

Alexandria Commission on Aging
2525 Mount Vernon Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22301
October 22, 2013

Alexandria Mayor and City Council
Alexandria City Hall
301 King Street, #2300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of the City Council:

For several years now, the Commission on Aging has received reports of injuries of older residents and visitors walking on some of the City's brick sidewalks. Because the bricks buckle and do not settle evenly, they create a hazard, especially for those with a variety of disabilities, to include those affecting vision, mobility and balance. For those using canes, walkers and wheelchairs, the obstacles are considerable. Problems with balance are also a common problem for seniors, and uneven sidewalks exacerbate the risk of tripping and falling.

The City has developed new standards for sidewalks that the Commission strongly endorses, as they will reduce the dangers of uneven sidewalks and greatly enhance the safety of older adults and those with disabilities--and encourage the healthy activity of walking. We have had several discussions with the Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services and support its proposals for new developments. The new standards also have the important advantage of reducing maintenance costs.

The proposed standards comport with Alexandria's Strategic Plan on Aging, as its objectives include the improved walkability of Alexandria's sidewalks. The Commission urges your support of the new standards.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jane M. King
Chair, Alexandria Commission on Aging