



March 13, 2026

Chair Kaydee Myers
Arlington Historic Affairs and Landmark Review Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Chair Myers,

On behalf of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce, I respectfully request that the Historic Affairs and Landmark Review Board decline to move forward with a proposed Local Historic District nomination for the Melwood property. A Local Historic District designation should not be sought without the agreement of a property owner, and County Staff does not recommend the property for such a designation.

Melwood has not sought and does not consent to a Local Historic District designation for its property. Arlington County's established precedent has been to decline historic designations that lack the consent of the property owner, and we urge the Board to honor that precedent here.

In addition, Arlington County determined that the property does not adhere to the level of historic integrity that would be required for this designation. The property has undergone substantial modification over four decades of private use, and Staff has concluded that it does not meet the requisite level of architectural integrity required for a Local Historic District designation. The Chamber believes that the Board should give significant weight to this professional determination.

Melwood is a valuable member of the Arlington community, and the project on this property will help address the shortage of affordable housing by creating 105 committed affordable housing units. We respectfully ask that the Board not move forward with the Local Historic District nomination. 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 Historic Affairs and Landmark Review Board; Lorin Farris, Historic Preservation Supervisor; Mical Durak, Historic Preservation Principal Planner.