

Email sent to Arlington County Board on December 16, 2022

Dear County Board members,

I am writing in regards to Agenda Item number 5 for your December 17th meeting, to consider relocation of the Arlington Community School from Building 3 at the Amazon Pen Place Development, to Building 1. AHCA is concerned with this proposal. While we are happy to be the home of this important community resource, this move represents a significant change to the Pen Place Site Plan, which received months of discussions over several Long Range and Site Plan Committee meetings.

The current placement of the school, at the corner of Fern and Army Navy drives, made sense, given that is likely to be one of the lower trafficked areas of the site. The school's presence, with its student and teacher population throughout the day, would have done a good job engaging that corner. However, the proposal to move it to the building fronting 12th and Eads will negatively impact the activation of 12th Street called for in the Pentagon City Sector Plan, which identifies 12th street, between Eads and Fern, as, " Highest priority locations for active retail." A school does not fit this profile.

We ask the County Board to not adopt the proposed Site Plan Amendment Ordinance until further conversation can be had through a community input process to discuss the tradeoffs at hand with a permanent change to the fabric of our neighborhood. While we understand the desire to open the school on the anticipated timeline, it may not be worth the trade offs here.

Very sincerely,

Cory Giacobbe  
President, Aurora Highlands Civic Association