



AURORA HIGHLANDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

June 17, 2024

Mr. Omari A. Davis, Chair
Historic Affairs and Landmark Review Board
Arlington County
2100 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Chair Davis,

I am writing concerning the proposed Local Historic District for the Nellie Custis School at 750 23rd Street South that is due for preliminary consideration at the HALRB meeting on Thursday, June 20, 2024. The former Nellie Custis School is in the center of our civic association neighborhood and has been an important part of the life of our community going back to its construction over a century ago and as recently as the polling place for the June 2024 primary elections and currently as the location of three nonprofits.

At our Civic Association meeting on June 12, 2024, the membership voted nearly unanimously to support the application for a Local Historic District for the school. Our members feel that the building meets enough of the factors to warrant further study and eventual listing. We hope the HALRB concurs with this recommendation. Arlington has preserved little of its historical daily use buildings such as this school. With appropriate adaptive reuse, we have an opportunity to not only preserve a tangible link to our past, but, to show how reuse can benefit the community—a great model for the future and a vital part of Arlington's commitment to sustainability. After all, the most environmentally friendly building is the one that's already built.

Sincerely,

Rachel Hicks
President

CC: Mical Tawney, HALRB Staff

HALRB Members
Mark Schwartz, County Manager
Arlington County Board