

September 23, 2016

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

Dear Chairman Garvey:

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce appreciates the significant efforts of the Board, Planning Commission, staff and stakeholders leading up to the codification of the Realize Rosslyn Plan.

As you may recall, on behalf of our members, the Chamber expressed concerns over the lack of flexibility in the Realize Rosslyn Plan language. We continue to be concerned about the lack of economic feasibility that could result from some of the restrictions.

The Resolution passed by the Board in association with the Plan includes clarification of the role of the Plan as a guiding document and not a regulatory document which provided some additional flexibility. We urge the Board to view the implementation through this lens.

Again, all projects already go through an extensive SPRC process which mollifies any concerns about projects not being aligned with the greater community vision. Each project requires an extensive process with ample opportunity for community input along the way.

Because of this, it is unnecessary for codification to involve hyper-prescriptive language that could stagnate development and inhibit further placemaking efforts.

The current staff draft already reflects concessions from the business community. We have significant qualms about the potential additional codification of building height maps. We fear that it could severely limit Rosslyn's ability to attract the type of creative innovative development which would achieve the community vision for this key urban center of our County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kate Bates
President & CEO

CC: Arlington County Board members Jay Fisette, John Vihstadt, Katie Cristol, Christian Dorsey and County Manager Mark Schwartz