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9-13-25

Gloria Sitton

From: gail rothrock <grothrock@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 8:54 AM
To: CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov
Cc: Gloria Sitton
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Docket Item 14. 26-0213 -Closure of 200 Block of. King Street, Saturday, September 13, 2025

Dear Mayor Gaskins and Council Members.

I am writing to request that you postpone voting on the closure of the 200 Block of King Street. I am totally opposed to its closure at any time, but here is why I think you should delay this action:

- The City Hall Project -- expected to begin soon — will cause traffic rerouting in all the nearby blocks, and will mean that all the vehicles that parked at City Hall garage must park elsewhere.
- Closing the 200 block reduces available parking spaces by 16 or 17 more spaces in addition to the loss of the spaces in the City Hall garage.
- People driving or coming by bus or trolley will now have to walk three blocks to reach the waterfront, whereas a vehicle could drive down the 200 block of King and turn left (north) to park in a garage, or get dropped off at the corner and only have one block walk to reach the waterfront.
- Since this experiment started, never have there been the throngs of people as compared to those who walk in the 100 block of King. Why? The 200 block is quite steep as you walk west (away from the river). Most days, definitely most weekdays, you don't see people walking down the center of the street -- the sidewalks are perfectly adequate for those heading down towards the river.
- This action - to make a Disneyland of a block where owners and renters could once park in front of their residences, and where business owners could unload in front of their shops - now causes them to have to tote groceries, suitcases, boxes or, worse, to have to use hand trucks, to go up the incline of the 200 block of King to their residences and shops. You are aware that the alley behind the buildings is a private alley, and the commercial trucks which I often see using the fragile cobblestone alley are illegally using it.
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- Finally, on a personal level, I and my husband have lived in the 200 block of Duke Street since 1978. We love our City. My husband (age 93) now must use a walker to go any distance. Whereas

I could drive from our house on Duke, north on Fairfax, turn east on King, and drop my husband off in front of our favorite restaurant — The Warehouse — and he could go in using his cane, now he is unable to go there at all. To use a walker (or rollator) from the corner of Fairfax down to the Warehouse front door, or worse, to have to rollate back up the slope to Fairfax is just impossible. (Let alone the logistics with my car).

So your actions will discriminate against people with disabilities - in addition to being totally destroying the historic character of a beautiful core block of our City.

If you wonder why more people won't be speaking or writing about this action, it is because we neighbors have always known it's a "done deal". Please don't make it so. Please pause and rethink this ill-conceived action!

Thank you for your consideration.

Gail C. Rothrock and Charles L. Trozzo
209 Duke Street

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