

## NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

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Pete Benavage displays a color-coded map of zones in Alexandria, as he describes the potential impact of proposed zoning changes during the February meeting of the Alexandria Republican City Committee.

### **Local GOP Discusses Possible City Proposal to Eliminate Single Family Zones**

ALEXANDRIA, VA –

The Alexandria Republican City Committee (ARCC) discussed local zoning at its February meeting. Committee members were concerned about the potential elimination of single-family housing zones in Alexandria, an idea that was well received at the city's recent Housing Summit 2020.

Pete Benavage, ARCC member and President of the Seminary West Civic Association, reported that at the Housing Summit 2000, Mayor, Wilson expressed his approval of the Minneapolis 2040 up-zoning plan and was prepared to adopt a similar plan for Alexandria. The plan would permit replacement of single-family residential zoning with zoning permitting up to four-unit residential dwellings.

Benavage noted that no one spoke against the idea at the Summit or cited a well-researched 2019 study by Yonah Freemark of MIT. Freemark found that in Chicago where up-zoning was instituted, it failed to affect housing construction for up to five years after passage, and up-zoning made new housing more expensive by causing increases in building costs. Moreover, new housing starts were in affluent areas. These failures undercut the goals of the up-zoning initiatives. (Finally, the Virginia Assembly failed to pass similar up-zoning legislation earlier this month.)

Sean Lenehan, ARCC Chairman, conducted a vote on the issue. ARCC members were unanimous in their opposition to the elimination of single-family housing zoning.

ARCC (at [www.alexgop.org](http://www.alexgop.org) ) is the local branch of the national Republican Party. The Commonwealth Republican Women's Club (CRWC) is the Alexandria chapter of the National Federation of Republican Women. More information is available at [www.alexandriacrwc.org](http://www.alexandriacrwc.org) .

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