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5-12-18

Gloria Sitton

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Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2018 12:29 PM
To: Gloria Sitton
Subject: City Council speaker's form submission received

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Meeting Date: 05/12/2018
Docket Item# 6

Speaker's Name: Mark Tate
Phone #: 540-323-3604
Email: mdtate@outlook.com
Address: 307 Archer ct

Representing self? No
If representing other: Restaurant Association of Metropolitan Washington

Position on the item: Against

Nature of interest: Advocate for Restaurants Industry

Are you being compensated? Yes

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Docket item 6. Tax on meals.

Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council,

My name is Jonathan Krall. I am on the steering committee of Grassroots Alexandria, an organization of 700 members, about 50 of actively work on one of our non-partisan teams. At our last meeting we took time to educate ourselves about affordable housing in Alexandria.

As a long time activist in Alexandria, I am aware of the urbanization of our great city. I am aware that our city will continue to change whether we want it to or not. I am aware that we are on prime real estate. If we don't want our city to become an enclave for rich people only, we need to continue to take appropriate steps.

As a veteran of many of these City Council hearings, I am aware that people who have the time and the desire to come to these hearing are mostly well-off people such as myself. When we look for opportunities to make our city more accessible to the working class, we must recognize that working class people tend to be under-represented.

There are many ways to address affordable housing. I'm in favor of this tax. If another measure was on the table, I'd be in favor.

Increasing the property-tax set-aside for affordable housing? In favor.
Allowing density increases specifically to increase non-luxury housing? in favor.
Removing all parking requirements for new apartments? In favor.
Allowing "granny flats" in the neighborhood where I live? In favor.

But this tax is what is on offer. so I'm in favor.

Thanks for listening.

Jonathan Krall
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