

Aurora Highlands CA request for RPP community engagement session

Stephen Crim <Scrim@arlingtonva.us>

Tue, Nov 17, 2020 at 1:50 PM

To: "Scott Miles, AHCA President" <president@aurorahighlands.org>

Cc: Dennis Leach <Dleach@arlingtonva.us>

Dear Mr. Miles:

Hello! I hope you're enjoying the fall sunshine.

Just in case you weren't aware, we are on the agenda for the Arlington Civic Federation meeting this evening at about 8:10 PM, and I encourage you and your neighbors to join the Zoom meeting and hear my presentation as well as ask questions. We will also be making presentations to the following commissions:

- Transportation Commission: November 23rd 2020
- Planning Commission: December 1st 2020
- Housing Commission: December 3rd 2020
- Tenant-Landlord Commission: December 9th 2020

At those Commission meetings, we will be presenting what we've heard about the proposed program (including your e-mail today!) in addition to the proposed program itself. We encourage you to attend and share your feedback at those meetings. We expect that the Commissions will recommend changes to our proposed program. The comments and recommendations from those Commission hearings will be part of what we present to the Board in December, and we will take direction from the Board on what to change before bringing back a final proposal for Board adoption in January.

We are not scheduling meetings with individual Civic Associations, but the concerns about enforcement, fees, and the proposed permit caps that you and your neighbors have shared with me are certainly shared by others across the County, and we will be sure to present them to the Commissions and the Board. Please do share the calendar of Commission meetings with your neighbors!

Have a good day, and I'll hope to have you in the Civic Federation meeting this evening.

Best,

Stephen Crim, AICP
Parking Manager

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Transportation Engineering & Operations
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From: Scott Miles, AHCA President <president@aurorahighlands.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 12:27 PM
To: Stephen Crim <Scrim@arlingtonva.us>
Cc: Dennis Leach <Dleach@arlingtonva.us>
Subject: Aurora Highlands CA request for RPP community engagement session

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside Arlington County.

Dear Mr. Crim,

I am writing about the County's proposed changes to the RPP program. We did not get the announcement in time to discuss this at our October meeting, and many of our residents were not aware of the forum that was held soon thereafter nor the October 28 deadline for providing feedback to the County.

We discussed it our November meeting last week, and many participants felt that they were left with many unanswered questions and concerns about the impact of the proposed changes on parking within Aurora Highlands. **Members at the meeting voiced unanimous opposition to the RPP changes as proposed without further clarification and discussion with the community.**

As you know, the RPP was born out of concerns regarding the impact of Crystal City commuter parking on our streets. The RPP has served us well in this regard over the decades. With commercial buildings filling up, along with many new residential units and retail establishments, we are again concerned about how the changes will affect our residential parking.

Aurora Highlands has many small rental properties. Some are multi-unit apartment buildings, but many others are multi-tenant single-family houses, i.e. "group houses." Some landlords of these properties have told us that the reduced availability of parking passes may limit their ability to rent these homes or force them to put in driveways to accommodate parking; the community is therefore concerned about adding more impervious surface, possibly at the expense of mature trees.

The biggest concern raised was about enforcement, and the likelihood that parkers will overstay their limit. A two-hour restriction is only good if it is frequently enforced. As confirmed by RPP staff at the Q&A session, "decisions about enforcement are based on police resources and their ability to send out staff for parking enforcement." Is allocating many more police hours to patrolling for parking violators an efficient use of budget or police staff time? Will revenue generated pay for the constant enforcement necessary near areas with high numbers of commuters and retail users?

We had been led to believe, from the last meeting about RPP in the neighborhood, that there would be further engagement before a final plan was rolled out. Although we understand that the Covid pandemic has hampered public engagement, **we request an opportunity for a virtual meeting with staff and the community to answer outstanding questions and clarify impacts specific to this area.** We don't want to see a return to the conditions in our neighborhood that prompted the creation of the RPP program to begin with.

Sincerely,

Scott Miles
President
Aurora Highlands Civic Association

