# LTRB Member- Vice Chair Waters Information Paper/Report - 10.5.2022

## **Attachment 1 – Three (3) summaries**

- 1. Summary of Vice Chair input provided Chair for September 7, 2022 meeting
  - a. I have provided additional documentation to support the motions included in the Position Paper; namely attachment 15:
    - (1) Motion 1: For the <u>See, Say, Do Something Motion</u>, I have added the City's actionable 2022 priorities which contains the implied values of the City. There is sufficient reasoning basis to contend, our values ought shape our priorities and our priorities ought shape our budget/spending. In like manner, our current values ought shape the action the City should take to remedy the harm done to people of color now identified as African Americans.

Focus: Repairing, Restoring, and Rebuilding damaged human relationships

- (2) Motion 2: For the <u>Best Practices Motion</u>, I have cited a definition of best practices that the International City/County Management Association has embraced "initiatives which make outstanding contributions to improving the quality of life in a City". Additionally, establishing advisory bodies is rooted in an understanding they can serve as a constructive means to help ensure residents and community groups are afforded a just and equitable opportunity to influence decisions which impact their well-being and quality of life to include building healthy relationships and transforming management challenges into constructive win-win outcomes.
- b. This member contends revising/updating the LTRB bylaws should be informed by thoughtful rationale such as City core values, priorities, and best practices. Moreover, to help ensure the LTRB functions at its optimal level and maintains its focus on matters in keeping with its charter. To help while advocating for ways and means to help facilitate healthy relationships between landlords and tenants through voluntary advisory council ought be listed as a best practice. Note: The City's 2226 Housing & Community Development Plan Executive Summary is worth taking time to read since it to get a feel for what the City really values and what its real priorities in the near future.
- 2. **Summary of engagement** with ARHA's point of contact for its Resident Relocation Plan submitted to Office of Housing on May 17, 2022 and provided LTRB Members on evening of September 1, 2022. I provided Mr. David a questionnaire to complete

for the Public Hearing scheduled to be held by the LTRB on Wed, September 7, 2022.

# His reply received this morning (9.7.2022) is as follows:

I received your late last night as I was in a public hearing until late.

In reviewing the attached questionnaire, I noticed that most of the information which you seek is not currently available. Let me explain:

- The project is currently in the entitlement phase. Last Friday, September 2, the development team submitted to the City the Preliminary Design documents. We have a meeting with the BAR during the week of September 13. We do not anticipate receiving City Council approval until February of 2023.
- We procured Housing Opportunities Unlimited last month, and they will commence their outreach to the 65 Madden households in October. <u>ARHA's project manager has been meeting with Madden residents since January 2021 preparing a visioning book and ensuring resident involvement throughout the entire entitlement process. I have personally worked with HOU on numerous relocation processes and in each they have demonstrated their commitment to residents, especially low-income households.</u>
- We will implement an aggressive resident outreach plan, pay for resident moves and disconnect and re-connect fees, deposits and other fees that residents may incur. We will also make accommodations for storage units and other things as they arise.
- We will implement a case management approach so that the relocation of residents will be tailored to the family that we are working with.
- We are still working with HUD to obtain tenant protection vouchers so that we can expand the number of temporary housing options for Madden residents. Madden residents will be provided options from among vacant public housing and other housing within ARHA's portfolio of properties, our development partners have developed properties in and around Alexandria, and our network of private property owners will be resources where residents will be moved into. In addition, HOU has an extensive network of property owners with whom they have worked in the past that will serve as resources to their relocation efforts.

Currently, since we are less than a year away from relocating residents off the Madden site, we are working with residents to identify outstanding maintenance work orders that can be addressed without making major capital investments in the property. Our goal is to ensure that residents continue to enjoy a good quality of life as we begin the process to relocate them off-site and the subsequent redevelopment of their future apartment homes.

I will ensure that both HOU and our staff have the attached information so that when we are in the implementation phase, they will be able to provide you and your colleagues with the information requested. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me on my cell I received your late last night as I was in a public hearing until late.

3. **Summary of phonecon with Helen McIllvane**, Alexandria City's Director, Office of Housing on a range of topics including race and social equity as well as the other following topics:

# a. ISSUE - Accountability

Who follows up to ensure the promises or terms and conditions of the portion dealing the relocation plan is completed? I am concerned whether there is an

office of oversight or requirement to provide oversight for purposes of accountability.

Short response: a staff person in the Ofc of Hsg

Longer response: to be provided soon

# b. ISSUE - Tracking

Is there any requirement to track required and/or non-required notifications to and/or from developers or their reps to tenants or staff and visa versa? If yes, who does it for the City?

Short response: Yes and is being done by the staff person referenced above

Longer response: to be provided soon

### c. ISSUE - Data Collection

Is there a Office of Housing or City repository for the collection and storage of empirical data like violations of landlords/developer or tenants. In like manner is there data regarding solutions reached in the form of remedy?

Short response: Yes

Longer response: to be provided soon

## d. TOPIC - Core Values

WHAT ARE THE CORE VALUES of the City of Alexandria and where might I found them listed as a matter of public record?

Short response: Values embedded in City's 2022 Priorities

Longer response: Conversation in understanding City's process to be continued

## e. TOPIC - DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Does the Health Department as well as the Office of Human Rights and City Attorney get involved in helping resolve disputes or complaints between developers/property owners and tenants? Is that process listed because I have asked to see one since the LTRB may be called upon to resolve disputes according to our Charter?

Short response: Yes!

Longer response: Conversation to achieve greater understanding to be

continued.

## **Attachment 2**

## Request for Tenant Relocation Information from ARHA

Due Date: Noon 09/07/2022 QUESTIONS/CONCERNS REGARDING THE RELOCATION PLAN provided via LTRB Chr

## REQUEST FOR ARHA DEVELOPER INFORMATION FROM LTRB MEMBER WATERS

- 1. NAME: ORGANIZATION/Representative(s) ARHA/David Cortiella dcortiella@arha.us
- 2. SUBJECT/ISSUE: ARHA Resident Relocation Plan
- **3. INFORMATION** (feel free to continue responses on a separate page):
  - a. Notices sent to/received from
    - (1) Chronology of notices sent to

Chronology of notices sent to					
Period Covered	Tenants	Staff	Landlord Tenant Relations Bd		

(2) Chronology of notices received from

Period Covered	Tenants	Staff	Landlord Tenant Relations Bd

- b. Payment sent/acknowledged:
  - (1) Tenants NOT very low income, elderly or disabled

<b>Dates Covered</b>	Payments Sent	Payments Acknowledged	<b>Payments Not Sent</b>	Reason Not Sent

(2) Tenants – very low income, elderly or disabled

<b>Dates Covered</b>	Payments Sent	Payments Acknowledged	Payments Not Sent	Reason Not Sent

- c. Resolution of complaints (if any):
  - (1) Number received from Tenants -

<b>Dates Covered</b>	Resolved	In-progress	Unresolved & why

(2) Number received from Area Residents -

<b>Dates Covered</b>	Resolved	In-progress	Unresolved & why

(3) From Interest Groups/Tenant Representatives/Others (specify) -

<b>Dates Covered</b>	Resolved	In-progress	Unresolved & why

- **4. CONCERNS** (feel free to continue responses on a separate page):
  - a. Relocation Plan compatible with City Plans: position statement

(1) City's Strategic Plan

	Theme	Yes Compatible (Y)	Not Compatible (N) or NA
1	Distinctive & Vibrant Neighborhoods		

2	Inclusive City	
3	Well Managed Gov't	
4	Safe & Resilient Cmty	
5	Flourishing Arts, Culture & Recreation	
6	Strong Economy	
7	Thriving Children & Youth	
8	Environmental Sustainability	
9	Healthy Residents	
10	Multimodal Transportation	

(2) Housing Master Plan

2) Housing Master Fia	11		
Goal	Objectives	Yes Compatible (Y)	Not Compatible (N) or NA
1-Preserve Existing Subsidized & M R Hsg	1.1 () 1.2 () 1.3 () 1.4 () 1.5 ()	1.1 () 1.2 () 1.3 () 1.4 () 1.5 ()	1.1 () 1.2 () 1.3 () 1.4 () 1.5 ()
2 -Encourage development of new affordable & workforce rental units	2.1 () 2.2 () 2.3 () 2.4 () 2.5 ()	2.1 () 2.2 () 2.3 () 2.4 () 2.5 ()	2.1 () 2.2 () 2.3 () 2.4 () 2.5 ()
3-Assist in preparation for home ownership	3.1 ()		
4-Enable living 7 prospering in current home ownership	4.1 ( )		
5 – Provide a variety of safe quality Hsg accessible to all ages, incomes and abilities	5.1 () 5.2 () 5.3 () 5.4 () 5.5 () 5.6 ()		
6-Enhance awareness of needs, opportunities, and benefits of affordable Hsg	6.1()		

(3) Racial and Social Equity Resolution

•	Resolutions	Yes Compatible (Y)	Not Compatible (N) or NA
1	Ensure that race and social equity is incorporated and centered in all planning		
2	Implement and sustain structures and systems to advance race and social equity		
3	Align and implement policy efforts designed to advance race and social equity goals,		
4	Ensure accountability mechanisms related to the progression and transparency of work to advance race and social equity		

(4) Other relevant Plans (specify-

	Name/Focus	Yes Compatible (Y)	Not Compatible (N) or NA
1	Park Plans		
2	Arts and Culture Master Plans		
3	<b>Environmental Action Plans</b>		

# b. Coordination/Collaboration (name the entity & provide contact info) (1) City Staff

Staff	Concur (C) w/wo Remarks	Non Concur w/wo Remarks	NA

	Residents							
	Political							
	Ldrs							
5. CO	S. COMMENTS (source optional): continue on separate pages							
<del>-</del>								
6. ADI	DITIONA	L QUESTIONS						
a. Landlord Tenant Board Member(s)								
	(1) Will there be storage space provided for those of who could not find a place of residence							
	from its time frame of process given the 120 days' notice to relocate?  (2) If yes, would the residents he or she have to pay for storage and or will it be paid by the government							
	and/or will some other organization assist with helping defray the storage cost?  (3) Will all residents receive security deposits back with current interest- rate and/or based on years as a							
	resident.	_		·				
	(4) With	the process of relocating soon or la fford moving back into the housing	ter – what do you project to be the	e likelihood of a resident being				
_								
b.		estions pending or likely to be as	ked during public hearing?					
	(1). (2).							
	(3).							
c.	Tenants o	questions pending or likely to be	asked during public hearing?					
			01					
	(1). (2). (3).							
		Crouns questions ponding on li	lzoly to he asleed during muhlic h	nooring?				
	<b>d.</b> Interest Groups questions pending or likely to be asked during public hearing? (1).							
	(1). (2). (3).							
(	<i></i>							

Non Concur w/wo Remarks

NA

(2) Other(s) (please identify

Entity Concur (C ) w/wo Remarks

Cmty Grps

## **Attachment 3**

# City of Alexandria's Civic Engagement Resolution NO. 2597 RESOLUTION NO. 2597

Establish Civic Engagement Principles and supporting processes as set forth in the Alexandria

Handbook for Civic Engagement ('Handbook') to guide the City's effort to involve the public in the development of public policy, program and planning decisions in the City of Alexandria.

WHEREAS, the City Council in 2012 charged the City Manager's office with launching a civic engagement initiative to gather information and develop and implement strategies for improving and expanding civic engagement in Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, the primary goal of the civic engagement initiative, What's Next Alexandria, is to improve the quality of Alexandria's public participation process so that members of the community are actively, constructively, and meaningfully involved in the public decisions that affect the city; and

WHEREAS, collaboration between community members and Alexandria city government leads to better results than either working separately, and as an outcome of that partnership, results better stand the test of time; and

#### WHEREAS, effective civic engagement:

- Improves understanding of the value of working together to solve common problems; Creates and encourages a fully informed public that knows how to participate and embraces commonly held Principles of Civic Engagement and the processes that support full participation;
- Increases public participation, representative of the City's demographic diversity;
- Ensures active leadership by the public in organizing their community to participate in civic engagement processes and help shape broader goals of the City;
- Inspires members of the community to endorse decisions and actions by the City because decisions clearly reflect public participation in a transparent process;
- Stems from consistency across City departments, Boards and Commissions in the application of civic engagement principles and process;
- Results in confidence in the equity of the public decision making process; and
- Reinforces mutual trust between the community and City government; and

WHEREAS, the attached Handbook and Principles for Civic Engagement serve as the foundation for public participation in Alexandria and is intended to guide the city government and members of the community in how Alexandrians can best participate in public dialogue for decisions that shape the city;

## NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA:

#### That the City Council of Alexandria, Virginia:

I. Establish as City policy the concepts contained in the attached Civic Engagement Principles and process framework specified in the Handbook for the purpose of more meaningfully engaging the community in the development of City policies, plans, and projects. It is the purpose of this policy to ensure that public participation in the formulation of City public policy shall be welcomed and encouraged. Further, it is the purpose of this policy to ensure all members of the Alexandria community, regardless of station or circumstance, shall have the opportunity to express their views on matters of public policy and that their views are given fair and respectful consideration.

- 2. Ensure that prior to the adoption of public policies which will significantly impact the quality of life of members of the community, (I) the nature of the proposed policy or action has been fully disclosed, (2) the public has had reasonable opportunity to be informed, consulted, involved, or to collaborate on the proposed action, and (3) the decision-making body has had sufficient opportunity fairly to consider and reflect before acting.
- 3. Charge the City Manager's Office with providing oversight to ensure that expectations are clear, request for resources are adequate to meet expectations, and staff is held accountable for results;

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- 4. Charge the City Manager's Office with directing city departments to conduct ongoing assessments of civic engagement performance by project as stipulated in the Handbook, including but not limited to:
  - Assessing community evaluation of performance vis a vis each principle;
  - Assessing the organizing and communication process;
  - Reviewing and assessing use of the Framework;
  - Assessing project accountability and transparency;
  - Managing resources to provide appropriate facilitation training to staff involved in civic engagement work throughout the City; and
  - Incorporating internal and external evaluation methods for further measurement and insights into the quality of the civic engagement process as a whole and each department's performance in pursuit of the Civic Engagement principles.
- 5. Direct the Civic Engagement Interdepartmental Working Group to advise city departments, the City Manager, and City Council in these assessment processes and to develop a proposed plan for future annual review of civic engagement performance in collaboration with the community.
- 6. Through this resolution establish binding city policy.

Adopted: January 25, 2014

ATTEST:

M. Henderson, MMC City C

## **Attachment 4**

### Transmittal Letter forwarding Concerned Resident/LTRB Member's Position Paper

From: waters325@comcast.net

Transmittal Letter forwarding Concerned Resident/LTRB Member's Position Paper
From: waters325@comcast.net
To: "jim@naiderodcmetro.com" sjibh707@juno.com", "infaga10@gmail.com" shiph707@juno.com", "jibh707@juno.com", jibh707@juno.com", jibh707@ju

Date: 09/18/2022 6:30 PM

Subject: Proposed Bd Mbr Motions Intended to Further Promote the Common Good of Alexandrians

## Re: See attached Transmittal Ltr with attached Board Member's Position Paper (withdrawn)

#### To: ALL ADDRESSEES

Please find two attachments:

- A Transmittal Letter introducing the attached Position Paper
- Board Member's Position Paper with the two (2) proposed advisory motions

As mentioned in the referenced transmittal letter, should any addressee desire to forward any comments, suggestions or views in opposition to or support of the motions or commentary in the Position Paper, please feel free to email your information to: ewaters 325@gmail.com no later than October 17, 2022. As a courtesy, do consider providing others you deem appropriate a courtesy copy of what you send me.

With appreciation,

Elliott Waters

Concerned Resident & Vice Chair, LTRB

## Elliott M. Waters 325 Cameron Station Blvd Alexandria, VA 22304

September 18, 2022

Transmittal Letter sent via email to Alexandria City, Virginia addressees selectively listed Public/Private Organizations; Residents and Stakeholders

# Re: TWO PROPOSED MOTIONS INTENDED TO PROMOTE THE COMMON GOOD OF ALL Greetings All,

If after reading the attached Position Paper, should you or your organization choose to advocate for City adoption of motions 1 and 2, you are asked to submit your position on each motion as a recommended advisory to our governing City leadership. Additionally, since there are numerous cost-effective ways and means to reasonably ascertain/verify the identity of those harmed – living or deceased, I ask that you also advocate for not placing the administrative burden to prove harm primarily on those alive or descendants of the deceased harmed as well as those responsible for causing the harm - for humanitarian reasons. Given the availability of public/private staff with exceptional expertise and access to information technology, hopefully those resources will be used wisely to help achieve desired reasonable just and equitable outcomes to remedy acknowledged and verified harm.

## a. Motion 1: See something, Say something, Do something

The action proposed is that timely informed action be taken to remedy harmful effects of intentional injustice and inequity visited upon residents identified as African Americans during the 1930s-1960s and their descendants - warranting remedy such as livability and wellness, etc. LTRB Action Taken-passed unanimously: "Based in part on Dr. Krysten Moon's article, "The African American Housing Crisis in Alexandria, VA during the 1930s-1960s" which provides evidence of sanctioned policies and practices that systematically denied people of color identified as African American residents' access to housing not denied to other people of color identified as Caucasian Americans during the 1930s-1960s, we ask that the City of Alexandria verify and acknowledge this with intent to correct the harm."

#### b. Motion 2: Best practices

The action proposed is that Alexandria's governing leadership make it known more fully that it encourages and values establishing advisory bodies [voluntarily] in governmental and non-governmental entities as a best practice. The term best practice refers to initiatives which make outstanding contributions to improving the quality of life in a City according to the International City/County Management Association's (ICMA's). Although not branded as a best practice in 2014, the City passed Resolution 2597 establishing its civic engagement policy. LTRB Action Taken- passed unanimously: Given the clear understanding that the City of Alexandria, Virginia has a strong commitment to citizen/resident participation in good governance as evidenced by the number of citizen/resident boards, commissions and committees established by its City Council, I move that the Landlord Tenants Relations Board (LTRB): (1) recommend that City Council adopt a policy which encourages establishing advisory councils, as a best practice in the City of Alexandria, and that (2) public/private non-governmental entities be encouraged to form advisory councils on a voluntary basis with the clear understanding that any/all advice offered is non-binding as is the case with existing non-statutory City boards, commissions, and committees, but that (3) any/all advice rendered to

Page 1 of 2

recipients of the advisory council's advice [especially the decision-making body or agent], would be given serious consideration in addressing matters viewed as problems or challenges in a manner deemed both reasonable as well as transparent.

It is no secret since 9/11, people who value life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all have been encouraged to say something when they see something regarded as a serious threat to the common good. Thanks to the courageous selfless work of a respected and gifted local historian, the unjust and inequitable harm visited upon African Americans during the 1930s -1960s solely based on the color of their skin was documented and published in 2016 and supported in part by additional data included in the attached Position Paper. Hopefully, current proactive efforts to help remove and prevent tarnish attributed to any acts of injustice and inequity will also produce desired reasonable remedy outcomes Alexandrians can embrace to correct harm done during the 1930s-1960s to residents solely based on the color of their skin soonest - since justice delayed is akin to justice denied.

It is also no secret the City's wise investment in civic engagement designed to involve the public in development of public policy is making a positive difference in public understanding and acceptance of decisions reportedly made in their best interests. Therefore, it is reasonable to expect that the proposed motion to encourage public/private non-governmental entities to involve residents/tenants in a voluntarily capacity in matters that impact their wellness or quality of life is also capable of making a consequential contribution in enhancing not only landlord tenant relationships but other desired outcomes when those impacted as well as those with vested interests engage in thoughtful dialogue.

Should you desire to forward any comments, suggestions or criticisms of the motions or commentary to me, feel free to it to: <a href="mailto:ewaters325@gmail.com">ewaters325@gmail.com</a> no later than 30 days from receipt of this letter.

With appreciation in advance,

Elliott M. Waters

Concerned Resident & LTRB Member

cc: Members of Alexandria City Council and Key Members of City Staff

#### Position Paper Attachments - 15:

- 1A Motion 1 See Something, Say Something, Do Something
- 1B Motion 2 Best Practice (encourage establishing public/private non-governmental advisory bodies)
- 2 Article by Dr. Krystyn in 2016 entitled, The African American Housing Crisis in Alexandria, (1930s-1960s)
- 3 Oakland, Ca article mentioning the 1939 Unsung Heroes involved in the Alexandria Library Sit-In
- 4 Melvin Miller's Testimony before City Council (Mayor Beatley Chairing) October 1967
- 5 Connection Newspaper Article, entitled, "The Nice-Nasty Town" June 2017
- 6 NY Times Article, entitled, "Black Homeowners Face Discrimination in Appraisals" Aug 27, 2020
- 7 Alexandria City Fair Housing Testing Summary (1990-2021) note: no recorded data for 1930s-1989
- 8 Background Information Supporting Discussion for Best Practice Motion
- 9 Members of Alexandria City Council Issue Statement on Inclusiveness Nov 19, 2016
- 10 ALL ALEXANDRIA INITIATIVE-Background, Vision, and Goal
- 11 Email Thread with Office of Housing
- 12 Glossary of Terms
- 13 Federal Government's example set by the Biden Administration according to the Urban Institute
- 14 Habitat for Humanity's Five (5) policy solutions to advance racial equity in Housing
- 15 City's 2022 Strategic Plan Themes & the actionable City priorities established for 2022