

# What's Next Alexandria?

A Community Conversation about Civic  
Engagement and Planning for the Future

Planning Commission

September 6, 2012



# Why now?

- Council directed staff to pause between small area plans to work with the community on Principles of Civic Engagement for the City
- Outcomes will be shared with new City Council early in 2013 to inform their strategic planning and future decision making



# Objectives

- Engage the community in a discussion about *past engagement practices* and *what's next for Alexandria* in terms of the priorities and principles to guide planning
- Develop *common elements* of the planning process and plan documents
- Expand and improve the *engagement toolbox* to ensure that the quality of the participatory experience is high



# Schedule

- **Sept. 2012** Action Alexandria Poll
- **Nov. 2012** Community meeting to discuss poll results, best practices, strategies and principles of engagement
- **Jan. 2013** Community issues forum with speakers/discussions on priority issues
- Additional community meetings as needed
- Online engagement to supplement meetings
- Staff, Boards/Commissions training to sustain the progress achieved and implement the City's Principles of Engagement



# Deliverables

- **Alexandria's Principles of Civic Engagement**, including shared expectations for planning processes and plan documents, as well as a toolbox of civic engagement techniques and strategies
- **A report summarizing areas of agreement on "What's Next for Alexandria?"**, a document that can help guide Council's strategic direction, prioritizing planning goals and establishing a starting point for future planning efforts



# How can members of the Planning Commission be involved?

- Provide feedback on the proposed outline of the civic engagement project
- Encourage participation in the poll and subsequent elements of engagement
- Promote the effort within your own networks and neighborhoods

