

Subject: Aurora Highlands opposes proposed RPP changes  
From: "Scott Miles, AHCA President" <president@aurorahighlands.org>  
Date: 1/25/21, 2:27 PM  
To: CountyBoard <CountyBoard@arlingtonva.us>  
CC: Stephen Crim <Scrim@arlingtonva.us>, Dennis Leach <dleach@arlingtonva.us>



## AURORA HIGHLANDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

January 25, 2021

Dear Chairman de Ferranti and Members of the County Board,

The Aurora Highlands Civic Association has met several times to discuss the proposed changes to the Residential Parking Program. Although there has been an openness to consider changes and there seemed to be some movement to accept some of the provisions, particularly the changes to the fee structure, the inability to get answers to questions and an assurance about enforcement of the new provisions resulted in a vote at our January meeting to oppose the proposed RPP changes completely.

**Insufficient reasoning and engagement.** Our residents are still asking why any changes are needed that justify disrupting a program that has been working well in our area since its inception. We have invited the County to present and discuss these changes to residents on multiple occasions since November after the proposed changes were announced, and they have declined on each occasion.

**Enforcement is impossible.** AHCA residents were most concerned that paid parking limits have no corresponding plan for adequate enforcement, and are in fact essentially unenforceable. The County's EasyPark device would allow people parking to continually refresh their 2-hour limit. The ParkMobile app does require a 30-minute lag, but without continuous enforcement, it would be virtually impossible to prevent reuse. It is not unrealistic to foresee that paid parking could result in residential streets becoming filled with commuter parking—the very thing that precipitated the creation of the RPP program here decades ago.

**Pitfalls of reducing number of passes.** Our neighborhood also contains many rental houses shared by unrelated individuals who require cars. Some of these properties lack driveways. Reducing the number of passes available to an address could force landowners to cover existing greenspace and remove trees to add driveways for tenants.

**One-size-fits-all is inappropriate.** It is clear that among the many RPP areas of the county there are big differences in the parking challenges and the character of the neighborhoods. There are disparities in the mix of high-density vs single-family residences. Some neighborhoods are adjacent to busy retail

areas. Others, like ours, have all of these in addition to nearby commercial buildings with many employees who commute. It is hard to see how this one-size-fits all approach is workable throughout our neighborhood, much less the entire county.

**No ability to evaluate effects.** Staff have conceded that there will be no effort to collect data by which they can evaluate the effects, or effectiveness, of the changes. Neighbors are justifiably concerned that the shift to maximize street parking will naturally have adverse impacts on resident access, traffic, safety, and other factors currently spelled out in the intent of the program—which the County is also proposing to remove. Staff hope for and expect improved “parking management.” DES will have no data on which they can evaluate either the intended improvements or the problems reported by residents, nor have they provided plan by which residents could be assured that problems would be addressed. Without these essential components, it is not justifiable to assert the proposed changes are “incremental” or “evolutionary”.

Until the department can better articulate the need for these changes, how they will monitor them, and how they will enforce them, we urge the County Board to reject the proposed changes to the RPP program.

Sincerely,

/Scott Miles/

President

Aurora Highlands Civic Association

cc:

Stephen Crim, DES

Dennis Leach, DES

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Scott Miles, President

Aurora Highlands Civic Association

[www.aurorahighlands.org](http://www.aurorahighlands.org)