
Fw: [EXTERNAL]BAR Case: BAR#2026-00033 & 00034 (330 N. Washington St.) – Resident Comments

From Preservation <Preservation@alexandriava.gov>

Date Mon 3/16/2026 8:49 AM

To Luke Cowan <luke.cowan@alexandriava.gov>; Ashley Casimir <ashley.casimir@alexandriava.gov>

FYI

From: Nancy McLernon <nancymclernon@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2026 7:00:17 PM

To: Preservation <Preservation@alexandriava.gov>

Cc: Paul Stoddard <paul.stoddard@alexandriava.gov>; Stephanie Sample <Stephanie.Sample@alexandriava.gov>; William Conkey <william.conkey@alexandriava.gov>

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You don't often get email from nancymclernon@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To Chair Scott and Members of the Board of Architectural Review:

We are Nancy McLernon and Glenn Hediger, homeowners at 323 N. Columbus Street. We appreciate the opportunity to offer written comments on the proposed development at 330 N. Washington Street as we are currently not in town and able to attend the March 18 BAR meeting. As neighbors, we support the thoughtful revitalization of this block, and we hope the Board will consider the following refinements to ensure the project achieves the highest level of compatibility with the existing residential fabric.

To assist the Board in evaluating the "compatibility" and "site arrangement" standards set forth in Section 10-105, we respectfully suggest the following:

1. Verification of Massing and Height Transitions

The applicant has indicated that the new homes will be consistent with the height of our own (and those of other neighboring structures). To ensure this is achieved in a way that respects the "rhythm of heights" required by Section 10-105(A)(3)(a), we believe a contextual Elevation Study would be beneficial.

- The Goal: A cross-section that includes the existing Columbus Row homes would help the Board confirm that the massing provides a sympathetic "step-down" transition from the Washington Street corridor to the residential interior of the block.

2. Ensuring Functional Harmony through an Auto-TURN Study

A key component of site compatibility under Section 10-105(A)(2)(c) is how a new building relates to the structures in its immediate surroundings. Given the constrained 22-foot maneuvering aisle, we

323 N. Columbus Street

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15 March 2026

322 North Columbus ST.
Alexandria, VA 22314

To the members of the BAR,

My name is James Foggo. I am a resident of Old Town Alexandria and I currently live on North Columbus Street across from The Merion Group's proposed site for a perpendicular row of six town homes. I have some concerns about the plan for the project based on my long history with the area.

I grew up in the 8th District of Virginia and attended Washington Mill Elementary, Walt Whitman Intermediate, and later spent my freshman year at Fort Hunt High School (now West Potomac). During these formative years, I spent a considerable amount of time in Old Town Alexandria and in particular on the waterfront, including a memorable visit to the USS Laffey (DD-724), one of the most decorated ships of WWII, moored alongside before her decommissioning in 1975.

Upon graduation, I matriculated to the U.S. Naval Academy, on an 8th District Congressional nomination, and retired from the United States Navy 44 years later in September 2020. **Upon my retirement, I could have lived anywhere, but I chose to return to the Old Town Alexandria area because of fond memories from my youth. Accordingly, I purchased an expensive home in Old Town because of its historic appeal and adherence to preservation and observation of stringent requirements regarding expansion and urban development.**

Having talked with the developers during a visit to my home earlier this month and having participated in the recent "online Town Hall" with the Merion Group, **I believe that the plan for the six new town homes violates the spirit of the Residential Design Guidelines regarding building orientation.**

I believe a better example of city planning for the Old and Historic District would be a 3-unit street-facing row on Princess with a Mews-style cluster behind it. This configuration respects the historic pattern of the block (notably 711 Princess) and ensures that any Development Special Use Permit request is based on sound urban design.

I hope that you will take my concerns as a taxpayer and those of my neighbors into consideration as you make a determination on the approval of a plan for the six new units. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

James G. Foggo
Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired)

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Fw: [EXTERNAL]West Old Town Citizens Association comments for the record on BAR #2026-33, concept review for 330 N. Washington Street

From Luke Cowan <luke.cowan@alexandriava.gov>
Date Wed 3/18/2026 7:33 AM
To Ashley Casimir <ashley.casimir@alexandriava.gov>

From: Dino Drudi <dino.drudi@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 5:31:02 PM
To: Luke Cowan <luke.cowan@alexandriava.gov>; Preservation <Preservation@alexandriava.gov>
Cc: William Conkey <william.conkey@alexandriava.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]West Old Town Citizens Association comments for the record on BAR #2026-33, concept review for 330 N. Washington Street

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Dear Chairman Scott and BAR members:

The West Old Town Citizens Association board of directors reviewed the staff report for BAR #2026-33, concept review for 330 N. Washington Street. The Association is especially concerned about this proposed alley development setting a precedent in this part of the neighborhood and feels that the staff report needs to be supplemented to show actual nearby examples of comparable alley houses and, accordingly, requests that the BAR continue this matter to give staff more opportunity to research and present to the public other nearby examples of comparable alley houses.

The developer uses a "Mews" style of inward-facing townhouses, which the neighbors characterize as a "suburban infill model" atypical of this part of Old Town, conjecturing that the design might be driven by the Applicant's parking lease requirements. The concept review could explore alternative configurations, reductions in the number of units and their orientation, but not inappropriate designs driven by private contractual requirements, such as parking agreements.

The Association also generally supports doing a contextual Elevation Study and other concerns neighbors have expressed to date in Nancy McLernon's, Glenn Hediger's, and Mike Gaffney's statements.

Respectfully submitted,

Dino Drudi
West Old Town Citizens Association President

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