

4  
10-17-15

## Gloria Sitton

---

**From:** boydswalker2012@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Friday, October 16, 2015 3:13 PM  
**To:** City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton  
**Subject:** Call.Click.Connect. #83044: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council For: Saturday Public Hearing October 17

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 83044.

### Request Details:

- Name: Boyd Walker
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-732-7269
- Email: [boydswalker2012@gmail.com](mailto:boydswalker2012@gmail.com)
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: For: Saturday Public Hearing October 17th  
RE: Docket Item 4

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

I am writing in support of the change of ownership of the Single Room Occupancy facility at 1300-1304 King St. I have owned a building across the street from the SRO for 10 years and lived across the street for the last 5. The facility has always been well managed, and I have gotten to know several of the tenants, who usually stay for many years, likely because it is the only place affordable to them.

SRO's fill a critical gap in our affordable housing needs for people who can't afford the average rent in Alexandria but may not qualify or wish to apply to a housing program. They may not meet requirements for assistance, and there is usually a substantial backlog for affordable housing, such as the section 8 program. Sometimes residents' needs are little, and an SRO is a perfect option. There is on site parking as well, so the 12 units do not cause any parking burden on the neighborhood, especially as it is unlikely at any given moment that all the residents have cars. This is a site that is slated to be part of future redevelopment, but it is a great use until that redevelopment of this historic property comes about. If you care about affordable housing, you should certainly support the continuation of this use under new ownership.

The new owner, Joricris Espiritu, I understand lives in the property, and works at the restaurant, Pines of Florence downstairs, so he is a great candidate to manage the facility day and night and keep his eyes on the residents, and any other issues that might arise. Also, it comes time for everyone to retire, and Nick Constantino, and his brother Frank, it is time. As the owners of the Geno's restaurant and owners of the building from 1942 to 2003, they have put in their share of time on King St. They stood by as one of the few restaurants on upper King St. in the early days, and have watched it develop, and should be rewarded for their years of ownership and operation of the restaurant, building and SRO. With the SRO people have been provided a safe, convenient place to live right downtown, on a bus line, now with a trolley stop. The individuals who live there contribute to the health and diversity of the neighborhood.

Boyd Walker  
1307 King St.  
Alexandria VA 22314

- Expected Response Date: Friday, October 23

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the [Call.Click.Connect. staff interface](#).

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact [CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov](mailto:CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov) or call 703.746.HELP.

This is an automated email notification of a ***Call.Click.Connect.*** request. Please do not reply to this email.