does not result in any improvements. We hope that CPHD will do all that it can to ensure that the Department is able to complete more work as these fees go into effect and that pre-pandemic service levels will be the standard as we move forward. We also want to stress the importance of making sure that this fee increase is not a regular occurrence, but instead something done very infrequently and only when absolutely necessary.

Thank you for all of the work that you have done keeping this critical processes running during the unprecedented challenges of the past two years and 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 Chair Katie Cristol, Vice Chair Christian Dorsey and members Matt de Ferranti, Libby Garvey, and Takis Karantonis; County Manager Mark Schwartz