

**Address:** 1420 Key Drive  
**Zone:** R-20, Residential Single-Family Dwelling zone  
**Appellant:** Vinson Brett Melvin, property owner  
**Issue:** Appeal of a sign violation warning notice, a determination by the Director

---

### **Summary of Case on Appeal**

This case concerns the maximum size for a temporary sign located on a residential property. Section 9-201(A)(1)(a)(ii)(1)(a) of the Zoning Ordinance limits temporary signs on residential properties to a total area of no more than ten square feet, provided that no single sign is larger than four square feet. The appellant's basis for his appeal are set forth in the attached appeal application. The issue before the Board is whether the issuance of the warning notice was correct under the City's Zoning Ordinance.

### **Background**

On November 29, 2019, the Department of Planning and Zoning received an anonymous complaint via the Call, Click, Connect system regarding a sign erected on the fence at 1420 Key Drive. Based upon his inspection on December 2, 2019, Inspector Richards issued Zoning Warning Notice number 2192 on December 3, 2019. Subsequently, it was discovered that the incorrect section of the ordinance had been cited and the warning notice was rescinded. However, the sign remained, and Inspector Richards issued Zoning Warning Notice number 2197 on January 9, 2020 for violation of Section 9-201(A)(1)(a)(ii)(1)(a) of the Zoning Ordinance (attached). It is for a 32 square foot sign located at 1420 Key Drive (photograph attached). The warning notice gave a compliance date of January 16, 2020. The sign in question remains at this location.

### **Discussion/Argument**

#### **A. Compliance with the Zoning Ordinance**

Section 9-201(A)(1)(a)(ii)(1)(a) of the Zoning Ordinance limits temporary signs on residential properties to a total area of no more than ten square feet, provided that no single sign is larger than four square feet. The sign subject to this appeal is 32 square feet, which exceeds the maximum total temporary signage allowed on residential property by 22 square feet and exceeds the maximum individual sign size by 28 square feet.

## B. Standard of Review

The Alexandria Zoning Ordinance gives the authority to the Director of Planning and Zoning to administer the Zoning Ordinance. ZONING ORDINANCE § 11-101. Among other duties, the Director of Planning and Zoning is tasked with interpreting and enforcing the Zoning Ordinance. ZONING ORDINANCE § 11-102(F) and (G).

Decisions by the BZA on appeals “. . . shall be based on the board’s judgment of whether the director was correct. The determination of the director shall be presumed to be correct.” ZONING ORDINANCE § 11-1205(C). The “. . . appellant has the burden of proof to rebut such presumption of correctness by a preponderance of the evidence.” ZONING ORDINANCE § 11-1205(C).

The Virginia Supreme Court has clearly indicated that “A consistent administrative construction of an ordinance by officials charged with its enforcement is entitled to great weight.” *The Lamar Company, LLC v. Board of Zoning Appeals, City of Lynchburg*, 270 Va. 540, 547, 620 S.E.2d 753, 757 (2005) quoting *Masterson v. Board of Zoning Appeals*, 233 Va. 37, 44, 353 S.E. 2d 727, 733 (1987). Deference to the interpretation of the person charged with administering the zoning ordinance whose role and expertise it is to provide the relationship between the zoning ordinance text and the local governments plan for zoning is essential in order to have a uniform application of the ordinance. See *Lamar* at p. 547. See also *Trustees of Christ and St. Luke’s Episcopal Church v. Board of Zoning Appeals of the City of Norfolk*, 273 Va. 375, 382, 641 S.E. 2d 104, 107 (2007). The Board of Zoning appeals should only reverse the Director’s decision if “the board determines that the decision is contrary to the plain meaning of the ordinance and the legislative intent expressed therein”. *Higgs v. Kirkbride*, 258 Va. 567, 575, 522 S.E.2d 861, 865 (1999).

Additionally, under settled principles of administrative law, the interpretation given a legislative enactment by public officials charged with its administration and enforcement is entitled to be given significant weight by the courts. See *Payton v. Williams*, 145 S.E.2d 147 (1965). In Virginia, it is settled law that a presumption of correctness attaches to the actions of state and local officials. See *Hladys v. Commonwealth*, 366 S.E.2d 98 (1988). Such actions are presumed to be valid and will not be disturbed by a court absent clear proof that the action is unreasonable, arbitrary, and bears no reasonable relation to the public health, safety, morals or general welfare. See *County of Lancaster v. Cowardin*, 391 S.E.2d 267, 269 (Va. 1990); *Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County v. Robertson*, 266 Va. 525 (2003) (discussing the presumption of reasonableness attached to the Board’s legislative acts).

Given the foregoing, the Board of Zoning Appeals should apply deference in its judgement regarding whether the issuance of the Warning Notice was correct; unless the Board determines that the appellant has shown by a preponderance of the evidence that Director’s decision was contrary to the plain meaning of the ordinance and was made without reasonable basis. In this case, it is clear that the size of the sign violates Section 9-201(A)(1)(a)(ii)(1)(a) of the Zoning Ordinance. As such, the Director respectfully requests that the Board of Zoning Appeals deny the appeal and uphold the Director’s issuance of Zoning Warning Notice number 2197.

### **Other Matters Raised**

There are other assertions made in the appeal application that will be addressed below. However, these issues are not relevant to the Board's review because these issues are not within its purview.

On June 18, 2016, City Council amended the Zoning Ordinance to update Article IX (Signs), to comply with the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Reed v. Town of Gilbert*, one of the changes made was that the sign regulations were made content neutral. In other words, content cannot be assessed in determining whether a sign complies with the Zoning Ordinance. As set forth above, the content of this sign was not considered in issuing the Warning Notice; instead, the assessment was based on the dimensions of the sign in accordance with the sign provisions of the Zoning Ordinance.

Additionally, the Department of Planning and Zoning operates under a complaint-based Zoning Ordinance enforcement policy. In this case (as in others), complaints were the bases for the inspection and issuance of the Warning Notices. Further, the signs mentioned by the appellant across the street at 3737 Seminary Road were the subject of a complaint as well, a citation was issued, and the signs were brought into compliance.

#### **Staff:**

Christina Zechman Brown, Deputy City Attorney, [christina.brown@alexandriava.gov](mailto:christina.brown@alexandriava.gov)

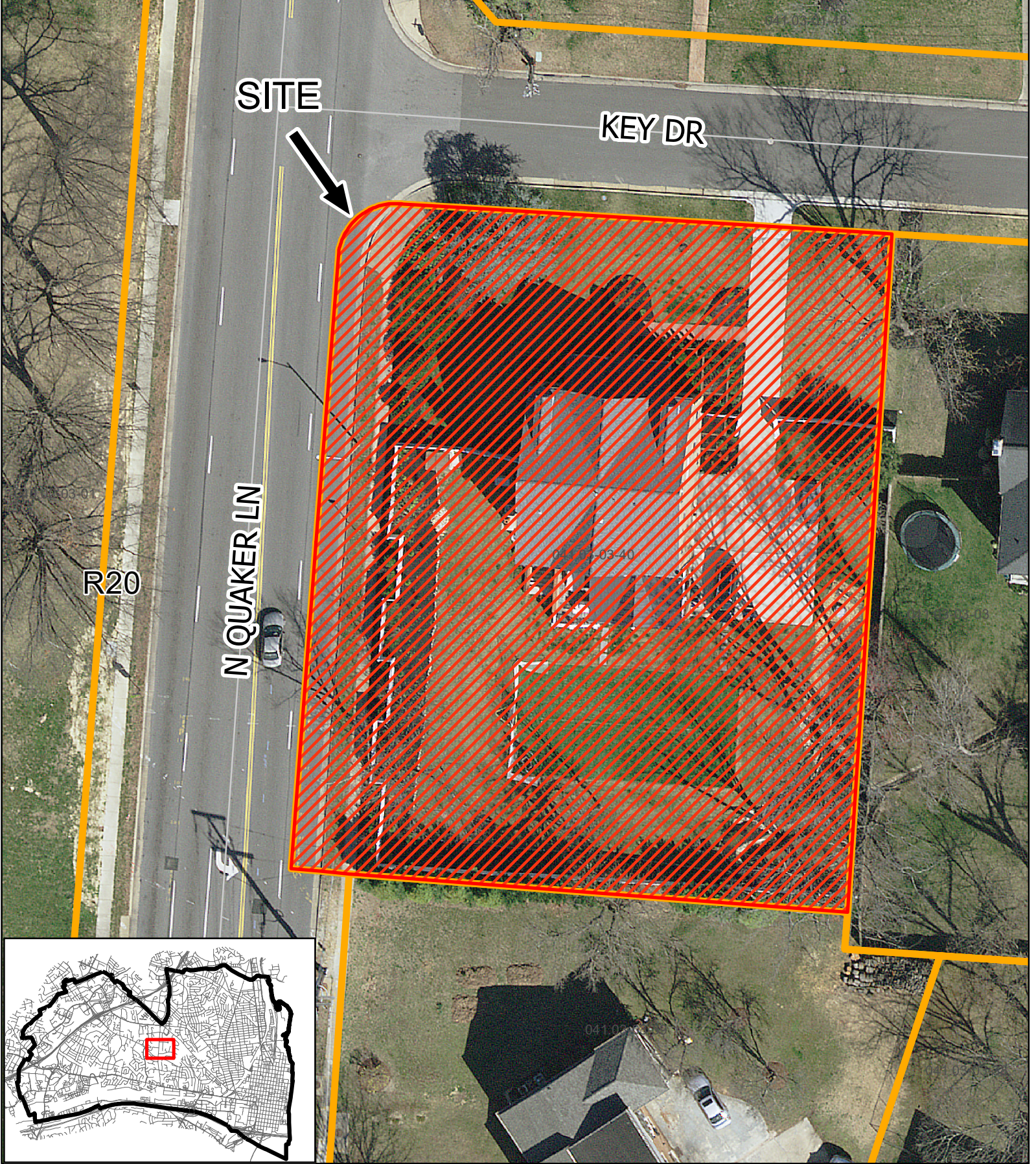
Tony LaColla, Division Chief, Planning and Zoning, [tony.lacolla@alexandriava.gov](mailto:tony.lacolla@alexandriava.gov)

Mary Christesen, Zoning Manager, Planning and Zoning, [mary.christesen@alexandriava.gov](mailto:mary.christesen@alexandriava.gov)

### **Attachments**

- 1) Zoning Warning Notice number 2197
- 2) Photo 12.02.2019



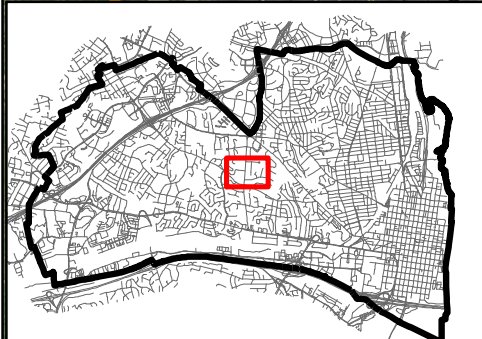


SITE

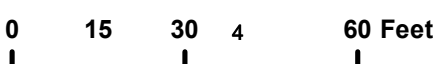
KEY DR

N QUAKER LN

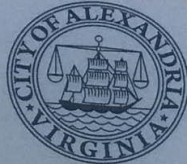
R20



**BZA #2020-00001**  
**1420 Key Drive**





Department of Planning and Zoning  
**WARNING NOTICE**Location: 1420 Key Dr

You are hereby notified that the above described property is in violation of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Alexandria, Virginia. The specific violation and code citation is checked below.

☐ Home Occupation

7-\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Vision Clearance

7-\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Parking Violation \_\_\_\_\_☐ Outdoor \_\_\_\_\_☐ Roominghouse

7-1900

☐ Accessory Uses & Structures

7-\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Food Truck Violation

9-\_\_\_\_\_

☒ Signs Violation9-201(A)(1)(a)(i)(i)  
(a)1. Signage with total area of no more2. than 10 sq ft. However no sign is3. permitted to be larger than 4 sq ft

4. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Violation of special use condition(s)

11-505

SUP # \_\_\_\_\_ Condition(s) # \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Failure to comply by 1/16/2020 will result in monetary fines.Inspector Richards Date/Time 1/9/2020Phone: 703.746. 3842**WO** \_\_\_\_\_ **2197**



**TAKE BACK SEMINARY ROAD**

**#JustinsTrafficJam**





## APPEAL APPLICATION BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

BZA Case # \_\_\_\_\_

Identify the order, requirement, decision or determination that is the subject of the appeal. Attach one copy to the application.

On what date was the order, requirement, decision or determination made?

1/9/20

\*The appeal must be filed within 30 days from the date that the order, requirement, decision or determination was made.

### PART A

1.   **Applicant:**       **Owner**       **Contract Purchaser**       **Agent**  
      **Name** Vinson Brett Melvin  
      **Address** 1420 Key Drive  
\_\_\_\_\_  
      **Daytime Phone** 703-608-3560  
      **Email Address** Brett@BrettMelvin.com  
\_\_\_\_\_
2.   **Property Location** 1420 Key Drive  
\_\_\_\_\_
3.   **Assessment Map #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Block** \_\_\_\_\_ **Lot** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zone**  
\_\_\_\_\_
4.   **Legal Property Owner Name** Harriet and Vinson Melvin  
      **Address** 1420 Key Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. If the property owner or applicant is being represented by an authorized agent, such as an attorney, realtor or other person for which there is a form of compensation, does this agent or the business in which they are employed have a business license to operate in the City of Alexandria, Virginia?

Yes, provide proof of current City business license.

No, said agent shall be required to obtain a business license prior to filing application.

**THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY ATTESTS** that all of the information herein provided including the site plan, building elevations, prospective drawings of the projects, etc., are true, correct and accurate. The undersigned further understands that, should such information be found incorrect, any action taken by the Board based on such information may be invalidated. The undersigned also hereby grants the City of Alexandria permission to post placard notice as required by Article XI, Division A, Section 11-301(B) of the 1992 Alexandria City Zoning Ordinance, on the property which is the subject of this application. The applicant, if other than the property owner, also attests that he/she has obtained permission from the property owner to make this application.

**APPLICANT OR AUTHORIZED AGENT:**

Vinson Brett Melvin

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Print Name**

1/17/20

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

Pursuant to Section 13-3-2 of the City Code, the use of a document containing false information may constitute a Class 1 misdemeanor and may result in a punishment of a year in jail or \$2,500 or both. It may also constitute grounds to revoke the permit applied for with such information.



# OWNERSHIP AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Use additional sheets if necessary

**1. Applicant.** State the name, address and percent of ownership of any person or entity owning an interest in the applicant, unless the entity is a corporation or partnership, in which case identify each owner of more than ten percent. The term ownership interest shall include any legal or equitable interest held at the time of the application in the real property which is the subject of the application.

Name	Address	Percent of Ownership
1. Harriet Melvin	1420 Key Dr	owned jointly 50%
2. Vinson B Melvin	1420 Key Dr	owned jointly 50%
3.		

**2. Property.** State the name, address and percent of ownership of any person or entity owning an interest in the property located at 1420 Key Dr. Alexandria, VA 22302 (address), unless the entity is a corporation or partnership, in which case identify each owner of more than ten percent. The term ownership interest shall include any legal or equitable interest held at the time of the application in the real property which is the subject of the application.

Name	Address	Percent of Ownership
1.		
2.		
3.		

**3. Business or Financial Relationships.** Each person or entity indicated above in sections 1 and 2, with an ownership interest in the applicant or in the subject property are required to disclose any business or financial relationship, as defined by [Section 11-350 of the Zoning Ordinance](#), existing at the time of this application, or within the 12-month period prior to the submission of this application with any member of the Alexandria City Council, Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals or either Boards of Architectural Review. **All fields must be filled out completely. Do not leave blank. (If there are no relationships please indicate each person or entity and "None" in the corresponding fields).**

For a list of current council, commission and board members, as well as the definition of business and financial relationship, [click here](#).

Name of person or entity	Relationship as defined by Section 11-350 of the Zoning Ordinance	Member of the Approving Body (i.e. City Council, Planning Commission, etc.)
1.		
2.		
3.		

**NOTE:** Business or financial relationships of the type described in Sec. 11-350 that arise after the filing of this application and before each public hearing must be disclosed prior to the public hearings.

As the applicant or the applicant's authorized agent, I hereby attest to the best of my ability that the information provided above is true and correct.

1/17/20

Date

VINSON BRETT MELVIN

Printed Name

Vinson Brett Melvin  
Signature

**PART B**

1. **Why do you believe the order, requirement, decision or determination is incorrect? Explain the basis for the appeal, beginning in the following space and using additional pages, if necessary.**

I believe that I have been specifically singled out for my sign because it makes a political statement. I have reached this conclusion for several reasons, including that during the previous times I have put a sign on my fence, no one in the city government has ever had a problem.

This timing of my receipt of the citation is very questionable. It was within just a few hours of when the mayor held a meeting on the subject my sign addresses just a quarter mile away and it was necessary for him to drive right by it immediately afterwards. Within hours, my sign was immediately cited for violating the city's sign regulations when directly across the street at the corner of Quaker Lane and Seminary stood 2 signs that were the same size as mine and had been there for over a month.

When I received the notice about my sign violation, I immediately contacted Mr. Richard Leonards, the officer who gave me the warning to ask why I had been singled out for the citation when others less than 100 feet away were obviously just as much if not moreso in the wrong than I was. Both Leonards and his supervisor, Mr. Tony LaColla wrote back and shared with me that the regulation is selectively enforced based on someone complaining. This selective enforcement, the timing of the complaint and the way the complaint was worded (which I have read) made me seriously think that the complaint was filed either by or at the behest of the mayor.

There are numerous other signs around the city that have been up for months and sometimes over a year that flagrantly violate the city's sign regulations, but only mine has been singled out as violating the regulation. This type of selective enforcement for purely political purposes is not only a violation of my free speech, but is just wrong.

We either have a government of laws that applies equally to all persons, or we have a government of men/women that determines how to enforce the laws according to how it may benefit their own personal political ideology. The second is totally contrary to the founding principals of our country.

One must ask, is Alexandria a city where we have freedom of speech, or has it become one where we have freedom of speech only as long as the politicians deem it appropriate?





Department of Planning and Zoning

# WARNING NOTICE

Location: 1420 Key Dr

You are hereby notified that the above described property is in violation of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Alexandria, Virginia. The specific violation and code citation is checked below.

- ☐ Home Occupation 7-\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Vision Clearance 7-\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Parking Violation \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Outdoor \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Roominghouse 7-1900
- ☐ Accessory Uses & Structures 7-\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Food Truck Violation 9-\_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ Signs Violation 9-201(A)(1)(a)(i)(1)  
(a)

1. Signage with total area of no more
2. than 10 sq ft. However no sign is
3. permitted to be larger than 4 sq ft
4. \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Violation of special use condition(s) 11-505  
SUP # \_\_\_\_\_ Condition(s) # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Failure to comply by 1/16/2020 will result in monetary fines.

Inspector Richards Date/Time 1/9/2020

Phone: 703.746. 3842

**WO** 2197

PLN-0083 (11/15/2018)

**From:** "Jol A. Silversmith" <jol@thirdamendment.com>  
**Date:** March 9, 2020 at 7:15:14 PM EDT  
**To:** Mary Christesen <Mary.Christesen@alexandriava.gov>  
**Cc:** "laltenburg@scainc.com" <laltenburg@scainc.com>,  
"studio@markyooarchitect.com" <studio@markyooarchitect.com>,  
"brett@brettmelvin.com" <brett@brettmelvin.com>  
**Subject: RE: 1420 Key Drive**

March 9, 2020

Mary Christesen, Zoning Manager  
City of Alexandria, Planning and Zoning Department  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: 1420 Key Drive

I understand that docket item #4 for the Board of Zoning Appeals meeting on March 16, 2020 is a sign violation warning notice, appealed by Vinson Brett Melvin of 1420 Key Drive.

I have no knowledge of the alleged violation and circumstances other than the information provided in the docketed staff memo. But I can say that, based on the information provided by staff alone, it is clear that no violation of the ordinance has occurred - and thus despite the staff's insistence that the Board must defer to its judgment, the appellant should prevail, because the staff's judgement is in error.

The memo invokes Section 9-201(A)(1)(a)(ii)(1)(a) of the Zoning Ordinance, which in a residential area allows: "Signage with a total area of no more than ten square feet, however no single sign is permitted to be larger than four square feet." But staff fails to establish that a "sign," as defined in Section 9-102(KK) of the Zoning Ordinance, is actually at issue. Staff apparently assumes, without discussion, that the object in Attachment 2 is a "sign" as a matter of law.

For the record, a "sign" has been defined by the City to be: "Any object, device, display, or structure, or part thereof, visible from a public place, a public right-of-way, any parking area or right-of-way open to use by the general public, or any navigable body of water which is designed and used to attract attention to an institution, organization, business, product, service, event, or location by any means involving words, letters, figures, designs, symbols, fixtures, logos, colors, illumination, or projected images."



The text of the ordinance as cited above makes clear that what is at issue is not a "sign". It expresses opposition to a political decision and its real-world consequences. In so doing, it does not "attract attention to an institution, organization, business, product, service, event, or location." None of these terms are defined in the Zoning Ordinance, but it would be a gross abuse to assert that they encompass the message here conveyed.

Indeed, any argument that the message here conveyed is a "sign" within the scope of the Zoning Ordinance would have farcical results. For example, holiday decor often contain messages such as "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Halloween." But if any object with words on it is a "sign," staff is essentially claiming the right to ban any holiday decor with words that is larger than four square feet in area (i.e., if the message here conveyed is asserted to attract attention to an institution, etc., so must any decor endorsing a holiday). Needless to say, such a position would be untenable.

Bottom line: Neither staff nor the Board may take action based on what an ordinance could have or should have said; they must act based on the text actual adopted by Council. And the ordinance here at issue is simply not applicable to the situation at hand.

Finally, I also note that the staff memo is also generally sloppy - for example, it asserts that the City's Zoning Ordinance was amended on June 18, 2006, to comply with the Supreme Court's ruling in Reed v. Town of Gilbert. But Reed was decided in 2015. The City's zoning ordinance was actually amended in 2016. Respectfully, if City's staff demands deference from the Board, they should at a minimum have the courtesy to provide a memo that has been subjected to basic proofreading.

Jol Silversmith  
323 East Oak Street  
Alexandria, VA 22301  
(703) 371-5616  
[jol@thirdamendment.com](mailto:jol@thirdamendment.com)

CC:  
Laurence Altenburg, Chair  
Mark Yoo, Vice Chair  
Brett Melvin

**From:** [Anh Vu](#)  
**To:** [Kaliah L Lewis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL]#JustinsTrafficJam  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2020 9:20:10 AM

---

---

**From:** Melissa Douglas <[melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov](mailto:melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 9:13 AM  
**To:** Anh Vu <[Anh.Vu@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Anh.Vu@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]#JustinsTrafficJam

---

From: Kathryn Salerno <[kathryn.salerno@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.salerno@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 8:06 AM  
To: Melissa Douglas  
Subject: [EXTERNAL]#JustinsTrafficJam

Good morning Ms. Dunn,  
As a voter and taxpayer in the City of Alexandria I request the #JustinsTrafficJam sign remain in place as a reminder to all of the City administration of what they have caused in our community.  
Thank you  
Kathryn Salerno

Sent from my iPad

---

DISCLAIMER: This message was sent from outside the City of Alexandria email system.  
DO NOT CLICK any links or download attachments unless the contents are from a trusted source.



**From:** [Anh Vu](#)  
**To:** [Kaliah L Lewis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL]Alexandria sign  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2020 10:50:22 AM

---

---

**From:** Melissa Douglas <[melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov](mailto:melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 10:45 AM  
**To:** Anh Vu <[Anh.Vu@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Anh.Vu@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]Alexandria sign

---

**From:** Ellen Regan <[el\\_cutiger@yahoo.com](mailto:el_cutiger@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 9:49 AM  
**To:** Melissa Douglas <[melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov](mailto:melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Alexandria sign

Ms. Dunn,

I support free speech and smile every day I see the #JustinsTrafficJam sign on Quaker Lane.  
The city should not be able to force the homeowner to remove this sign.

Sincerely,  
Ellen Regan  
22304 city resident

---

**DISCLAIMER:** This message was sent from outside the City of Alexandria email system.  
**DO NOT CLICK** any links or download attachments unless the contents are from a trusted  
source.

**From:** [Anh Vu](#)  
**To:** [Kaliah L Lewis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL]Justin's Traffic Jam signage  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2020 9:27:45 AM

---

---

**From:** Melissa Douglas <[melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov](mailto:melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 9:26 AM  
**To:** Anh Vu <[Anh.Vu@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Anh.Vu@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]Justin's Traffic Jam signage

---

**From:** Miller, Jen <[jemiller@deloitte.com](mailto:jemiller@deloitte.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 9:22 AM  
**To:** Melissa Douglas <[melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov](mailto:melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Justin's Traffic Jam signage

Hi Melissa,

I am very much in favor of keeping the Justin's Traffic Jam signage on Quaker Road. I view this sign as a constitutional right under freedom of speech, and any forced removal could be interpreted as unconstitutional.

Thanks, Jen

This message (including any attachments) contains confidential information intended for a specific individual and purpose, and is protected by law. If you are not the intended recipient, you should delete this message and any disclosure, copying, or distribution of this message, or the taking of any action based on it, by you is strictly prohibited.

Deloitte refers to a Deloitte member firm, one of its related entities, or Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited ("DTTL"). Each Deloitte member firm is a separate legal entity and a member of DTTL. DTTL does not provide services to clients. Please see [www.deloitte.com/about](http://www.deloitte.com/about) to learn more.

v.E.1

---

**DISCLAIMER:** This message was sent from outside the City of Alexandria email system. DO NOT CLICK any links or download attachments unless the contents are from a trusted source.



**From:** Melissa Douglas <[melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov](mailto:melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 9:13 AM  
**To:** Anh Vu <[Anh.Vu@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Anh.Vu@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]KEEP the TAKE BACK SEMINARY ROAD SIGN

**From:** Ski DC Lisa <[skidclisa@gmail.com](mailto:skidclisa@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 15, 2020 10:08 PM  
**To:** Melissa Douglas <[melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov](mailto:melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]KEEP the TAKE BACK SEMINARY ROAD SIGN

Dear Ms Dunn,

Keep the TAKE BACK SEMINARY ROAD SIGN. It's not a safety hazard or violation. It is one person expressing his opposition to the unlawful Seminary Road bike lanes. Please don't infringe his First Amendment rights. There are many other large signs in Alexandria, most are commercial and none of them have a permit. Be consistent.

Lisa

p.s. I hope that you and your loved ones don't get caught in traffic on Seminary Road during an emergency when your ambulance is headed to the hospital and has to jump the median multiple times.

**DISCLAIMER: This message was sent from outside the City of Alexandria email system.  
DO NOT CLICK any links or download attachments unless the contents are from a trusted  
source.**

**From:** [Anh Vu](#)  
**To:** [Kaliah L Lewis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL]Please do not undermine free speech in Alexandria  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2020 9:20:48 AM

---

---

**From:** Melissa Douglas <[melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov](mailto:melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 9:12 AM  
**To:** Anh Vu <[Anh.Vu@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Anh.Vu@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]Please do not undermine free speech in Alexandria

---

From: Jeffrey Finkle <[jfinkle@msn.com](mailto:jfinkle@msn.com)>  
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 2:19 AM  
To: Melissa Douglas  
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Please do not undermine free speech in Alexandria

TOMORROW: BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS MEETING TO CONSIDER WHETHER OR NOT TO FORCE  
REMOVAL OF "TAKE BACK SEMINARY ROAD" SIGN

Sent from my iPhone

---

DISCLAIMER: This message was sent from outside the City of Alexandria email system.  
DO NOT CLICK any links or download attachments unless the contents are from a trusted source.



**From:** Jennifer Miller <[zenfla@hotmail.com](mailto:zenfla@hotmail.com)>

**Sent:** Sunday, March 15, 2020 11:25 PM

**To:** Melissa Douglas <[melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov](mailto:melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Regarding BZA #2020-00001, Melvin appeal

Ms. Dunn,

I have read the appeal paperwork and have seen the sign. I urge you and the Zoning board to see this issue as a protected act under the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment and as recognized by 9-101(A). The sign is a protest sign that is critical of elected representatives' actions. It does not obstruct a view or pose a hazard. If the concern about aesthetics, I'd argue it's a quality sign and not at risk of being an eye sore.

The most likely reason for someone feeling compelled to report the sign is if they did not like what it says and that brings the issue back to being a protest sign. I see it as protected speech and I hope Alexandria city officials ultimately find it the same and support the Melvins' right to display the sign.

Thank you,

Jennifer L. Miller

5121 Holmes Run Pkwy

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

---

**DISCLAIMER: This message was sent from outside the City of Alexandria email system. DO NOT CLICK any links or download attachments unless the contents are from a trusted source.**

**From:** [Anh Vu](#)  
**To:** [Kaliah L Lewis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL]Sign should stay  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2020 9:20:29 AM

---

---

**From:** Melissa Douglas <[melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov](mailto:melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 9:13 AM  
**To:** Anh Vu <[Anh.Vu@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Anh.Vu@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]Sign should stay

---

**From:** Susan Gould <[susanmgould21@gmail.com](mailto:susanmgould21@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 8:43 AM  
**To:** Melissa Douglas <[melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov](mailto:melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Sign should stay

Hello Melissa,

I live in the West End of Alexandria in a neighborhood directly effected by the road diet of Seminary Road. As a taxpayer, it is my opinion that the sign that reads **JustinsTrafficJam** should stay as a reminder to all of the citizens of Alexandria that free speech matters and that having a voice in local government is important.

Thank you,  
Susan Gould

Sent from my iPhone

---

**DISCLAIMER: This message was sent from outside the City of Alexandria email system. DO NOT CLICK any links or download attachments unless the contents are from a trusted source.**



**From:** [Anh Vu](#)  
**To:** [Kaliah L Lewis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL]Sign  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2020 10:50:16 AM

---

---

**From:** Melissa Douglas <[melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov](mailto:melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 10:45 AM  
**To:** Anh Vu <[Anh.Vu@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Anh.Vu@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]Sign

---

**From:** Tracey Moorhead <[traceym213@gmail.com](mailto:traceym213@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 9:32 AM  
**To:** Melissa Douglas <[melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov](mailto:melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Sign

Good morning.  
Respectfully, I strongly request that the "JustinsTrafficJam" sign be allowed to stay. I did not choose to live in a community that would censor it's residents. I hope you don't want to live in such a place, either.  
Thank you.  
Tracey Moorhead  
213 Virginia Avenue

---

**DISCLAIMER:** This message was sent from outside the City of Alexandria email system.  
**DO NOT CLICK** any links or download attachments unless the contents are from a trusted source.

**From:** [Anh Vu](#)  
**To:** [Kaliah L Lewis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL]Take Back Seminary Road  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2020 10:50:29 AM

---

---

**From:** Melissa Douglas <[melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov](mailto:melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 10:45 AM  
**To:** Anh Vu <[Anh.Vu@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Anh.Vu@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]Take Back Seminary Road

---

**From:** [monsoncj@aol.com](mailto:monsoncj@aol.com) <[monsoncj@aol.com](mailto:monsoncj@aol.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 10:43 AM  
**To:** Melissa Douglas <[melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov](mailto:melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Take Back Seminary Road

I strongly support keeping the "Take Back Seminary Road" sign which has come under attack by an "anonymous" source and is scheduled for an Appeal Hearing today. I have been a resident of Alexandria since the early 1980's. I would be in attendance at the appeal hearing but I am in the high risk category for the corona virus and am taking the precautions recommended by the Federal Government.

As an aside, I am incredibly disappointed at the half-hearted effort our city leaders are putting into protecting the residents of Alexandria during the current health crisis.

---

**DISCLAIMER:** This message was sent from outside the City of Alexandria email system.  
**DO NOT CLICK** any links or download attachments unless the contents are from a trusted source.



**From:** [Anh Vu](#)  
**To:** [Kaliah L Lewis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL]Docket Item #4, BZA #2020-00001 of March 16, 2020 zoning appeal - support the appeal for 1420 Key Drive  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2020 1:32:51 PM

---

**From:** Melissa Douglas <[melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov](mailto:melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 1:25 PM  
**To:** Anh Vu <[Anh.Vu@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Anh.Vu@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]Docket Item #4, BZA #2020-00001 of March 16, 2020 zoning appeal - support the appeal for 1420 Key Drive

FYI-

---

**From:** Fran Vogel <[fran.vogel@verizon.net](mailto:fran.vogel@verizon.net)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 1:12 PM  
**To:** Melissa Douglas <[melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov](mailto:melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Cc:** Justin Wilson <[justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov)>; Elizabeth Bennett-Parker <[elizabeth.bennettparker@alexandriava.gov](mailto:elizabeth.bennettparker@alexandriava.gov)>; John Chapman <[john.taylor.chapman@alexandriava.gov](mailto:john.taylor.chapman@alexandriava.gov)>; Amy Jackson <[Amy.Jackson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Amy.Jackson@alexandriava.gov)>; Mo Seifeldin <[Mo.Seifeldin@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Mo.Seifeldin@alexandriava.gov)>; Canek Aguirre <[Canek.Aguirre@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Canek.Aguirre@alexandriava.gov)>; Del Pepper <[Del.Pepper@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Del.Pepper@alexandriava.gov)>; [brett@brettmelvin.com](mailto:brett@brettmelvin.com) <[brett@brettmelvin.com](mailto:brett@brettmelvin.com)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Docket Item #4, BZA #2020-00001 of March 16, 2020 zoning appeal - support the appeal for 1420 Key Drive

Hello Ms. Dunn:

I understand that docket item #4 for the Board of Zoning Appeals meeting on March 16, 2020 is a sign violation warning notice, appealed by Vinson BrettMelvin of 1420 Key Drive.

I am writing in support of the appeal and sign posted at 1420 Key Drive, Alexandria, VA. The sign highlights a significant percentage of community members' collective opposition to the changes recently made to Seminary Road with the rode diet this past fall.

As a citizen and resident I find it deeply disturbing that the City is attempting to muzzle our First Amendment right to Freedom of Speech. It is becoming clear that City of Alexandria prefers that citizens not comment nor express their views and this is untenable. We have every right to state our views and let our leaders know when we do or do not agree with policies and actions.

I respectfully request that Docket Item #4, BZA #2020-00001 referencing the Appeal of a zoning violation warning for a sign posted on the resident's private property at 1420 Key Drive in Alexandria Public be upheld in favor of Mr. Melvin, the Appellant, and this violation warning dismissed.

Thank-you,

Fran Vogel  
41 N. Early Street  
Alexandria, VA 22304

---

**DISCLAIMER:** This message was sent from outside the City of Alexandria email system.  
**DO NOT CLICK** any links or download attachments unless the contents are from a trusted  
source.

**From:** [Anh Vu](#)  
**To:** [Kaliah L Lewis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL]#JustinsTrafficJam  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2020 1:41:24 PM

---

---

**From:** Melissa Douglas <[melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov](mailto:melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 1:36 PM  
**To:** Anh Vu <[Anh.Vu@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Anh.Vu@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]#JustinsTrafficJam

FYI

---

**From:** Sandy Johnson <[sandykjohnson@yahoo.com](mailto:sandykjohnson@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 1:30 PM  
**To:** Melissa Douglas <[melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov](mailto:melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]#JustinsTrafficJam

I am writing in support of a homeowner's right to post signs on his/her property, including the #JustinsTrafficJam sign on a homeowner's property at the corner of Quaker & Seminary. There's this thing in the Constitution called the First Amendment. Suggest you read it.

Sandy Johnson  
3405 Saylor Place  
Alexandria VA

---

**DISCLAIMER:** This message was sent from outside the City of Alexandria email system. DO NOT CLICK any links or download attachments unless the contents are from a trusted source.



**From:** [Anh Vu](#)  
**To:** [Kaliah L Lewis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL]#JustinsTrafficJam  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2020 3:24:19 PM

---

---

**From:** Melissa Douglas <[melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov](mailto:melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 3:23 PM  
**To:** Anh Vu <[Anh.Vu@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Anh.Vu@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL]#JustinsTrafficJam

---

**From:** Sean Miller <[sean.miller@drshqs.com](mailto:sean.miller@drshqs.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 3:01 PM  
**To:** Melissa Douglas <[melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov](mailto:melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]#JustinsTrafficJam

Ms. Dunn,  
I am writing to you today to support KEEPING the #JustinsTrafficJam sign up. I know this email makes no difference to you because the Alexandria City government really doesn't care about citizens that disagree with King Justin and his BPAC minions .. or puppeteers, I'm just not sure anymore.

And I know the City is busy screwing up the Covid response so a little issue of a sign placement is of no consequence to Justin and you. I am sure Covid will just give you guys cover to pull the sign down.

But I figured since I am home, I might as well send you this email. Keep the sign up!!!!

Thank you,  
Sean

---

**DISCLAIMER:** This message was sent from outside the City of Alexandria email system. DO NOT CLICK any links or download attachments unless the contents are from a trusted source.

**From:** [Anh Vu](#)  
**To:** [Kaliah L Lewis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2020 8:25:55 AM

---

---

**From:** Melissa Douglas <[melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov](mailto:melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 5:39 PM  
**To:** Anh Vu <[Anh.Vu@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Anh.Vu@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: [EXTERNAL]

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Elise Pickering <[epickering@mc-dc.com](mailto:epickering@mc-dc.com)>  
**Date:** March 16, 2020 at 5:14:30 PM EDT  
**To:** Melissa Douglas <[melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov](mailto:melissa.douglas@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]

I respectfully request that you count my email in favor of keeping the #justintraffickjam sign on Quaker (house address on key drive). Actually, if you could count it twice (my husband) that would be great. I'm strongly in favor of the message and the first amendment. Thank you.

Elise Pickering  
3721 Taft Avenue  
Alexandria VA. 22304

Sent from my iPhone

---

DISCLAIMER: This message was sent from outside the City of Alexandria email system. DO NOT CLICK any links or download attachments unless the contents are from a trusted source.

[Census 2020 image](#)

