



# *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



To: Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council  
From: Charlotte A. Hall  
Managing Director  
Old Town Business Association

On behalf of the Old Town Business Association, please allow this letter to serve as our endorsement of the closure of Wales Alley to vehicular traffic. Over the years we have observed tentative closure of the alley, as well as when the alley is open. We have also seen it in various stages of gravel, asphalt, flooding, and now bricked. In addition, we have observed it as full of trash and dirty linens. We have never seen it so clean as it is now.

The current status of Wales Alley is a clean and well maintained Alley, currently used for outdoor dining in an attractive and inviting setting. Note that there is still a sidewalk along the north side of the Alley, running the length of the Alley. This allows for pedestrians to continue their walks between the waterfront and Union street.

Wales Alley has come a long way, and exemplifies what we should be doing to make our alleys attractive, inviting, and accessible.

Again, please support the closure of Wales Alley to vehicular traffic, and allow Virtue to continue outdoor dining in the Alley.

Cc Katy North

## Katy North

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**From:** William Smith <320will@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 10, 2020 9:49 AM  
**To:** Katy North  
**Cc:** Duncan Blair; Gene Smith  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Wales Alley

November 10, 2020

Dear Traffic and Parking Board,

The Smith family who owns and runs Virtue Feed & Grain wholly supports closing Wales Alley to vehicular traffic. It is our belief that pedestrian traffic represents a safer and more friendly choice for Old Town by the water. We would like to offer purchasing some nice bollards to define the alley as pedestrian only. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Will Smith  
Virtue Feed & Grain  
(318) 210-6112 cell

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