



April 14, 2021

Subject: CCCA-AHCA-ARCA Priorities, Capital Improvement Program 2021

Dear County Manager Schwartz,

As you are preparing the CIP, we the representatives of the three 22202 civic associations, wish to reiterate our highest priorities, as we did in our letter to you of March 14, 2020:

1. **Funding for development of the 18th Street Metro Plaza Square** – This area between the existing and proposed Metro entrances can become one of the most attractive open spaces in Crystal City, if done correctly. With the multimodal transportation hub the County has created at Crystal Drive and 18th Street, there will be many visitors as well as residents who will want to enjoy this space. The minimal funding in the current CIP is years in the future for this project which the community has long desired. Money should be urgently put into the CIP for the park area to be designed and developed now, especially since the second Metro entrance is entering the design stage.
2. **Funding for the Center Park (in conjunction with the 1900 Crystal Drive redevelopment)** – There is currently no funding in the CIP for this park, despite the fact that building development at 1900 began on April 12, 2021. With plans for a potential library/community center to border the park area, we must design and develop a park that has long been considered in the Crystal City Sector Plan as the “Center” Park.
3. **A Master Plan for the Virginia Highlands Park** - With its central location and the commencement of increased development adjacent to Virginia Highlands Park (VHP), its utilization is set to increase sharply. With a diverse set of stakeholders and needs, VHP needs a deliberate planning effort to re-envision the park for a new generation of residents. Long running community conversations and the ideas generated during the recent Livability 22202 Open Space workshop have established the opportunity to leverage these ideas and discussions into an executable master plan.

Finally, as you know, Livability22202 has put a lot of effort into **connectivity issues** and designing an Integrated Pedestrian Map with greenways or green ribbons throughout 22202. We are pleased to hear that you support this concept and that the CCCRC endorsed your idea. If you

find that a mechanism for such funding of Greenway segments is feasible, we would wholeheartedly support it

We recognize the difficulty of developing a sound CIP budget in the current pandemic climate, and appreciate your efforts to focus on the highest priorities for communities like ours and others in Arlington.

Sincerely,



Michael Pickford
President
Arlington Ridge CA



Scott Miles
President
Aurora Highlands CA



Carol Fuller
President
Crystal City CA