Ballyshaners Comments on Naming the Park at the Waterfront

Kim Moore <kmoore22301@yahoo.com>

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To: Craig Fifer <Craig.Fifer@alexandriava.gov>; Timothy Lovain <timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov>; Del Pepper <Del.Pepper@alexandriava.gov>;

Cc: Joan Baker <joanebaker@hotmail.com>; Jkensil <jkensil@aol.com>;

Dear Naming Committee,

The Ballyshaners, organizers of the Alexandria Irish Festival and the Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade, recommend that the park at the base of King Street be one contiguous park and that it be named for Colonel John Fitzgerald. Naming it for Fitzgerald will recognize his role in the establishment of Alexandria as a port city.

In addition to his commercial work, Col. Fitzgerald helped established our current City Council process and was one of Alexandria's original mayors. He also established the first Catholic Church in Alexandria now known as The Basilica of St. Mary. The church was established with financial support from General George Washington. Fitzgerald also was a key member of Washington's team serving as his Aide-de-Camp during the Revolutionary War. Fitzgerald's loyalty and leadership were key in establishing our nation.

Pat Troy, our organization's founder and Chairman Emeritus, dedicated over ten years to seeing the park named for Fitzgerald. Pat's love of the United States, Alexandria, and the contributions of the Irish to Alexandria's development were key to his effort. In August, 2018, the Ballyshaners voted and by majority, we agreed to endorse naming the park at the Waterfront for Colonel Fitzgerald.

The Ballyshaners urge your support of adding Fitzgerald's name to the park at the Waterfront. I am copying the Ballyshaners Vice Chairman and Secretary on this message.

Sincerely,

Kimberley Moore
Chairman, Ballyshaners