

Resolution to Restore the Public's Confidence in Arlington County Governance

Sponsored by 4 Past Presidents

Mike McMenamin 2014 – 2015

Stefanie Pryor 2015 – 2017

Duke Banks 2017 – 2019

Sandy Newton 2019 – 2020

Resolution is available in its entirety in a link in the chat for online participants and handouts for in-person participants

Do these issues matter to your member organization?

- Resolution Requiring Publication of External Consultant Report on the Police Practices of Arlington, passed May 2021
- Resolution on Immediately Updating the Arlington Tree Canopy Studies, passed March 2021
- Resolution in Support of Desired Open Space Equity in Arlington, passed February 2021
- Resolution for Flood Mitigation and Stormwater Management for a Flood-Resilient Arlington, passed November 2019
- Resolution for Parkland Acquisition, passed February 2016

Arlington Way Principles and Processes

Sponsors	Substitute
<p>1. Recommit to the “Arlington Way” principles and processes by where the intent of community engagement is to give community members a meaningful role at the decision-making table by including the public in robust two-way conversations – by providing more opportunities at the decision-making table, by ensuring that its engagement methods adequately inform residents of policies in development and fairly capture the range of diverse views within the community, incorporate and address public concerns and ideas; acknowledge and address substantive public criticism; encourage a diversity of thought and information in all processes; improve accessibility of information about policies in development, explaining how public input shapes those policies, and engaging with more residents—including renters, lower-income residents, disabled residents, and residents of color fully answer the public’s questions and concerns (providing all relevant information/documentation whether or not it supports the County’s position); provide a full accounting of support and public participation; identify areas of common objectives to build genuine consensus in order to produce outcomes that better serve the community’s interest and are perceived as legitimate, unbiased, and fair; improve engagement timeframes; hold regular meetings of the County Board and advisory groups in neighborhoods of historically marginalized residents, provide information in advance with proper notice; create neutral survey tools to collect statistically valid, unskewed results; improve transparency of the Board’s monitoring of the implementation of policy; create an equitable balance between development interests and residents’ interests; relax public comment requirements and reduce reliance on both Consent Agenda and Closed Sessions; and further expand the Six Step Guide beyond Capital Projects, such as planning and zoning initiatives; expand public notice, engagement times, engagement timeframes and languages; revisit prior recommendations to improve civic engagement; and realign the County Ombuds role to allow for independence from County operations;</p>	<p>1. <i>Recommitting to the Arlington Way by publicly pledging to improve the County’s methods for engaging with its residents, in collaboration with the Arlington County Civic Federation and other community groups;</i> 2. <i>Hosting more public meetings with opportunities for live, two-way conversations with County Board Members, the County Manager, and County Staff, including by holding some regular meetings of the County Board and advisory groups in neighborhoods of historically marginalized residents and at more convenient times;</i></p>

Resolution Topic:

LACK of TRANSPARENCY & ENFORCEMENT in COMMUNITY BENEFITS FOR BONUS DENSITY

Original Resolution: *the outcome of land-use planning and development processes appears to focus almost exclusively on increasing density and satisfying developers' goals and interests without providing specific metrics to document an equitable focus on achieving a balanced outcome that mitigates negative community impacts and enhances the long-term livability of both existing and new residents*

Substitution resolution authors response: **“Disagree Strongly”**

Evidence to support the clause and concerns:

- Lack of community benefits in most all projects; Amazon, Pentagon City Sector Plan...
- Audits not conducted for community benefit implementation/ review shows that community benefits enforcement is not followed through,
- Buck” (now “Quincy”) site swap included a land swap with Arcland Properties that would have given Arcland what appeared to be the most useable portion of the property.

Resolution Topic:

COUNTY DISMISSES CONCERNS

Original Resolution: *it appears to many residents that the Arlington County Board and County Manager frequently dismiss concerns of individuals, civic groups, civic associations, multi-family residence associations, and the Arlington County Civic Federation*

Substitution resolution authors response: “Agree that many residents have this impression”

Evidence to support the clause and concerns: The substitute resolution authors do NOT actually agree on this - They only agree that residents have that “impression”

- Serrano apartments – “poor health and safety environment for some residents at the Serrano Apartments; (2) why attempts to address the issues from 2019 until May 2021 were not successful; and (3) develop recommendations to ensure that a similar situation does not happen again.”
- Bicyclist killed, County still appears to ignore repeated requests to improve safety at S. Rolfe, Queen, Washington Blvd Intersection
- There was another fatal crash near Nottingham Elementary School in October 2022. Four-Mile Run Valley and the role of minority community input/concerns diminished in the process

Resolution Topic:

SUBSTANTIVE CONCERNS

Original Resolution: *marginalize or stifle substantive criticism ...about proposed County policies*

Substitution resolution authors response: “Agree that many residents have this impression”

Evidence to support the clause and concerns: The substitute resolution authors do NOT actually agree on this - They only agree that residents have that “impression”

- Policy implementation: Equity policy (i.e. Arlington Analytics report on access to equitable access to Open Public Spaces) Biophilia policy- Pentagon City Sector Plan. Former Commission who worked on this policy voiced concerns.
- Surveys: Survey biases, lack transparency in methods and results; Courthouse West Survey, The Residential Parking Program (RPP) survey’s methods and results appear to lack transparency.
- Public Art Master Plan - offensive references, Green Valley concerns, Arlington Transit Operations and Maintenance Facility, Clarendon Safety and Innovation Zone community feedback concerns...

Resolution Topic:

LACK of TRANSPARENCY

Original Resolution: *the current Arlington County Board, County Manager and staff conduct processes ... that, from the perspective of many affected residents, lack transparency and seem to be designed to reach a single, predetermined conclusion (e.g., Sector Plan updates, Public Spaces Master Plan update, Site Plan approvals, increased density and other mechanisms) without addressing substantive community concerns expressed during the process*

Substitution resolution authors response: “Agree that many residents have this impression though the examples listed are land-use decisions...”

Evidence to support the clause and concerns: The substitute resolution authors do NOT actually agree on this - They only agree that residents have that “impression.” And they believe that all examples are land use. Untrue

- Public Spaces Master Plan – data arbitrarily changed to meet more desirable results
- Western Rosslyn (WRAPS) – Memo signed with developer before the public process began
- Little to no changes in the plan despite numerous participants or concerns expressed; Residential Parking Program (RPP), Pentagon City Sector Plan, Ft Radnor Heights, Virginia Hospital Center Febrey Lothrop property

Transparency and Access to Data

Sponsors	Substitute resolution
<p>2. Support in spirit (not just the letter of the law) open-data and open-government principles and regulations by revamping the county's current policies and methods, especially with respect to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, to ensure the prompt release of all relevant data and to significantly reduce the withholding of information or making the public pay to obtain public information. Make all notices, policies, guidance, data, analysis and objectives available to the public before, during and after each process; allowing participants to observe meetings and review notes from ALL county meetings including using technology to record and livestream its public meetings, to publish all residents' feedback frequently and broadly, and to restore transparency in all its process and engagement activities; and providing public notices to larger audience bases to comply with the spirit of the law;</p>	<p>10. <i>“Enable free public access to all data, third party analyses, and other information relied on to develop policy recommendations, without requiring FOIA requests;”</i></p> <p>7. <i>“Ensuring that minutes and recordings of meetings of the County Board and advisory commissions are prepared and posted within 24 hours to County’s website”</i></p>

These are the specifics that we need to create real impact

Access to Data

Sponsors	Substitute resolution
<p>3. Reconvene and reinvigorate the Arlington County Open Data Advisory Group and Open Data Portal; develop a more sophisticated, data-driven toolkit for anticipating and addressing likely impacts from County policies; encourage the County Manager, Staff, and County Advisory Groups to use the best available data and data driven analysis to form their recommendations; and allow the public free access to all data, analysis, and information made available to County commissions and other Advisory Groups, including data sources, methodology and data analysis results; make additional information available in the Open Data Portal such as conflict of interest, financial, real estate, candidate and other disclosures as well as County award applications, conference presentations, papers, articles, policies, Advisory Group appointment/tenures, Six Step Guide and other engagement documentation;</p>	<p>4. <i>Investing more resources in comprehensive planning and developing a more sophisticated, data-driven toolkit for anticipating, addressing, and communicating likely impacts from County policies;</i></p>

These are the specifics that we need to create real impact

Commissions and Advisory Groups

Sponsors	Substitute resolution
<p>4. Reinvigorate and empower County Commissions and other Advisory Groups by recruiting and selecting members with a wider diversity of perspectives and backgrounds; by offering them unfettered access to all relevant data, analysis and information; and by applying the same county open-data, open-government and public- engagement standards to enable these volunteer groups to better meet their intended purpose—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bolstering recruitment for County advisory groups by advertising vacancies more prominently and sharing more information about selection criteria; • Advise the Board consistent with their roles in publicly and systematically setting and monitoring the implementation of policy; • Serve as an essential link between elected officials and the governed, eliciting meaningful public/community feedback and providing an open and neutral forum for discussing and sharing information, ideas, concerns and suggestions; • Evaluate and critically analyze policy, plan and project proposals or changes, using all relevant sources of information and data (tapping volunteer experts in the community, as available and as necessary) to provide part-time County Board members with as much objective information and independent analysis as possible to support better informed decision-making that furthers and protects the community’s interests; • Update the Advisory Group Handbook to accurately reflect roles and responsibilities and provide more detailed guidance to Advisory Groups, Chairs, Board Liaisons and Staff Liaisons; • Reinstitute and improve the Staff Liaison Handbook and provide Staff Liaison training; 	<p><i>8. Reinvigorating County advisory groups by advertising vacancies more prominently, sharing more information about selection criteria, selecting candidates to capture the diversity of residents’ views and backgrounds, and updating and training on handbooks for members and staff liaisons;</i></p>

Commissions and Advisory Groups

Sponsors	Substitute resolution
<p>5. Establish interdepartmental after-action, lessons-learned review committees (including community representatives) to track/document outcomes and continuously improve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorize review to collect data (and, where necessary, to request the collection of relevant data) for analysis of major policy/procedure, planning and project initiatives or changes to empirically determine what has worked, what hasn't worked (and why) in order to recommend changes that correct negative or unintended consequences, better inform future decision-making, and improve outcomes going forward. • Apply the same county open-data, open-government and public-engagement standards. Publicly present lessons learned, improvement recommendations and implementation, and other information to the County Board consistent with the Board's role of monitoring the implementation of policy; 	<p><i>9. Conducting retrospective studies on major County policies to determine whether they achieved their goals or had unintended consequences, and publishing the results;</i></p>

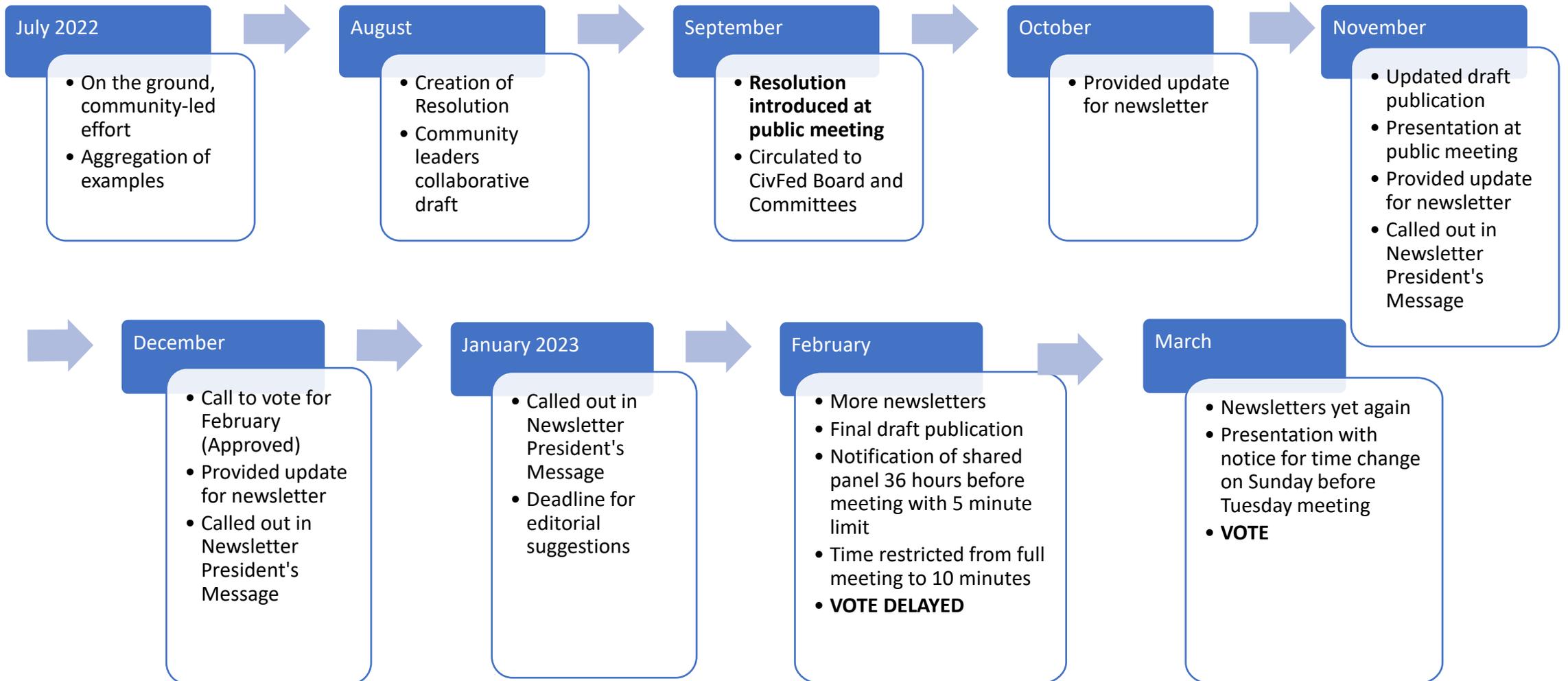
Smart Growth Policies: Data driven decisions

Sponsors	Substitute resolution
<p>6. Enact a policy preventing the implementation of plans, policies or projects (new major initiatives or revisions) in the absence of a thorough and data-supported analysis of the potential and cumulative impacts (net effects on costs, budgets, personnel, capacity and service delivery).</p>	<p>4. Investing more resources in comprehensive planning and developing a more sophisticated, data-driven toolkit for anticipating, addressing, and communicating likely impacts from County policies;</p>

Website: Agreement!

Sponsors	Substitute resolution
7. Updating and maintaining the County's website to fix broken links promptly and make pertinent information about County policies more accessible	<i>5. Updating and maintaining the County's website to fix broken links promptly, highlight major initiatives, and make pertinent information about County policies more accessible;</i>

Resolution: Public Notices



Understand Reservations

- Our resolution is longer and more detailed.
 - Because it needs to be
 - Because it includes much more than the substitute resolution
- Our resolution is more opinionated / direct.
 - Because we have listened to all of you, and included all of you
 - Watering down the resolution is counter productive

"To be persuasive, we must be believable; to be believable, we must be credible; to be credible, we must be truthful."

Edward R. Murrow

Summary

The Substitute is an OK resolution.

- Mostly asks the County to do things it already wants to do.
- Silent on providing transparency and accountability we desperately need.
- Increase engagement, but does not improve the confidence in your engagement.
- Essentially – attend even more meetings. Does not value your time, input, no assurance of community needs, nor data-driven decisions or sound analysis for future confidence of a good livable community -- no schools, parks, infrastructure, etc..

Our resolution *actually* addresses **Public Confidence**

- allows you to engage better
- increases transparency in detailed ways -- supports policy reviews, -- also includes residents and the authority to access required information.
- improves accountability -- for more data -- also honest accounting and transparency in community benefits and what shapes our communities.

The sub. res. authors want you to delay *indefinitely* – that’s what the County wants you to do too.

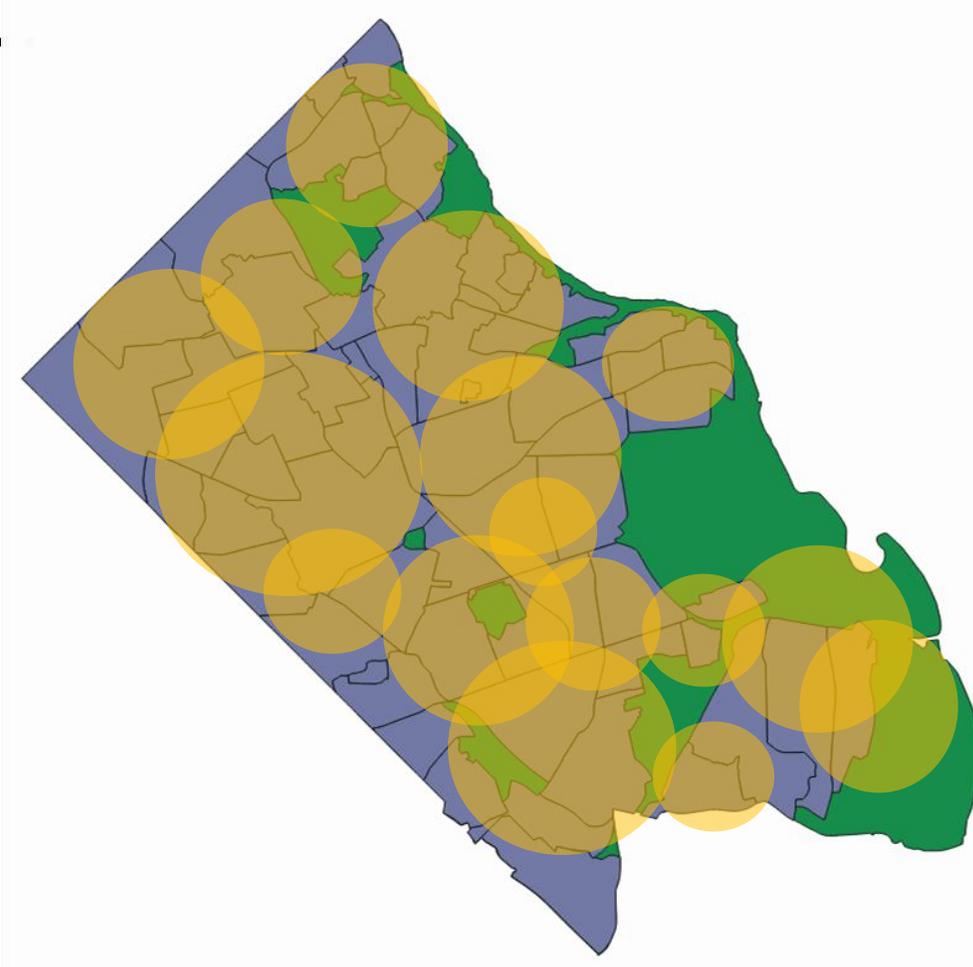
We did our homework. We need change now. Our communities need a voice now.

Back Up Materials

Additional Sites for More Data

- <https://restoreconfidenceinarlingtonvagov.com>
- <https://www.arlington-analytics.com/index.php>

Siloed concerns and frustrations in each community...



Different communities, different issues,
but the core tactics and outcomes were almost always the same

Issues in transparency, accountability and inclusivity in Arlington County governance



A Flurry of Activity at the Serrano Apartments After Residents Decry Conditions

Jo DeVoe May 20, 2021 at 3:45pm

Dirty plumbing systems with mold, standing water in one unit of the Serrano Apartments (Photo courtesy Elder Julio Basurto)

Virginia Courts Case Information

Name List Pleadings/Orders Services Main Menu Logoff

Arlington County Circuit - Civil Division
Case Details

Case Number: CL22002001-00	Filed: 05/25/22
Filing Type: Declaratory Judgment	
Number of Plaintiffs: 0001	Number of Defendants: 0004
Commenced By: Initial Filing	
Bond:	Complex Case:

If there are more than three plaintiffs or defendants as indicated under "Number of Plaintiffs" or "Number of Defendants" in the table above, please contact the court for the additional party information.

Plaintiffs

Plaintiff: COUNTY BOARD OF ARLINGTON
Trading as:



Sample Contributing Examples:

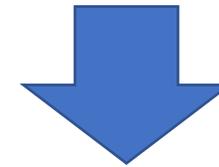
Example: Accountability

Resolution:

- Require involvement of outside stakeholders, including communities
- Authorizes access to all relevant data, not just that provided
- Requires empirical, data-backed analysis
- Closes loop, including public in analysis

Board financial disclosure and conflict of interest documents are not available via the Open Data Portal.

Public Spaces Master Plans⁴⁵² staff could not validate how they achieved the Level of Service numbers.



FOIA Concerns raised over Open Data Portal.

e. Reinstitute and improve the Staff Liaison Handbook and provide Staff Liaison training;

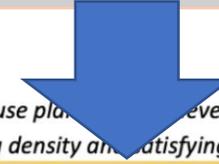
- 5. Establish interdepartmental after-action, lessons-learned review committees (including community representatives) to track/document outcomes and continuously improve.**
 - Authorize review to collect data (and, where necessary, to request the collection of relevant data) for analysis of major policy/procedure, planning and project initiatives or changes to empirically determine what has worked, what hasn't worked (and why) in order to recommend changes that correct negative or unintended consequences, better inform future decision-making, and improve outcomes going forward.**
 - Apply the same county open-data, open-government and public-engagement standards. Publicly present lessons learned, improvement recommendations and recommendation implementation, and other information to the County Board consistent with the Board's role of monitoring the implementation of policy;**

6. Enact a policy preventing the implementation of plans, policies or projects (new major initiative or revision) in the absence of a thorough and data-supported analysis of

Sample Contributing Examples:

Community benefits enforcement and transparency:

- Consultant Report on Site Plan Conditions recommendations appear to have not been implemented.
- Amazon HQ2 Penn Place Site Plan and Pentagon City Sector Plan approvals appear to lack transparency of community benefit- to-density calculations



Whereas, the outcome of land-use plan development processes appears to focus almost exclusively on increasing density and satisfying developers' goals and interests without providing specific metrics to document an equitable focus on achieving a balanced outcome that mitigates negative community impacts and enhances the long-term livability of both existing and new residents.^{76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86}

Whereas, there is no accurate, measurable public accounting of the value of the "community benefits" developers offer as part of the site plan process and likewise no accurate public accounting of the value of the density and other benefits that property developers receive in return, leaving the public in the dark as to whether or not what is received is of roughly equivalent value.^{87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93}

2. **Support in spirit (not just the letter of the law) open-data and open-government principles and regulations** by revamping the county's current policies and methods, especially with respect to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, to ensure the prompt release of all relevant data and to significantly reduce the withholding of information or making the public pay to obtain public information. Make all notices, policies, guidance, data, analysis and objectives available to the public before, during and after each process; allowing participants to observe meetings and review notes from ALL county meetings including using technology to record and livestream its public meetings, to publish all residents' feedback frequently and broadly, and to restore transparency in all its process and engagement activities; and providing public notices to larger audience bases to comply with the spirit of the law;
3. **Reconvene and reinviqorate the Arlinaton County Open Data Advisory Group and**
6. **Enact a policy preventing the implementation of plans, policies or projects (new major initiatives or revisions) in the absence of a thorough and data-supported analysis of the potential and cumulative impacts** (net effects on costs, budgets, personnel, capacity and service delivery).

FOIA Requests and Fees

NEWS
Arlington Often Charges Hefty Fees to See Public Records, Or Fails to Respond to Requests
Alex Koma September 11, 2018 at 3:45pm



Example: Transparency

- No accurate measurable public accounting of the value of "community benefits"
- Acknowledge lack of relevant data
- Acknowledge impact on equitable outcomes
- Limit burdensome restrictions on FOIA requests
- Require specific data throughout process
- Introduce policies ensuring transparency in the future

Example: Inclusivity

- End engagement practices that are pre-determined, provide skewed and limited input
- Acknowledge specific practices that stifle full and equitable inclusion
- Acknowledge structural issues limiting inclusivity
- Expand notices, times, languages, and barriers to representation

Letter of Intent with developer before Process began West Rosslyn Planning Study (WRAPS)

LETTER OF INTENT
for
Ground Lease and/or Purchase and Sale Agreement
With the County
for the
Wilson Boulevard Project Site

This Letter of Intent ("LOI"), dated January 15, 2013, between The County Board of Arlington County, Virginia ("Board" or "County") and Penzance Properties, LLC, a District of Columbia limited liability company ("Penzance"), may serve as the precursor to a purchase and sale agreement, a ground lease agreement or similar agreement (in all cases, the "Agreement") for certain property in Arlington County, Virginia owned by the County Board as more fully set forth below.

Sample Contributing Examples:

Police Practices Review: Consultant's Report release delayed by County Manager.

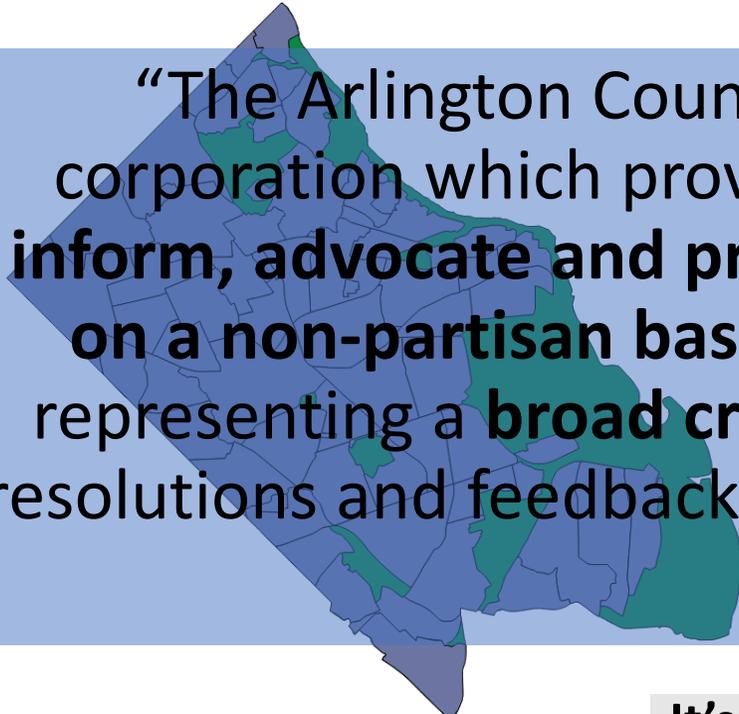
Courthouse West Survey: Only allowed selection between 3 options.

Whereas, the current community engagement process is perceived by many to marginalize or stifle substantive criticism from residents about proposed County policies by such methods as not recording public comments, using "push poll" surveys that are structured to support a single point of view, providing on-line only presentations that do not allow for two-way communications, encouraging advocacy group support, not recording or posting public minutes, and failing to include some letters from the public record.^{54, 55, 56, 57}

Whereas, the citizen-commissioner appointment process and objectives lack transparency for member and Chair selection and seems to result in commissions that lack a diversity of opinion or thought and do not necessarily reflect the views of the public at large.^{58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66}

1. **Recommit to the "Arlington Way" principles and processes** where the intent of community engagement is to give community members a meaningful role at the decision-making table by including the public in robust two-way conversations – to incorporate and address public concerns and ideas; to acknowledge and address substantive public criticism; encourage a diversity of thought and information in all processes; fully answer the public's questions and concerns (providing all relevant information/documentation whether or not it supports the County's position); provide a full accounting of support and public participation; identify areas of common objectives to build genuine consensus in order to produce outcomes that better serve the community's interest and are perceived as legitimate, unbiased, and fair; improve engagement timeframes; provide information in advance with proper notice; create neutral survey tools to collect statistically valid, unskewed results; improve transparency of the Board's monitoring of the implementation of policy; create an equitable balance between development interests and residents' interests; relax public comment requirements and reduce reliance on both Consent Agenda and Closed Sessions; and further expand the Six Step Guide beyond Capital Projects, such as planning and zoning initiatives; expand public notice, engagement times, engagement timeframes and languages; revisit prior recommendations to improve civic engagement; and realign the County Ombuds role to allow for independence from County operations;

Civic Federation is uniquely positioned

A map of Arlington County, Virginia, showing its various wards. The map is overlaid on a light blue background that contains the main text of the slide. The map uses shades of blue and green to delineate the county's boundaries and internal ward divisions.

“The Arlington County Civic Federation (“ACCF”) is a not-for-profit corporation which provides a forum for civic groups to **discuss, debate, inform, advocate and provide oversight on important community issues, on a non-partisan basis.** Its members include over **ninety civic groups** representing a **broad cross-section of the community.** Communications, resolutions and feedback are provided to the Arlington County Government on a regular basis.”

It's completely normal to

- Disagree
- Debate
- Provide alternative viewpoints



With

- Respect
- Appreciation that your experience may be different
- Thoughtful contributions

The power of a well-vetted resolution...

- Shine a light on issues: i.e., equity, inclusion, infrastructure, spending, chickens, etc.
 - Recognize that not everyone in the membership will be impacted in the same way
 - Provide substantive examples
 - Recommend thoughtful action steps to the Board for consideration
 - Engage in a conversation with the board
 - Create opportunities for membership to interact with the board and staff on progress on resolution
- You are not alone for wanting better from Arlington. Thousands stand with you.
 - Our partnerships and coalitions can help mobilize resources and influence systems, change relationships among partners, and serve as catalysts for changing policies, programs, and practices

Over the course of 5 months since it was presented,
Everyone was encouraged to...



- Published Deadline of Jan 18 to allow review & incorporation.
- All feedback received was evaluated and considered.
- Revised drafts published Nov 3 and Feb 6.

Examples continue to be received. New non-civfed website created so those can be captured:
www.RestoreConfidenceinArlingtonVAGov.com

Nearly 300 global news sites published website's announcement

Final Resolution for tonight's discussion and vote

Draft (Updated 6 February 2023)

Resolution to Restore the Public's Confidence in Arlington County Governance

Whereas, public participation processes are based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have the right to be involved in the decision-making process and all perspectives should be represented in civic engagement.^{1, 2, 3, 4}

Whereas, for decades Arlington County had an established, bottom-up community engagement process to make decisions, frequently called the "Arlington Way".^{5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15}

Whereas, in this process Arlington residents had a meaningful seat at the decision-making table, which resulted in robust community discussion, producing consensus-driven outcomes that have made Arlington one of the most sought-after places to live in the nation.^{16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25}

Whereas, it appears to many residents that the current community engagement methods are unevenly applied or have fundamentally changed and no longer consistently includes critical engagement principles and features, and where far-reaching decisions may be made without incorporating substantive resident input or broad community consensus.^{26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39}

Whereas, it appears to many residents that the Arlington County Board and County Manager frequently dismiss concerns of individuals, civic groups, civic associations, multi-family residence associations, and the Arlington County Civic Federation, which historically have played an integral role in the county's decision-making processes.^{40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45}

Added the first Whereas clause

Decoupled the appendix

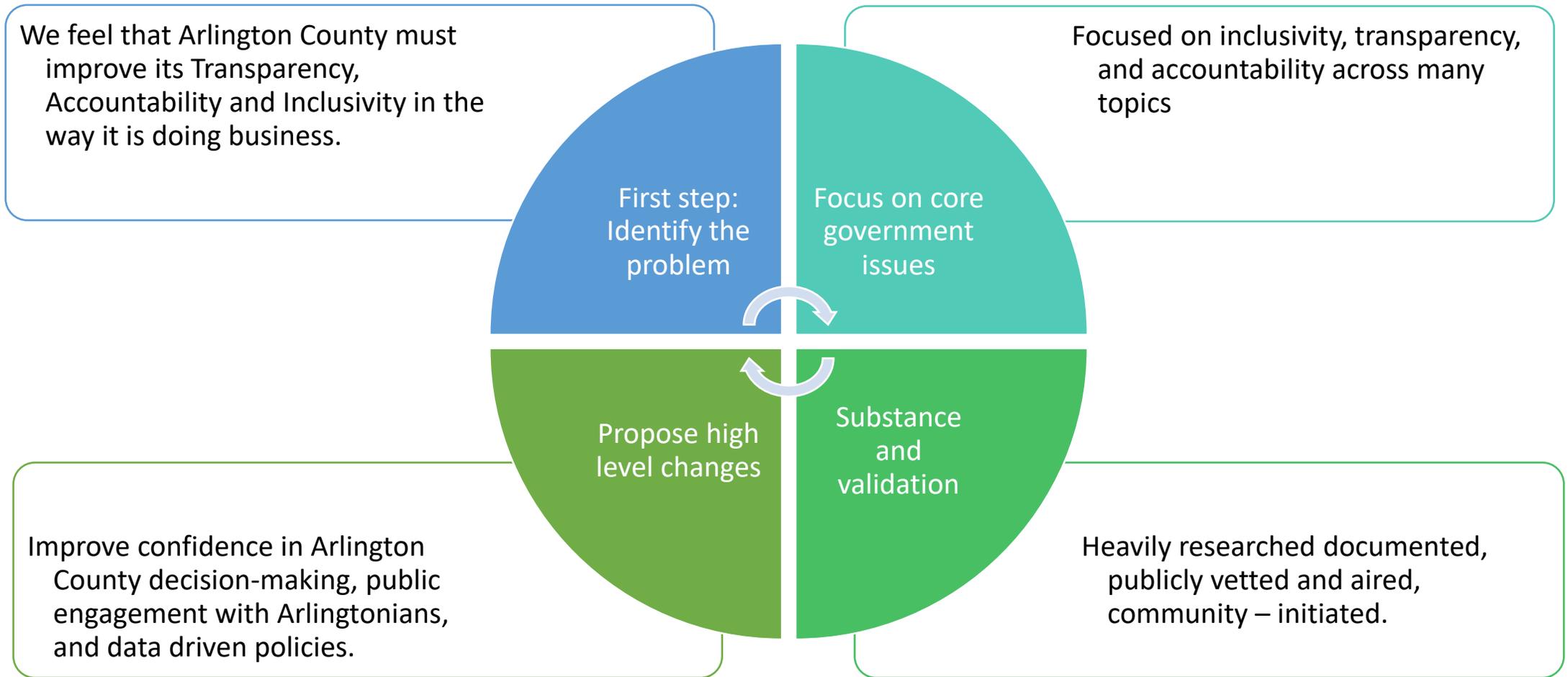
- Now a separate standalone Report
- Does not require CivFed approval
- includes a disclaimer that it is not approved by the Civic Federation.

Added endnotes to Resolution (rather than referring to the Report)

- Incorporated feedback conceptually and in specific edits.

Provided additional references where it provided clarity

Resolution Summary



Changes to the resolution based on Delegate feedback

- Decoupled the Resolution from what is now a Report (previously Appendix)
 - Resolution approval does not require approval/support of the Report
 - The Report does not require CivFed approval and includes a disclaimer that it is not approved
 - Report no longer contains Whereas clauses
- Added endnotes to Resolution (rather than strictly referring to the Report)
- Added the first Whereas clause (...all perspectives should be represented in civic engagement)
- Provided additional references where it provided clarity
- Incorporated feedback received in concept.

Resolution Challenges (simplified)

- While resolutions are typically submitted one month with a vote the next, this resolution has been active for comment in some form since September 2022.
- Newsletter submissions were edited and/or not incorporated without consulting with the co-sponsors
- Given deadlines (such as the February 6 deadline for the newsletter) was waived for the NAACP.
- Process not compliant with standard resolution processes
- Non-standard process for alternative resolution
 - Not introduced during new business or during discussion of this resolution
 - Not reviewed by CivFed Board or Committees, nor in consultation with co-sponsors.
 - Inclusion in newsletter without ability for this resolution's co-sponsors to comment or update newsletter comments
 - Process changed without process changes being vetted by CivFed Board, committees or delegate consideration/vote

Delegate feedback received has been incorporated

- Feedback was requested in writing to ensure that items were specific, constructive and actionable with ample space to document concerns (not limited to small comment window at a meeting)
- Few written comments were received
- Feedback received in writing was included in spirit and content but not necessarily by exact wording
- The final draft is fair and represents a wide variety of topics, inputs, and perspectives

Why fight for transparency, accountability & inclusivity?

- **You are not alone for wanting better from Arlington. Thousands stand with you.**
- Arlington should be a national leader for accessibility, transparency, and success
- Individually, and even just among our communities, it may be difficult to address changes
- Our partnerships and coalitions can help mobilize resources and influence systems, change relationships among partners, and serve as catalysts for changing policies, programs, and practices

Process and Content

Sponsors	NAACP Substitute
Introduced as new business during September 2022 CivFed meeting using the documented resolution procedures	Introduced via CivFed newsletter, days after the February 2023 newsletter deadline, using a procedure that has not been approved or vetted by the CivFed Board, Committees, or Delegates; procedure continues to evolve, with the blessing of the CivFed President and CivFed Board Chair.
Public notice provided multiple times, starting September 2022	Public notice only via the February 2023 newsletter
Discussed during multiple CivFed meetings	Not previously discussed at a CivFed meeting
Many opportunities for Board, Committee, and Delegate review, input, comment, and collaboration	Did not seek or provide opportunities for Board, Committee, and Delegate review, input, comment, or collaboration
Delegate comments received have been incorporated in spirit, including comments submitted by NAACP authors of the Alternative Resolution	Standard process has not been followed; delegate comments have not been received in order to be incorporated; submitted and changed last minute so Primary Resolution authors could not provide comment to the resolution or newsletter
Proposes specific changes to County processes to improve confidence in Arlington County decision-making, public engagement with Arlingtonians, and data driven policies .	Mostly endorses processes the County has already implemented
Focused on inclusivity, transparency, and accountability across many topics	Heavily focused on CivFed (internal) prior resolutions/statements, increasing diversity (already a County priority), and Missing Middle.
Heavily researched and documented, with research and endnotes being shared for months	Supplemental research and endnotes were only shared when the February 2023 newsletter was published (not shared with Sponsors or delegates prior to 2/12/23)

Resolution Topic: COUNTY DISMISSES CONCERNS

Original Resolution: it appears to many residents that the Arlington County Board and County Manager frequently dismiss concerns of individuals, civic groups, civic associations, multi-family residence associations, and the Arlington County Civic Federation

Substitution authors response: “Agree that many residents have this impression”

Evidence to support the clause and concerns: The substitute resolution authors do NOT actually agree on this - They only agree that residents have that “impression”

- Serrano apartments – “poor health and safety environment for some residents at the Serrano Apartments; (2) why attempts to address the issues from 2019 until May 2021 were not successful; and (3) develop recommendations to ensure that a similar situation does not happen again.
- Bicyclist killed, County still appears to ignore repeated requests to improve safety at. S. Rolfe, Queen, Washington Blvd Intersection
- Another fatal crash near Nottingham Elementary School in October 2022
- Four-Mile Run Valley and the role of minority community input/concerns diminished in the process
https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/has-arlington-lost-its-way/2018/11/09/91191b8e-dc58-11e8-85df-7a6b4d25cfbb_story.html

Resolution Topic: LACK OF TRANSPARENCY/ENFORCEMENT IN COMMUNITY BENEFITS FOR BONUS DENSITY

Original Resolution: the outcome of land-use planning and development processes appears to focus almost exclusively on increasing density and satisfying developers' goals and interests without providing specific metrics to document an equitable focus on achieving a balanced outcome that mitigates negative community impacts and enhances the long-term livability of both existing and new residents

Substitution authors response: "Disagree Strongly"

Evidence to support the clause and concerns:

- Independent review of developer's meeting site-plan conditions/ community benefits is not followed through by the County Board or County Manager.
- Audit of site plan conditions and benefits has not been conducted.
- Pentagon City Sector Plan appears to lack transparency of community benefit- to-density calculations.
- Amazon HQ2 Penn Place Site Plan Approval appears to lack transparency of analysis and community benefits.
- Initial proposals for the "Buck" (now "Quincy") site included a land swap with Arcland Properties that would have given Arcland what appeared to be the most useable portion of the property.

Resolution Topic: MARGINALIZE SUBSTANTIVE CRITICISM

Original Resolution the current community engagement process is perceived by many to marginalize or stifle substantive criticism from residents by such methods as ... Encouraging advocacy group support

Substitution authors response: “Disagree strongly”

Encouraging participation by all advocacy groups is wanted. What is damaging to public confidence is the County favoring specific groups and encouraging tactics that hinder equitable participation.

One group elicited numerous submissions by many community members including, but not limited to, how they have submitted misleading and inaccurate statements to the Planning Commission, provide strategies to “provide cover” for the County Board to make it appear as though policies have greater consensus than they actually do, engaging in rhetoric by those on commissions that intimidate public participation in meetings.

Other groups report not even being acknowledged with their statements and feedback on the same policies. These are relevant to how community engagement is being undermined in Arlington County and these concerns relate to other clauses that the substitute resolution drafters attempt to eradicate from the original resolution, such as posting public feedback in a process.

Allowing residents to see what other feedback (even unnamed feedback) provides transparency in the process, especially since staff says that they relied on the “feedback that we heard” in how it shaped the results.

Removing all these transparency and accountability clauses from the original Resolution that is intended to build confidence in our government, denies the public the transparency in how our government is operating and what influences are happening in our processes.