



NAACP

Office of the General Counsel

March 14, 2023

Christian Dorsey, President
Libby Garvey, Vice-Chair
Katie Cristol
Matt de Ferranti
Takis P. Karantonis
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Arlington's Proposed Rezoning Initiative

Dear President Dorsey, Vice-Chair Garvey, and Members of the Arlington County Board:

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People ("NAACP"), the oldest civil rights organization in the nation, has become aware of recent amendments to Arlington's proposed rezoning initiative. This rezoning initiative disproportionately negatively affects Black residents. Rather, Arlington's original rezoning plan would put affordable rental and home-ownership in Arlington in reach of Black and other community members of color.

The Arlington Chapter of the NAACP recently wrote to express its objection to recent amendments to the rezoning plan. Specifically, the Chapter raised concerns that amendments to the Zoning Ordinance and General Land Use Plan would cap the maximum units per lot in much of Arlington at six units instead of the previously proposed eight and thereby put renting or homeownership in Arlington out of reach for many would-be residents of color. We reiterate those concerns. In short, the amendments would prevent Black and other people of color from moving into Arlington. Consequently, the NAACP requests that the County Board explain its reasoning reducing the proposed maximum units per lot in Arlington.

We are gravely concerned that the proposed amendments will hinder the beneficial effects of increasing housing density, disproportionately put affordable housing out of the reach of Arlingtonians of color, and prevent the proposed land use plan from achieving its stated goal of reversing the impact of decades of segregationist housing policy in Arlington.

We request that the County Board reconsider and reverse its decision to reduce the maximum unit size in the proposed Zoning Ordinance and General Land Use Plan. If, however, the Board denies this request, we ask that the Board provide the NAACP with a thorough explanation of the reasoning behind this decision, including any evaluation of the potential effect on Black residents and other residents of color. We await your response and we look forward to speaking with you.

Thank you,

Janette M. Wallace

Janette McCarthy Wallace
General Counsel