

October 13, 2015

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council members;

The Alexandria Housing Affordability Advisory Committee (AHAAC) wishes to express its full support of the Eisenhower West Small Area Plan that will be considered by Planning Commission and City Council during upcoming fall meetings. AHAAC has followed this planning initiative closely over the past 19 months, thanks to regular presentations from planning and housing staff as well as AHAAC members' attendance at some of the community meetings. On October 1, the Committee voted unanimously to endorse the Plan.

Through provision of increased density and height and future redevelopment opportunities in transit-oriented locations, like the Van Dorn Metro station (which is also a terminal of the future West End Corridor BRT), through the Eisenhower West Small Area Plan, the City will achieve a number of key community benefits, including enhanced open and green space, expanded connectivity, and new affordable housing options. We note and applaud the Plan's consistency with the policies and goals of the Housing Master Plan and with AHAAC's ongoing efforts to link housing affordability to Alexandria's economic development. We are especially pleased with the Plan's recommendations to explore opportunities to co-locate affordable housing (including senior housing or mixed income - affordable assisted living) with other municipal uses, permit bonus densities of 30% or more, and encourage universal design to allow residents to age-in place.

We are also glad to see the opportunity for future housing contributions (on-site units and/or trust fund dollars), and look forward to reviewing specific affordable housing plans for Eisenhower West as new developments come forward in the future. We ask the Planning Commission and City Council to approve the Eisenhower West Small Area Plan.

Please contact me if you have any questions about AHAAC's action regarding this Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'K. Dixon'.

Katharine Dixon
Chair