



## AURORA HIGHLANDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

March 5, 2024

Mr. Cedric Southerland  
Associate Planner, Current Planning  
Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development  
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 700  
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Use Permit Review for Avis Car Rental at 601 & 701 12th Street South

Dear Mr. Southerland,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the use permit review for the Avis car rental facility at 601 and 701 12th Street South. As we stated in our letter to the County Board dated March 10, 2023 (attached), the Association has no objection to the proposal for Avis to undertake an interim use as a neighborhood car rental facility while the owners of the property prepare a redevelopment plan for the site. We are pleased that our traffic concerns, discussed in the March 2023 letter and raised in conversations with County Staff and the applicant, have been taken into consideration. Since the site has not yet begun operations, we would request that this use permit once again be for a limited period of time so that the County and neighborhood can see the operational impacts of the facility.

We would also like to reiterate our concerns with the existing Avis facility at 2600 Richmond Highway. Members of the Association are concerned about traffic being routed out through the South Eads Street gates and then directly to 26th Street South. That is the route recommended by various way-finding apps for connecting to I-395, regardless of whether the destination is DC or the suburbs to the west. This significantly affects traffic and safety on neighborhood streets and increases in drivers distracted by driving directions through unfamiliar territory, likely on their phones and focused on driving directions, into an entirely residential area.

Members have also reported Avis employees in orange vests driving cars at a high rate of speed through the neighborhood on various local streets connected to and adjacent with South Eads Street. Avis employees appear to cut through the neighborhood to avoid lights using South Fern Street and other neighborhood streets to reach some other destination they must regularly take the cars. With a new location considered by this permit we are even more concerned that the cut through traffic will increase. Therefore, we request once again that all traffic enter and exit from the Richmond Highway side of the facility.

Sincerely yours,

Rachel Hicks  
President

Attachment: AHCA letter to County Board dated March 10, 2023