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**FY 2020 EPC ANNUAL REPORT**

JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020

AUGUST 2020

## 1. Introduction

The Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) was established under Chapter 4, Article M, of the City Code to “advise and make recommendations to the City Council and, when appropriate, to the Planning Commission and City Manager.” This report provides a summary of EPC activities during Fiscal Year 2020.

## 2. Who We Are

The Alexandria City Council established the EPC in 1970 to advise and make recommendations to the City Council and, where appropriate, to the Planning Commission and City Manager, on matters relating to the following:

- Climate change and environmental sustainability
- Air quality;
- Land use;
- Noise pollution and abatement;
- Pesticides, herbicides and contaminants;
- Solid waste;
- Water quality and supply;
- Other matters referred to the EPC by the City and citizens; and
- Other topics relating to the conservation and protection of Alexandria’s environment.

The EPC, when fully appointed consists of 13 members, including five members from the field of environmental sciences, five citizen-at-large members, one member from the field of urban planning, one member with experience in Federal or state environmental statutes/regulations, and one representative from the Alexandria business community. The EPC regularly works with other organizations to further the environmental goals of the City.

The following is a list of Commissioners who served on the EPC during FY2020.

Humza Arshad	Praveen Kathpal (Chair)
Michael Bahleda <sup>2</sup>	Michael Kulas (Secretary)
Craig Berry <sup>1</sup>	Michael Olex <sup>2</sup>
Eldon Boes	Brendan Owens (Vice-Chair)
Edith Cecchini <sup>2</sup>	William Pugh <sup>2</sup>
Kathie Hoekstra <sup>2</sup>	Marta Schantz
James Hook	Carolyn Schroeder <sup>1</sup>
	Reid Sherman

Notes: <sup>1</sup>Term ended in FY20; <sup>2</sup>Term began in FY20

The EPC met once a month during this shortened year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, holding an annual retreat in September, six monthly in-person meetings from September through February and one virtual meeting in June. Monthly meetings from March through May 2020 were cancelled due to the pandemic. All meetings were open to the public and Minutes of the meetings were posted to the EPC page on the City website:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/EnvironmentalPolicyCommission.html>

Throughout the year, the EPC was supported by staff of the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES), Office of Environmental Quality. The EPC wishes to express its thanks for the time, expertise and guidance provided by City leadership and staff.

### **3. FY20 EPC Annual Retreat & Priorities**

On September 21, 2019, the EPC held its annual retreat to discuss EPC priorities for the coming year. For FY2020, the main priority for the commission was to work with City Departments to ensure progress is being made on short-term actions stipulated in the new Environmental Action Plan 2040 adopted by City Council in July 2019, by advocating for FY21 City budget priorities relating to those actions.

Each focus area of the EAP 2040 had at least two EPC members acting as advocates and these members were in close contact with City staff to enquire about progress and make recommendations to staff on EAP 2040 actions of interest.

### **4. FY2020 EPC Activities**

The commission focused on reviewing and discussing progress on several short-term EAP actions with staff, notably, energy and climate change, solid waste management, stormwater management and indoor air quality. The shortened fiscal year precluded the review of other focus areas of the EAP 2040. The EPC also participated in policy decisions on several land use issues such as the UDR resource protection area exception request and the North Potomac Yard environmental sustainability master plan. As in past years, the EPC also provided recommendations to City management and Council on the FY21 budget priorities and made a presentation on the EAP implementation to the Eco-City Steering Committee co-chaired by Vice-Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker and Councilwoman Del Pepper.

#### EPC Correspondence and Presentations

- 12-09-19 Email to City Council re “Inclusion of Climate Change Priorities in Legislative Package”
- 11-23-19 Letter to Planning Commission re “UDR Resource Protection Area Exception Request”
- 11-09-19 Presentation to the Eco-City Steering Committee re “EAP Implementation”
- 10-07-19 Letter to Yon Lambert, Director T&ES, re “EPC Recommendations for FY2021 Budget”

Members of the Commission also participated in the following City commissions, committees, and advisory Groups in the capacity of voting members:

- Eco-City Steering Committee
- Potomac Yard Metro Station Implementation Group
- Waterfront Commission

- Transportation Commission
- Eisenhower West Small Area Plan Advisory Group
- River Renew Stakeholder Advisory Group

## **6. EPC Membership Recruitment**

During FY20, two members resigned and four new members joining the commission. The current roster has the maximum number of 13 members.

## **7. Leadership**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the commission annual elections for three leadership positions (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary) for FY2021 was delayed until the virtual meeting of August 17, 2020.