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4-24-18

## Gloria Sitton

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**From:** Leslie Zupan via Call.Click.Connect. <CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 20, 2018 12:46 PM  
**To:** City Council; City Council Aides; Alexis Lacy; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton  
**Subject:** Call.Click.Connect. #144855: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Dear Mayor Silberberg and Members of...

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 144855.

### Request Details:

This is a "public" request. Information may be provided to anyone who requests it.

- Name: Leslie Zupan
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: (703) 980-2733
- Email: missz@aol.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear Mayor Silberberg and Members of Council:

As Past President of the West Old Town Citizens Association and a member of the task force that reformed the Parker-Gray design guidelines several years ago, I read with surprise about the upcoming April 24 docket item to consider folding the Parker-Gray BAR into the Old & Historic BAR.

Although happy to see from the preliminary presentation for April 24 posted online that there will be more outreach to the larger community before the text amendment is introduced (including public hearings), the fast track time frame and impetus for this move seems shrouded in mystery.

Several claims have already been advanced by some Council members (and perhaps staff as well) about administrative or financial efficiencies that would result from this step. However, the idea that it will take fewer City resources seems questionable, since the administrative approvals in Parker-Gray still require staff commitment of time and labor to research, even if no BAR hearing is involved.

May I suggest that these claims of greater efficiency and better service be verified or refuted by submitting the proposal as an FY19 budget question about cost and benefit? The question should detail staffing assignments and hours of effort for BAR hearings vs. administrative approvals, etc. and provide greater detail in how such efficiencies will be attained under a single BAR. Having seen this year's budget questions and the granular inquiries about individual positions right down to a .5 FTE in a public safety department, I believe that the same scrutiny needs to be applied to this proposal as well.

As a 38-year resident of Parker-Gray I was an eyewitness to the tumult over the creation of a Parker-Gray BAR. Just as the Council and community were divided then, there are still many neighbors who tell me they question the need for a BAR at all, given that Del Ray, Rosemont and other communities are deemed historic by the National Park Service but spared the red tape and expense of complying with strict design guidelines.

Given this background, the City owes it to the Parker-Gray community -- which includes elderly minority homeowners as well as the young and tech savvy -- to reach out individually by letter to each property-owner. Such a letter should explain the proposal and describe how recipients can provide feedback by phone, online, in writing, or through participation in public meetings and hearings. Let's have no open-ended Web surveys that could be completed by anyone, including those who will never be affected by this change.

Thank you.

Leslie Zupan  
1309 Queen Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
(703) 980-2733

- Expected Response Date: Wednesday, April 25

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4-24-18

## Gloria Sitton

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**From:** Purvi Irwin via Call.Click.Connect. <CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 23, 2018 9:48 PM  
**To:** City Council; City Council Aides; Alexis Lacy; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton  
**Subject:** Call.Click.Connect. #145110: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Dear Mayor Silberberg and City...

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 145110.

### Request Details:

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- Name: Purvi Irwin
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 202-374-9953
- Email: purvigandhiirwin@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear Mayor Silberberg and City Council,

I am writing to you about the proposal set forth by Vice Mayor Justin Wilson asking the city Historic Preservation department staff to study the option of combining the two Boards of Architectural Review. As the chair of the Parker-Gray BAR, I fully support authorizing staff to study this proposal and provide Council and the citizens of Alexandria with the facts regarding the effect this would have on the city and the citizens of Alexandria.

I have spoken to my fellow board members and have discovered that members have interpreted this proposal differently. From watching the recording of the council meeting where Vice Mayor Wilson first proposed the idea, I came away with the understanding that he was asking Council to authorize city staff to study this proposal. It appears that many may think that combining the boards is a done deal, and that council was being asked to look at how this would be done, not whether or not it should be done at all. I don't see it that way. We need some hard data on how staff much time is spent preparing for the various meetings (notifications, etc.) and the time spent in post-production after meetings (writing minutes, editing video, etc.), along with what could be achieved by staff if they had this time back (more time to enforce existing guidelines, more time for outreach to citizens, etc.).

The board does have a few questions/concerns that I want to add to the record:

1. If the boards were combined, how would this be achieved?
2. What effect would creating one board have on the term limits of existing board members?
3. Given the substantial effort to differentiate the guidelines applicable to Parker-Gray's unique environment from Old and Historic's, what policies would maintain the distinction?
4. What would be the final composition of the board (i.e. residency, professional background, etc.)?

I hope that we can have an open dialog about this where all points of view can be heard. I agree with Vice Mayor Wilson and Councilwoman Pepper that there need to be public hearings and meetings with the local civic associations and all stakeholders, and that every opinion needs to be heard, but I also think that crucial to this exchange of ideas and information is the gathering of the data, which is all I am asking City Council to authorize at this point.

I hope that you agree with me that more information is a good thing and that presenting people with data that they can analyze objectively is always the best way forward.

Thank you for your time.  
Purvi Gandhi Irwin, AIA  
Chair, Parker-Gray BAR

- Expected Response Date: Saturday, April 28

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## Memorandum

DATE: April 24, 2018

TO: Honorable Mayor Silberberg, Vice Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council

FROM: Christina Kelley, Chair OHAD Board of Architectural Review

SUBJECT: Consolidation of the Boards of Architectural Review

Under "Other Business" at our April 18, 2018 public hearing, Mr. Cox briefed the OHAD Board on the suggestion brought forth by Vice Mayor Wilson and Councilman Smedberg that the two Boards of Architectural Review be consolidated.

The Board unanimously endorsed the idea, noting the following:

- It would alleviate the hardship on Parker-Gray residents of having to wait an entire month (and sometimes more) between meetings, which can be crucial if they are deferred and need to return.
- It would reduce the burden on Staff, cutting by one-third the amount of time necessary to place announcements in local papers, post signage at the properties, and staff hearings. Preparing staff reports twice rather than three times per month would result in greater efficiency. All of this would not only help avoid Staff burnout, but also save taxpayer dollars. (I would note that an additional savings would occur by eliminating one evening of Comcast charges.)
- Both districts now have similar demographics, unlike when the Parker-Gray District was established.
- One member brought up the fact that OHAD Board members must consider the Washington Street Standards and the Waterfront Plan, in addition to the Design Guidelines, demonstrating that working with numerous sets of guidelines can be accomplished successfully; adding another set of guidelines to consider would not be difficult for anyone chosen to sit on the new Board.

There were a couple of suggestions and concerns, as follows:

- One member opined that consolidating the Boards might present an opportunity for a more positive preservation outcome if the qualifications necessary for appointment were more stringent; not all members were in agreement.



- All members were concerned with the transition plan, noting that any new Board should include at least some members from both existing Boards until such time as the new Board becomes well established.
- One member suggested that perhaps a nine member Board be considered initially, pared down to seven after a period of transition.

Cc: Mark Jinks, City Manager; Karl Moritz, Director of Planning and Zoning; Purvi Irwin, Chair Parker-Gray Board of Architectural Review