

April 7, 2020

James Schroll, LRPC Chair and Elizabeth Gearin, Co-Chair  
Long Range Planning Committee  
Arlington County Planning Commission  
2100 Clarendon Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Chair Schroll, and Gearin:

**RE: Support Statement for the proposed *Vision and Guiding Principles for the Shirlington Special General Land Use Plan Study Plus (3/19/2020)***

As members of the Village at Shirlington community, our shared mission is to promote civic, cultural, and general welfare, giving special attention to improvements beneficial to the Shirlington area in a manner consistent with the planning policies of Arlington County as a whole. We are pleased to offer this joint letter in support of the proposed *Vision and Guiding Principles for the Village at Shirlington Special General Land Use Plan Study Plus* published in March 2020.

We recognize and thank the Long Range Planning Committee of the Arlington Planning Commission for its leadership and County staff for their hard work and diligence to produce these Guiding Principles for the Village at Shirlington. The final draft reflects experience, thorough research, civic engagement and broad participation. We appreciate how carefully County staff has worked to address the many questions and concerns that have been raised while incorporating their professional expertise.

Shirlington is a community where people live, work, learn, and play, and the Village strives to be a leader as a safe, sustainable, and vibrant community. Each of our organizations has long-standing, deep ties to this community. We work together on large and small problems all the time. We hope that our united support of the proposed guiding principles will facilitate the work ahead on any Site Plan that will come forward in the future.

As drafted, the Principles reflect the diverse economic vitality and pedestrian-friendly character of Shirlington. We support the majority of the language and intent of the Guiding Principles. There is, however, one topic that needs reinforcement. We encourage the County to recognize the cultural and artistic aspects of the Village at Shirlington in the proposed Guiding Principle #1. The opening Vision statement articulates the importance of art and culture to the character of the community, but we feel the language used in the Guiding Principles diminishes their significance. The importance of entertainment, arts, and culture for the future vitality and diversity of uses in the Village should be a priority for the County as it is for all of us.

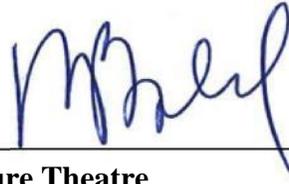
We are ready to move forward based on the Vision and Principles. We welcome the prospect of a strategic, careful increase in density that can lead to significant reinvestment in the Village. This will benefit the entire Four Mile Run Valley area. We look forward to reviewing a staff report and updates for the next steps. Thank you again for all the work that went into this first phase.

Respectfully submitted,



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**Shirlington Civic Association**  
Edith Wilson, President



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**Signature Theatre**  
Maggie Boland, Managing Director



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**WETA**  
Jason Daisey, Executive Vice President and  
Chief Operating Officer

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**Federal Realty Investment Trust (FRIT)**  
Jay Brinson, Vice President, Development

CC: Planning Commission Vice-Chair James Lantelme; Arlington County Board members Libby Garvey, Christian Dorsey, Katie Cristol, and Matt de Ferranti; County Manager Mark Schwartz; and Margret Rhodes and other CPHD Comprehensive Planning Staff