



Alexandria Waterfront Commission

Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

1108 Jefferson Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

October 21, 2022

Honorable Mayor and members of City Council
Members of the Planning Commission
Members of the Traffic & Parking Board

Re: Support for Pedestrian Zone in the Unit Block of King St. and portion of 100 Block of Strand St.

At its October 18, 2022, meeting, the Waterfront Commission voted to support the permanent establishment of a pedestrian zone in the unit block of King St. and a portion of the 100 block of Strand St. (“the Strand”), expanding the pedestrian plaza established in the 100 block of King St. last year. Opening these blocks to pedestrian traffic has proven to better link Waterfront Park to the 100 block of King Street and the Old Town business district. Pedestrianization of these blocks, and closure to vehicular traffic, is consistent with the goals and priorities intended when the City Council adopted the Waterfront Small Area Plan.

In its endorsement, the Commission suggests the following enhancements be considered:

- Strengthening temporary barricades to provide for the safety and security of pedestrians in these blocks until full implementation of street improvements occurs.
- Installing a sign on Strand St. at the intersection of Prince St. identifying “no outlet” or “dead end” and noting limited parking available on Strand St.
- Installing pavement markings on Strand St. clearly identifying the turnaround and no parking areas on Strand St.
- Closing Strand St. at Prince St. and designating the metered parking spaces adjacent to Waterfront Park as Handicapped Parking and City Service Vehicles Only. Continue to allow vehicle access to the private garage at 110 S. Union St. This would provide additional parking near the waterfront for disabled individuals, and would discourage traffic from drivers looking for limited parking in the 100 block of Strand St.
- Designating specific resources to provide appropriate City maintenance and security of the pedestrian zone.

The Waterfront Commission looks forward to continued collaboration to implement activities that support the business community, provide safe and equitable access to waterfront public amenities and support the goals as approved in the Waterfront Small Area Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen Thayer", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Stephen Thayer, Chair
Alexandria Waterfront Commission

cc: Waterfront Commission
James P. Parajon, City Manager
Debra Collins, Deputy City Manager
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
James Spengler, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
Karl Moritz, Director, Planning & Zoning
Don Hayes, Chief, Police Department
Yon Lambert, Director, Transportation & Environmental Services
Jack Browand, Deputy Director, Staff Liaison to Waterfront Commission