



City Hall
Alexandria, Virginia

Alexandria Waterfront Committee
Department of Recreations, Parks and Cultural Activities
1108 Jefferson Street
Alexandria Virginia 22314



March 22, 2010

The Honorable William D. Euille
Mayor of Alexandria
City Hall
301 King Street, Room 2300
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Euille:

This letter summarizes the position of the Alexandria Waterfront Committee on the City's draft Strategic Plan.

In general, we are encouraged by the high priority that the draft plan places on the Waterfront, with Goal 1, Objective 1 of the draft plan to "increase the vitality and economic success of the City Waterfront and King Street Corridor while maintaining and strengthening the City's commitment to historic preservation and neighborhood quality of life." We agree that appropriate investments in the City's Waterfront and the adjacent retail corridor will bolster the City's economy and improve residents' quality of life.

The Committee has two concerns regarding the proposed strategic plan: 1) that its implementation be consistent with the Waterfront Plan and 2) that the City define its intentions regarding "historic preservation."

Regarding the first point, we note that a draft Waterfront Plan is forthcoming from the Department of Planning and Zoning and is scheduled for adoption by Council by year's end. This plan has been assembled with considerable input from the public at large and stakeholder groups, including the Waterfront Committee. The Waterfront Plan will outline a long-term strategic vision for the entirety of the City's Potomac River Waterfront. It is crucial that initiatives implemented as a result of the Strategic Plan be consistent with the long-term vision of the Waterfront Plan.

On the second point, we note that the aura of Alexandria's Waterfront district is the sum of several historic eras. Efforts to preserve and protect the City's historic structures should authentically reflect the full spectrum of Alexandria history. At the same time, if structures are to be successfully preserved, they must have a viable economic use. These dual objectives may be accomplished by developing a series of options for existing underutilized historic structures (e.g., the former Beachcombers Restaurant building at the foot of Prince Street) that not only include potential uses but also the various historical time periods that each

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structure could represent. We hope that this concept is adopted in the Waterfront Plan and is respected within the Strategic Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the City's draft Strategic Plan. We look forward to working with you on adoption and implementation of both the Strategic Plan and the Waterfront Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nathan M. Macek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Nathan M. Macek
Chair
Alexandria Waterfront Committee

CC: Alexandria City Council
James K. Hartmann, City Manager
James B. Spengler, Director, Department of Recreation Parks and Cultural Activities
Faroll Hamer, Director, Department of Planning and Zoning
Roger Blakeley, Department of Recreation Parks and Cultural Activities
Laura Seidler, Department of Recreation Parks and Cultural Activities