



April 7, 2015

Honorable Mayor William Euille and Members of City Council
City of Alexandria
Suite 2300, City Hall
301 King St
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: Parking Standards for New Development Projects

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of Council:

On behalf of the Environmental Policy Commission (EPC), I am writing to urge your approval of the proposed text amendment to the City's Zoning Ordinance to right-size the City's parking regulations developed through the "Parking Standards for New Development Projects Study."

The EPC believes the proposed amendment provides an updated zoning ordinance that reflects trends in demographics and demand of residents and developers. It also provides increased clarity and transparency to residents and developers and more efficiently uses resources, by right-sizing parking to the current and future needs of residents.

In addition to the benefits noted above, the proposed amendment also supports the overall intent of Alexandria's Environmental Action Plan (EAP), and several key goals within it. With a focus on climate change and sustainability, the EAP sets a roadmap for reduction in emissions from daily vehicle miles traveled and more responsible land use.

The EAP specifically calls out the need for a sustainable and comprehensive parking strategy, of which the proposed new parking ordinance is a significant step forward. The EAP sets a target, by 2020, of increasing the number of commuters who use public transportation by 25% over 2000 census data. By updating the parking ordinance, the City can account for trends in commuting habits, and sends a clear message that it supports increased use of alternative transportation, and responsible land use.

For the reasons stated above, we urge your endorsement of the new parking ordinance. Should you have any questions or be in need of our assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jim Kapsis
Chair, Environmental Policy Commission
kapsisje@gmail.com

CC: Alexandria Planning Commission
Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission
Yon Lambert, Director of Transportation and Environmental Services
Karl Moritz, Director of Planning & Zoning