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[EXTERNAL]Opposed to closure of King



CW corinne winburn <bird22314@gmail.com>
To: CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

Smiley face, Reply, Reply all, Forward, Grid icon, More options

Thu 9/4/2025 6:31 PM

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To whom it concerns,

As a resident and property owner living in Old Town for over four decades, I am wholly against closing the block of King street (200 block) that is being proposed .

Such a closure would not only be unsafe for the community, but would also have a negative impact on many of our local businesses .

I am opposed to this closure proposal. Thank you .

Corinne Winburn
417 Prince Street

Warm regards,
Corinne

Corinne Birdsong Winburn
Birdsong Communications Group | Creative Global Communications
www.birdsongcommunicationsgroup.com
[571.263.9805](tel:571.263.9805)

"I've never believed that [arts and technology] are separate. Leonardo da Vinci was a great artist and a great scientist. Michelangelo knew a tremendous amount about how to cut stone at the quarry. The finest dozen computer scientists I know are all musicians. Dr. Land at Polaroid said, "I want Polaroid to stand at the intersection of art and science," and I've never forgotten that."

—Steve Jobs, Time, October 10, 1999

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Reply Forward



[EXTERNAL]King Street Closure

From Anita Winsor <anwinsor@gmail.com>

Date Thu 9/4/2025 4:08 PM

To CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov <CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov>

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I support opening King St 200 block.

Anita Winsor
213 South Pitt St
Alexandria, 22314

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[EXTERNAL]King Street Closure- I'm opposed to closure

From Montague, Latane <latane.montague@morganlewis.com>

Date Thu 9/4/2025 3:47 PM

To CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov <CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov>

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I am a life-long resident to the 200 Block of Prince street, which is one block over from the 200 Block of King.

I am strongly opposed to the permanent closure of the 200 block of King Street. Closure will have serious adverse impacts on traffic flow on adjacent streets, reduce parking, make transportation in Old Town more difficult, and make it more difficult for property owners and customers to access property and businesses in this block.

Unlike the 100 block of King, the 200 block is steeply slanted and is not an ideal block to convert to additional restaurant seating. During the trial period I have found the 200 block to be poorly utilized by pedestrians and businesses, and the negative impacts of eliminating cars is simply NOT offset by any advantages to closure.

Please don't approve permanent closure!

Latane Montague

Resident at 207 Prince Street

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[EXTERNAL]200 block of King Street closure proposal.

From Don Santarelli <dsantarelli@dsantarellilaw.com>

Date Thu 9/4/2025 9:31 PM

To CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov <CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov>

[You don't often get email from dsantarelli@dsantarellilaw.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

old Town is mainly a Residential Community. Some people heavy business' can be tolerated but turning lower King St into a carnival must be carefully avoided.

I am a 50 year resident of Old Town.

I oppose closing the 200 block of King St.

Donald Santarelli

504 Duke St.

Sent from my iPhone

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[EXTERNAL]Closure of the 200 Block of King Street

From BRUCE SCHAFFER <bsch511@aol.com>

Date Fri 9/5/2025 9:35 AM

To CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov <CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov>

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The time has come for the City Council to reinforce its role as the Guardian of this historic Scottish village. In the current desire to attract visitors and resulting revenue to the City by the creation of a pedestrian zone in the 200 Block of King Street, much like other zones in the DMV, the very fabric of the village is threatened. The two " test " closures have added new elements: illegal parking, difficult delivery of goods, non existent drop off and pick up congestion, increased noise and trash, and elimination of access to the residential units on the Block. The City has established a park and entertainment zone at the waterfront and a dining zone in the 100 Block of King. The 200 block of King adds only a pathway to the waterfront and adds nothing to the " Old Town Experience ". The resulting costs and the problems created exceed any benefits. It must be noted that visitors have come to the village for decades and decades and the residents of the village have enjoyed their " downtown " - the actions of the City in closing the 200 Block do not enhance this experience. The resulting problems are the direct result of the City's actions.

I urge the City to look beyond the immediate and focus of the long term impact to the historic fabric of the village. If the closure is made permanent the most important element to be addressed is enforcement - street maintenance, trash removal, police presence, ADA access, residents access, loading zones, traffic enforcement, noise abatement, vehicular movement (including bikes, scooters and skateboards) and most importantly public safety.

For want of a new chariot, the City stands poised to destroy the kingdom. As the owner of a 73 year old business on the block and a resident of 49 years in the village, I must ask " why ". I urge the City Council to guard well and protect the village for decades to come.

Respectfully,

Bruce Schaffer

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[EXTERNAL]King Street Closure

From Bridget S <bridge757@gmail.com>

Date Fri 9/5/2025 12:33 PM

To CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov <CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov>

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Dear Council,

I am a resident on the 100 block of Duke St and I am against the permanent closure of the 200 block of King St.

My concern is the resulting increased traffic congestion on Residential Streets and removal of more public parking spaces. A secondary concern is over the dramatic increase in public noise that these closed blocks seem to foster.

By diverting traffic off of King Street you are sending traffic down the residential streets. If you have ever observed the traffic streaming non-stop up and down Duke, Prince, Union, etc during the weekends and summer week nights, you would be as alarmed as the residents are. That additional traffic brings incredible increase in noise heard within our homes and risk to pedestrians. The reduction in parking spaces for visitors will just continue to stress the residential streets where owners already experience hardship looking for parking within the South Quadrant.

-Bridget Scanlan
112 Duke St.

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[EXTERNAL]King Street Closure

From Kathleen Kalchthaler Oehler <kalchthaler@hotmail.com>

Date Fri 9/5/2025 3:49 PM

To CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov <CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov>

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I am a resident 2 blocks from the proposed 200-block of King Street closure. I am emailing to contribute my position on this proposal.

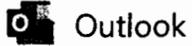
Note: contrary to what has been written in public documents, my opinion nor my neighbors' have been sought by the city.

I support the closure but would like the closure be deferred until after the market square underground parking garage renovation is completed.

I would also like traffic calming measures (eg local traffic only) be enacted on S Lee and surrounding streets (north and south) within a 2 block radius of 100-200 blocks of King.

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[EXTERNAL]King Street Closure

From albongo@aol.com <albongo@aol.com>

Date Fri 9/5/2025 7:47 PM

To CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov <CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov>

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While I heartily support the closure of the zero and 100 blocks of King Street, the closure of the 200 block is much more questionable. It is currently seriously under-used as a pedestrian block, and the nature of the current businesses there does not suggest that that will change. I'd hate to see any more businesses forced out, and loss of any parking spaces and auto access in this area is VERY problematic.

So as a local resident (residing at 101 Wolfe Street) who very often patronizes the lower King Street restaurants and other businesses, I recommend that the 200 block of King Street be re-opened to cars.

However, sidewalk tables for the few restaurants on that block are nice. I suggest that you look at the approach taken further up King (e.g., by Murphy's, the Light Horse, and Majestic) as a model for the 200 block of King.

Respectfully,

William Berridge
101 Wolfe Street
Alexandria VA

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Outlook

[EXTERNAL]King Street Closure

From Clare Barry Skarda <clare.skarda@gmail.com>

Date Sun 9/7/2025 2:00 PM

To CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov <CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov>

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Why?

Why?

Why?

I see no benefit to the permanent closure of the 200 block of King Street. And I see many down sides for the residents, the businesses, and tourists. (Insert comments from the residents and business owners here!) I could see an occasional closure for a festival or large holiday or market. I say NO to the permanent closure, especially before Market Square construction. This doesn't appear to be well thought out.

Clare Skarda

219 Prince St / 126 S Fairfax St

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[EXTERNAL]King Street Closure

From Jean Bunton <jmbunton@gmail.com>

Date Tue 9/9/2025 9:54 PM

To CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov <CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov>

[You don't often get email from jmbunton@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Council,

I write to state my strong opposition to the closure of the 200 block of King Street, in my neighborhood.

My block already has felt the impacts from the closure of the 100 block King, which has now been manifestly exacerbated by the closure of the 200 block. The cumulative impact from the closure of both blocks has resulted in added congestion, lack of parking for residents, increased litter, increased noise aka a carnival atmosphere until late in the evening, or better yet early morning, oversized delivery trucks following their own muse, and more scooters than even remotely begin to make sense for public safety and security. For these reasons, I oppose the permanent closure of the 200 block of King Street.

I've lived here for more than two decades - the majority of which in the once bucolic 100 block of S. Fairfax St., and wish the council and professional staff every success in your endeavors on behalf of all of us who love Old Town and call it home. That's the irony. We are losing more than we are gaining with this high minded gesture. I worry about the unintended impacts on the people who have made a life here (versus those who merely visit here as tourist). It will negatively impact the small businesses on the surrounding blocks. Elderly friends and neighbors will find it harder to park near their homes.

It is not a fair trade. More is being taken than given. If all of the consequences result from of the closures for those of use who reside here, I keep asking who are you doing it for?

I respectfully ask you to reconsider.

Jean Marie Bunton
135 South Fairfax Street

Sent from my iPad

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[EXTERNAL]King Street Closure

From Alexandra Kendrick <alexandrahkendrick@gmail.com>

Date Tue 9/9/2025 8:12 PM

To CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov <CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov>

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Hi There- I am opposed to closing the 200 block of King. We live at 120 S. Lee st. and have been dealing with significant traffic due to the closure especially in the morning during delivery time and over the weekends. I was hit by a passing just last week on Lee st. Because of a driver not seeing me over a delivery van parked in front of the old ice house.

On the weekends cars park on both sides of S. Lee st. leaving just one passable lane. I've heard the Market Street garage will be closing soon making any available parking more valuable than the two restaurants who use the outside seating.

I also wonder why no one from the city has reached out for our opinion on this matter?

Thank you,

Alexandra Kendrick Kingston

120 S. Lee St. Alexandria Va 22314

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[EXTERNAL]KING STREET CLOSURE - PLEASE NO!!!

From Don Grant Kelly <dongrantskelly@gmail.com>

Date Tue 9/9/2025 12:58 PM

To CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov <CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov>; Don Grant Kelly <dongrantskelly@gmail.com>

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I live on Prince St. ...a street only one (1) block from King St. in an area already starved for parking and over-loaded with through-traffic to the overpopulated waterfront.

Council: Please don't even think of permanent blockage of 200 King St. My neighbors and I are misrepresented in this horrible concept.

Vote No!

Please.

Don Grant Kelly
213 Prince St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

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[EXTERNAL]King Street Closure

From Christina Hennecken <chennecken15@gmail.com>

Date Tue 9/9/2025 12:51 PM

To CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov <CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov>

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City Council,

I am firmly against the permanent closure of the 200 block of King Street. I live on the 200 block of Prince Street, and the closure has led to inadequate parking for my family, excess noise, and pollution outside my home. On evenings there is often a string of out-of-town cars and uber drivers lined up outside my home waiting to make turns back to King Street. It creates a lot of noise and car exhaust. It's not suitable for our residential street. I have small children, and I'm concerned by the heavy traffic. Late at night sometimes loud vehicles fly down our street blasting music, waking up my kids. Often on weekdays and weekend especially I have nowhere to park, and commercial vehicles related to businesses on the 200 block of King are parked outside my home. This is all a recent problem from the closure on King.

Please do not represent that impacted families support the closure. We do not. We want the block reopened.

Thank you,
Christina Hennecken
212 Prince Street
706-831-2261

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[EXTERNAL]Closer of King St

From nahid nikfar <diamondmd001@yahoo.com>

Date Tue 9/9/2025 11:50 AM

To CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov <CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov>

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I am for closer of 200 bock King st .

Nahid Dehgan

104Duke St

Sent from my iPhone

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[EXTERNAL]Closure of the 200 block of King Street

From OSBORNE MACKIE <ghequiere.house@verizon.net>

Date Tue 9/9/2025 10:09 AM

To CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov <CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov>

Cc Bruce Schafer <bsch511@aol.com>; Michele Marceau Ward <info@principlegallery.com>;
clare.skarda@gmail.com <clare.skarda@gmail.com>

[You don't often get email from ghequiere.house@verizon.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

I am the owner of 202 King Street and have been living here for more than twenty years. Bruce Schafer, owner of the Market Square Shop, is my tenant on the first floor. Our adamant opposition to the closure of the 200 block of King Street has been stated many times, in public hearings and in the written record.

I have not previously mentioned that when I had a serious operation last winter, the closure of the block prevented convenient access to my front door and caused me extreme and painful difficulty. I consider this closure an illegal taking.

I have two serious questions. First, why are you doing this? I have yet to hear a valid reason. Second, are you pleased that you are creating a carnival atmosphere in your own front yard? I purchased a property in a dignified historic neighborhood, which is now in serious jeopardy.

Sincerely,

Osborne Mackie
Sent from my iPhone

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[EXTERNAL]King Street Closure

From Katherine Skarda <kath.skarda@gmail.com>

Date Tue 9/9/2025 9:24 AM

To CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov <CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov>

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City Representatives,

Ahead of your scheduled meeting tonight to discuss the permanent closure of the 200 block of King Street, I would like to share my observations as a resident living a block away. My foremost concern is the lack of safety as a pedestrian crossing at either end of the closed block. I find the chaos of buses accelerating through the intersection at Fairfax St, along with passing other buses and stopping to pick up or drop off riders all in a small space, to be very problematic. At the Lee St intersection, people end up crossing at three different points in the intersection which leads to driver confusion over when to stop or go. The Lee St problem is exacerbated by fast moving bikes and scooters shooting down the hilly block and into the street. As a pedestrian, I feel I must take extra precautions because of the closed block. I have also noticed a significant increase in traffic on Fairfax street particularly. Finally, I am very concerned that the confluence of the temporary City Hall/Market Square closure and the permanent 200 block closure will create even more unsafe chaos at the intersection of King and Fairfax.

Thank you for your attention,

Katherine Skarda

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[EXTERNAL]King Street Closure

From Katherine Skarda <kath.skarda@gmail.com>

Date Tue 9/9/2025 9:24 AM

To CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov <CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov>

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City Representatives,

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Thank you for your attention,

Katherine Skarda

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