

Dear Dr. Medina,

I am submitting the following public comments for the Ad Hoc Stormwater Utility and Flood Mitigation Advisory Group meeting.

During the last advisory group meeting, city staff said that the City of Alexandria would decide on the amount of flood mitigation grants for condominiums at the end of 2022 or at latest the beginning of 2023. *Has a decision been made on condominium grants for flood mitigation?*

The Metropolitan at 1707 Prince Street suffered through five damaging floods in two years, which inundated our garage and damaged the elevator, electric panels, cars, and personal property in the storage area. The total amount spent on installing the floodgate (for 8 owners) was \$264,000. We will have a special assessment to increase the sump pump capacity in the garage and for a structural engineer to determine whether the flooding has damaged our building foundation. Preventative maintenance on our building has been delayed due to the cost of flood clean ups, repairs, and the floodgate. Our reserves are gone, our condo fees will increase, and the building insurance was downgraded by our insurer after being dropped by our previous insurance company.

We applied for the stormwater fee reduction. Most of our owners viewed the process as quite complicated and would not attempt the application. It required a notary and some documentation, all submitted online. Many Alexandrians who suffered flooding may not be aware of this program and do not have the means (internet and paying a notary) to apply for the small reduction that is provided through this program. The 78-page document that explains the application was a challenge.

We appreciate the city's efforts to assist us through this program, but we need much more substantial financial help than a small percent decrease in stormwater fees, especially since capital infrastructure improvements on Daingerfield and the upper King Streets area will not be completed for many years. A grant would assist us greatly in completing additional flood prevention and repairs.

Sincerely,

Rose Esber on behalf of the Metropolitan Condominium owners
1707 Prince Street
Alexandria, VA 22314