



Alexandria Waterfront Commission

Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

1108 Jefferson Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

May 28, 2019

Honorable Mayor & members of City Council

Re: This letter summarizes the Alexandria Waterfront Commission's support for planning of a King Street Pedestrian Plaza.

On May 14, 2019 Mayor Wilson and Councilman Chapman authored a memorandum to members of the City Council requesting that city staff develop a plan to consider closure to vehicles of the unit block, 100 block and/or the 200 block of King Street.

At its meeting on May 21, 2019, the Waterfront Commission discussed the Wilson/Chapman memo and unanimously voted to endorse further study of this issue. The Waterfront Commission concurs with the recommendation to include this study in the City's interdepartmental work program.

The Waterfront Commission is eager to support study of King Street Pedestrian Plaza concepts. The Waterfront Commission was actively involved in two previous efforts to study this concept including the Lower King Street Multi-modal Feasibility Study, which investigated options for the 100 block in 2014, and the Union Street Corridor Study, which considered pedestrian options for the unit block of King Street in 2012. The Commission's feedback helped to refine these concepts, although no actions to pedestrianize these blocks were taken following either study.

In addition to the five policy options requested in the Wilson/Chapman memo, we also encourage consideration of daily, weekly, and seasonal schedule options for each block of the pedestrian plaza, as well as approaches to address deliveries, valet parking operations, and trolley service in the area.

The Waterfront Commission includes many key stakeholders who would benefit from and be impacted by a pedestrian plaza, including residential, civic and business interests. We look forward to providing constructive feedback as concepts are developed and evaluated.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Stephan Thayer, Chair
Alexandria Waterfront Commission

cc: Alexandria Waterfront Commission
Mark Jinks, City Manager
Debra Collins, Deputy City Manager
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
James Spengler, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
Yon Lambert, Director, Transportation & Environmental Services
Karl Moritz, Director, Planning & Zoning
Jack Browand, Division Chief, Liaison to the Waterfront Commission