



City of Alexandria, Virginia Commission on Aging



Division of Aging and Adult Services
Department of Community and Human Services
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DATE: July 10, 2017
TO: Lynn Hampton, Chair
Joint City-Schools Facility Investment Task Force
FROM: Bob Eiffert, Chair, Alexandria Commission on Aging
SUBJECT: Commission on Aging Testimony

I am Bob Eiffert and I am writing as the Chair of the Alexandria Commission on Aging to ask for your support for affordable assisted living in the City. The Commission's Plan for Aging and the City's Housing Master Plan, both of which were adopted by City Council, include the overwhelming need for mixed income assisted living that includes units affordable to low and moderate income Alexandrians.

The Commission has been working with a variety of City and private agencies to address a wide range of cost issues, but the greatest stumbling block to such a facility is free land, which is necessary to allow for units to be affordable to a variety of incomes. Co-location of such a facility with a City school or community building would be ideal. Parking and traffic requirements for assisted living are not a significant impact wherever such a facility is located. The residents themselves would be no threat to the other building uses, and co-location with a school could add the possibility of higher functioning older adults interacting with and tutoring students. It would be win-win situation for both uses.

We understand you will be assigning various tasks to committees to study and report back to the full Task Force. We ask that you add affordable and accessible assisted living to the uses that could be co-located with new or reconstructed schools or other City facilities. We would be happy to work with the committee(s) to explore this opportunity further. Thank you for your consideration!

cc: Katherine Carraway, Urban Planner
Helen McIlvaine, Director, Office of Housing
Members of the Commission on Aging