



March 14, 2020

Subject: CCCA-AHCA-ARCA Priorities, Capital Improvement Program 2020

Dear County Manager Schwartz,

On January 17 when the three 22202 civic association (CA) presidents—along with the chair of the CCCRC —met with you, you asked us to present to you our top three priorities for the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). As you can imagine, reaching consensus among the three CAs is not an easy matter, but we achieved it with the Livability Framework and are now providing you with a consensus on our priorities. That is an indication of the importance we place on these issues.

Obviously, with all of the development that is coming to 22202 in the next five years—4,000 new residential units alone just in the Crystal City area—there are many issues that the County must address on a priority basis. Some of these include: a library/community center in Crystal City, community and open spaces in Pen Place area of the community, the traffic study for not only the PDSP for Pentagon City, but the surrounding area, and perhaps a new fire station, as you proposed.

Moreover, our top priorities for the CIP were solidified in the recent Open Space Workshop held jointly by the three CA's under the Livability Framework February 22, which included consideration of a centrally located school. There were many creative ideas generated, with the consensus that livable Open Space has to be a top priority of the County for our area. School space is also becoming a critical need, and given that site selection may be necessarily become part of open space considerations, we urge APS to start a study or working group with the charter of siting new school seats in 22202. We agree on the need for:

- 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 upper park area to be designed and developed now, without waiting for the building of the lower park by the proposed new entrance.

- 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 is likely to begin very soon. With plans for a potential library and 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.
- 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.
- A 22202 Elementary School Study – An elementary school centrally located in 22202 is required to accommodate the inevitable increase in school age children in our community as population increases due to development. Given the long timelines associated with school site selection, design and construction, we request this study be started now to ensure the school facility is delivered in a timely manner.

You requested that we come back to meet with you by early April but provide our top priorities in advance. We would therefore welcome a meeting with you in the near future to go over these priorities and other issues.

Sincerely,

/Carol Fuller/
President
Crystal City CA

/Scott Miles/
President
Aurora Highlands CA

/Michael Pickford/
Vice President
Arlington Ridge CA

cc: County Board