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Ms. Hannah Winant
COORDINATOR

February 18, 2021

TO: Arlington County Long Range Planning Commission (LRPC)
FROM: Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission (EPAC)
SUBJECT: Considerations for the 2021 Clarendon Sector Plan Update

The Arlington County Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission (EPAC) is charged with advising the Arlington County Board on issues related to the county's readiness to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from any emergency situation or hazard the County faces.

As you consider updates to the Clarendon Sector Plan, we respectfully request that you consider the following EPAC-identified preparedness priorities:

Unique Clarendon Sector Plan Emergency Planning Priorities

1. Future expansion requirements of a growing County

The Orange Line Corridor has expanded beyond what was anticipated in the 2006 Clarendon Sector Plan Update. With limited land in the area, the County should plan for long-term emergency needs and expansion options such as additional fire station bays and/or land for Police and Fire/EMS support beyond current requirements.

2. Basic Life Support Ambulance (BLS)

The bars and restaurants in Clarendon require Basic Life Support (BLS) services, personnel (fire fighter/fire volunteer) and equipment. Currently the calls are serviced with Advanced Life Support (ALS) equipment and paramedics, reducing availability for medical emergencies in the community. The County should ensure that Station design permits housing of a BLS unit and ability to accommodate housing for a crew of at least two (2) individuals for BLS call volume on weekend and holidays as well as special/surge events. Use of Certified EMT Fire Department personnel and volunteers would free the Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance and Paramedics to handle services requiring advanced equipment and training.

3. Primary/secondary Emergency Command Center (ECC)

The construction of a new station facility could incorporate a primary/secondary ECC to replace/backup the ECC at Courthouse. This is consistent with County plans to decentralization current Courthouse area functions. The ECC could be incorporated into Fire Department office space within the Station.

4. Fire Department Rescue Training Space

The existing Clarendon Fire Department space provides space for fire and rescue training and exercises. The space could be relocated within North Arlington. However, it is beneficial to locate the area near the Rescue equipment and personnel.

Thank you for consideration of these EPAC priorities for the Clarendon Sector Plan Update. Our commission looks forward to continuing to work with you and the County staff in making our community safer and more resilient.

Respectfully,

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cc: Arlington County Board
Brett Wallace, Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development