



# *Alexandria Waterfront Commission*

*Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities*

*1108 Jefferson Street*

*Alexandria, Virginia 22314*

December 22, 2020

Honorable Mayor and members of City Council:

**Re: Wales Alley Closer to Vehicular Traffic**

The Waterfront Commission endorsed the staff recommendation to permanently close Wales Alley to vehicular traffic fulltime at its November 17, 2020 meeting. Opening the view through Wales Alley to the Potomac River is consistent with the recommendations of the Waterfront Plan. In addition, the Commission finds this recommendation improves pedestrian safety.

Although the Commission fully endorsed this recommendation, following the expiration of the permit to allow for expanded dining in the alley for Virtue Feed & Grain, the City must ensure more than the existing sidewalk on the north side of the alley be dedicated to pedestrians. Further, the City must consider multiple business owners and other potential commercial uses for this alley following the pandemic.

The Waterfront Commission appreciates the opportunity to provide these recommendations to City Council and looks forward to continued collaboration to implement the Waterfront Small Area Plan.

Sincerely,

Stephen Thayer, Chair

Alexandria Waterfront Commission

cc: Alexandria Waterfront Commission Members  
Mark Jinks, City Manager  
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager  
Yon Lambert, Director, Transportation & Environmental Services  
Karl Moritz, Director, Planning & Zoning  
Jack Browand, Staff Liaison, Alexandria Waterfront Commission