

October 19, 2017

Honorable Jay Fisette  
Chairman, Arlington County Board  
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 300  
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Proposed County Purchase of Shirlington Road Properties

Dear Chairman Fisette:

The Four Mile Run Valley Working Group discussed the potential purchase of the properties 2629 and 2633 Shirlington Road by the county at our October 3 and 18 meetings, and we offer the following comments.

First, we reiterate the points made in our June 26, 2017 letter to you, emphasizing we strongly support the county acquiring this property for storage and servicing of buses and other large county vehicles. Some members of our working group have concerns about acquiring parcels through the use of eminent domain, as they believe it could undermine the trust between the business community and the county we have worked to cultivate during the 4MRV process.

Second, we urge the option for future co-location of other county facilities and amenities be included in the process. As we noted previously, we should retain maximum flexibility to accommodate long-term county facility needs, and not foreclose options such as a fieldhouse, multi-activity center or other community asset. Other communities are exploring options for co-location of facilities and Arlington should be at the forefront of those efforts.

Third, should the purchase of these parcels be completed, we recommend that any vehicle storage be located at the back of the property along I-395. A range of county and/or public-private activities should be considered to create a welcoming and activated frontage along Shirlington Road. A well-designed frontage could enhance this important corridor and provide screening to more industrial uses at the back of the property.

Fourth, we support efforts to improve the environmental conditions of Nauck Branch and its connection to Four Mile Run, such as daylighting and providing public access.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our views and our support for this purchase.

Sincerely,  
  
Charles Monfort  
Chairman, 4MRVWG