



September 27, 2021

City Council  
City of Alexandria  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Alexandria City Council Members:

On behalf of the board of the 400+ members of Visit Alexandria, I would like to express our wholehearted endorsement of the economic recovery measures under consideration. We appreciate the opportunity to comment here.

We support the proposed measures including:

- Closure of the 100 Block of King
- Curbside pickup, parklets
- Administrative approval of outdoor dining and retail display

We support these measures because:

- Recent survey research (n=2776) indicates widespread support among residents, visitors and business owners for all of the above measures
- Alexandria's hospitality retention during FY 21 was stronger than neighboring jurisdictions including Arlington and the District of Columbia
- Our recovery is still far from complete, and sustaining recovery is critical for Alexandria's economy, workforce, tax base and residential quality of life

For all of these reasons we encourage you to extend and support the package of economic recovery measures that have been successful to date. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Ellis".

Kate Ellis, Board Chair, Visit Alexandria

Cc: Mark Jinks, City Manager  
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager  
Karl Moritz, Director of Planning & Zoning  
Stephanie Landrum, President & CEO, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership  
Joe Haggerty, President & CEO, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce

October 1, 2021

Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

On behalf of the Old Town Business Association, we encourage you to embrace the closure of the 100 block of King Street to vehicular traffic. We also want to encourage you to allow for the continuation of outdoor dining in on-street parking spaces and sidewalks, and retail sales on sidewalks and on-street parking spaces.

We hope that the City staff will continue working with us, the Old Town Business Association, as we refine the plans for buskers, sidewalks, barricades, enforcement, and outdoor amenities such as curbside pick-up and heaters and tents. It is essential that the staff work with us to create an environment that is business friendly and customer friendly. Over the past 18 months we have had a good working relationship with City staff and we want to continue to move forward as we address these issues and find solutions that will work for the public, the City, and the business community.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Hall

Managing Director

Old Town Business Association