



Barcroft School and Civic League
800 S. Buchanan Street
Arlington, VA 22204

May 20, 2015

Affordable Housing Study Group
Department of Community Planning, Housing, and Development
2100 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Members of the Affordable Housing Study Group:

The Barcroft School and Civic League (BSCL) thanks you for the opportunity to express our views on the draft Arlington Affordable Housing Master Plan. After extensive discussion at a special May 14, 2015 meeting, the BSCL adopted the following resolution.

1. **The BSCL supports increasing affordable housing options in Arlington.** Affordable housing is essential for the character and inclusiveness of our community, and for the many BSCL members and neighbors who require it. It promotes needed diversity in the County, it provides opportunity and stability for low-income individuals and families, and it supports our business community.
2. **In 2011, the County Board wisely set a policy of geographic distribution of non-elderly affordable housing throughout the County.** Geographic distribution of affordable housing is essential to promote true diversity within the County, where people of different backgrounds (economic and otherwise) live near each other, interact with each other, and send their children to the same schools. Heavy concentration of low-income families within a neighborhood school district like Barcroft makes providing its traditionally excellent education much more difficult for the teachers and staff, and it is a disservice to the children who attend there. Moreover, while students can perform well in “high-poverty” schools, such circumstances make educational success in many South Arlington schools more difficult to achieve for all our promising young students and our hardworking and talented teachers, staff, and principals.
3. **The County’s 2011 policy of geographic distribution has not been achieved.** The County Board’s policy calls for 15 percent of affordable housing to be located along Columbia Pike (Neighborhood Service Areas F and G). The reality is that, in the last decade, 39 percent of new committed affordable housing was located along Columbia Pike. Seventy-five percent of all new affordable housing since 2009 was located along

Columbia Pike. Conversely, the County Board's policy calls for 25 percent of affordable housing to be located in far North Arlington (Neighborhood Service Areas A, B and C), while the reality is 7 percent in the last decade and only 2 percent since 2009.

4. **The current draft Affordable Housing Master Plan abandons geographic distribution as a goal for affordable housing.** The County has not achieved its 2011 goal of geographic distribution, and the abandonment of that goal is unwise policy and contrary to the goals of affordable housing.

5. **The BSCL therefore supports the County's goal of increasing affordable housing in the County if the current goal of geographic distribution of affordable housing is retained in the Affordable Housing Master Plan and the County embraces policies to substantially address that goal, which to date has not been meaningfully addressed.** The BSCL does not support additional non-elderly affordable housing along the Columbia Pike corridor that increases the existing imbalance in geographic distribution of affordable housing.

Sincerely,



Christopher T. Kupczyk
President

cc: Arlington County Board
Arlington School Board
Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization