

MEMORANDUM

TO: Alexandria Naming Committee

FROM: Gayle Reuter, Board Member
Del Ray Business Association

DATE: November 23, 2015

SUBJECT: Naming of the Pat Miller Neighborhood Square

The Del Ray Community respectfully requests that the Alexandria City Naming Committee consider naming the City parking lot located at the corner of Mt. Vernon Avenue & E. Oxford Avenue after long time community organizer, volunteer, and supporter Pat Miller. We ask that this lot be named the Pat Miller Neighborhood Square in her honor. Pat Miller is one of the most selfless, generous and devoted persons this City has ever known. If anyone has ever served with her on a committee or board, they wonder how she has enough hours in the day. But what no one realizes is that the one committee is just 1/20 of what she is involved with. Every day, she has multiple meetings and every weekend is filled with volunteering or working on projects. Her entire life since coming to Alexandria has been devoted to making this world a better place. She hears of a need and that same day, she has put things in motion to fix it.

And fortunately, one of the primary lucky recipients of Pat's unending energy and dedication for over 25 years has been Del Ray and thank goodness she shows no signs of slowing down.

While Pat has been recognized on numerous occasions for her outstanding leadership and for exhibiting a lifetime commitment to advancing the quality of life for the community in Del Ray and Alexandria, we feel she deserves a permanent recognition for her decades of tireless devotion and work. As an example, you can see the attached list of some of her awards, honors and some of the committees and boards she has chaired or served on.

When Pat Miller first began organizing and volunteering in Del Ray, there were literally just a few retail businesses opened on Mt. Vernon Avenue and very little, if any, activity on the Avenue and in Del Ray. Through her many efforts including chairing Art on the Avenue for the last 20 years and her helping to bring the Del Ray Farmer's Market to the community, she was responsible for introducing hundreds of thousands of people to Del Ray. These two events

specifically not only were critical for bringing the neighbors out of their homes and onto the Avenue, but she brought thousands of “soon to be new neighbors” who discovered the little neighborhood of Del Ray when they visited these two events. And look at the total transformation of a business district that just 20 years ago had just a few businesses to what it is today – dozens of nationally recognized restaurants and businesses and one of the most popular neighborhoods in the entire metropolitan area – just ask a realtor! In fact, the President of the United States has chosen to come to Del Ray three times during his terms. We have so much to thank Pat for and are anxious for this opportunity.

And how appropriate to name the parking lot after Pat as this is the location of the Del Ray Farmer’s Market that she oversees every single Saturday from 6:00 am till after Noon, that on almost any day, you can catch her watering the plants and new trees at the lot and the lot that has been the central location of Art on the Avenue and of hundreds of other key events that she has organized in Del Ray over the last 20+ years.

We hope you will consider helping us honor Pat Miller in this permanent manner and we will be happy to answer any questions. We have included letters of endorsement from the Del Ray Business Association and Del Ray Citizens Association. We also will plan to share with the community their opportunity on where and when to write to the City in their support.

Thank you for your time and support.