

The Affordable Housing Master Plan Resolution

Whereas the code of Virginia requires a housing component be developed and included in each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan which shall include:

...the designation of areas and implementation of measures for the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of affordable housing, which is sufficient to meet the current and future needs of residents of all levels of income in the locality while considering the current and future needs of the planning district within which the locality is situated. § 15.2-2223. and;

Whereas the ability to provide sufficient housing affordable to people at all income levels is increasingly important for meeting Arlington County's full economic development potential, and;

Whereas the Affordable Housing Master Plan (AHMP) was developed by staff, consultants and 18 members of various Commissions during a period of more than two and a half years and;

Whereas the AHMP establishes three goals to provide direction for the County's affordable housing policy: an adequate supply of housing, access to housing for all segments of the community, and housing that contributes to a sustainable community, and;

Whereas the Master Plan was presented for widespread community input at five public forums, to various Commissions and at more than forty meetings of civic and neighborhood organizations, including the Arlington County Civic Federation twice, and;

Whereas the Master Plan incorporates County Board policy regarding affordable housing and parkland by stating in 3.5.2:

"Consider affordable housing needs and goals when planning for major capital investment in new or redeveloping existing major community facilities, taking into account the neighborhood context. The County Board does not support the placement of stand-alone affordable housing in officially designated parks or existing natural areas."

Whereas the Implementation Framework of the AHMP considers concentrations of poverty and states:

"In areas of the County designated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as racially or ethnically concentrated areas of poverty (R/ECAP), AHIF or other County funds would only be used for the preservation or replacement of existing affordable rental units (MARK's or CAF's), or for ownership housing," and;

Whereas the Affordable Housing Master Plan reflects the County's values of diversity, inclusivity, and sustainability and includes objectives in support of those values, including ensuring that low- and moderate-income individuals and families can access housing, enabling residents to age in the community and enabling persons with disabilities to live as independently as possible, therefore,

Be it Resolved that the Arlington County Civic Federation support the County's adoption of the Affordable Housing Master Plan as the Housing Element in the Comprehensive Plan.

Kathryn Scruggs, Arlington County Civic Federation, Housing Committee Chair
May 26, 2015