

Mayors and Chairs of the Counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William,
and the Cities of Alexandria, and Fairfax

March 19, 2020

The Honorable Ralph Northam
Governor of Virginia
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Dear Governor Northam:

On behalf of elected leaders throughout Northern Virginia, we are asking that you exercise your emergency powers as Governor to mitigate widespread housing insecurity and social service interruptions likely to be experienced in our region, and throughout the Commonwealth, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Specifically, we would ask that you order an immediate suspension of proceedings/action on pending foreclosures and evictions and prohibit new actions from being filed, pending the resolution of the virus and/or the end of the emergency period. In addition, we would ask that you direct multifamily property owners and mortgage lenders doing business in Virginia to waive late fees and other sanctions with regard to delayed rent and mortgage payments, beginning immediately, pending the resolution of the pandemic and/or the lifting of the emergency. Finally, since we are likely to see an increase in housing insecurity in communities across the Commonwealth, we would ask that you order the existing eviction diversion pilot program, which currently only covers Richmond, Hampton, Danville and Petersburg, to apply statewide.

We would also ask that you authorize the provision and state funding of local social services beyond arbitrary and/or typical programmatic time limits to ensure that we protect Northern Virginia residents from potential harms resulting from the termination of critical benefits due merely to the expiration of time and/or funding limits. Finally, we would ask that you lift any penalties related to program participation levels.

We find ourselves in extraordinary times that call for extraordinary measures. As we act locally to help residents and businesses in our communities weather the challenges of this pandemic, we seek to ensure that the financial and personal hardships likely to result from illness and/or business interruptions are not exacerbated further by the stress of potentially losing their homes or being denied vital social services.

We believe your immediate intervention and action are necessary to keep this from happening.

I, and my colleagues, look forward to working with you on this initiative, including ways we might make those multifamily property owners and mortgage lenders that comply with the directive whole in the future. Please let us know how we can help.

We are grateful for your steady, thoughtful leadership during these challenging times.

Sincerely,



Justin Wilson, Mayor
City of Alexandria



Jeff McKay, Chair
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Phyllis J. Randall

Phyllis Randall, Chair
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

Ann Wheeler

Ann Wheeler, Chair
Prince William County Board of Supervisors

Libby Garvey

Libby Garvey, Chair
Arlington County Board

David Meyer

David Meyer, Mayor
City of Fairfax

cc: Members, Northern Virginia Delegation to the General Assembly