

ZONING FOR HOUSING/HOUSING FOR ALL LISTENING EVENT
THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023
NANCY WILLIAMS

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME YOU TO THIS THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023 ALL VIRTUAL ZONING FOR HOUSING/HOUSING FOR ALL LISTENING SESSION, AND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION.

THE CITY -- AS YOU LIKELY KNOW, -- HELD A 1.5 DAY KICK-OFF EVENT FOR ZONING FOR HOUSING/HOUSING FOR ALL THIS PAST MONDAY AND TUESDAY. WHILE WE HAD A GOOD TURNOUT, WE KNOW THAT SOME PEOPLE WERE NOT ABLE TO ATTEND FOR VARIOUS REASONS. WE THEREFORE ARE HOLDING THIS LISTENING SESSION SO THAT WE CAN: (1) ENSURE YOU ARE AWARE OF THE PURPOSE OF ZONING FOR HOUSING/HOUSING FOR ALL; (2) REVIEW SOME KEYS ELEMENTS OF BOTH WITH YOU; AND (3) GIVE YOU AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE SOME INITIAL THOUGHTS AROUND THE THEME OF ACCESSIBILITY, AFFORDABILITY AND AVAILABILITY IN TERMS OF HOUSING PRODUCTION AND AFFORDABILITY. THE MECHANISM THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO UTILIZE TO ASK A WRITTEN QUESTION **OR** SHARE A WRITTEN COMMENT IS THE QUESTION TOOL ON YOUR SCREEN. A STAFF MEMBER WILL READ THE QUESTION/COMMENT AND THEN KARL AND I WILL RESPOND. PLEASE BE MINDFUL THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT EVERYONE -- WHO WOULD LIKE TO ASK A QUESTION OR MAKE A COMMENT -- BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO. SO PLEASE ATTACH YOUR NAME TO YOUR QUESTION AND WE WILL BE SURE TO CIRCLE BACK TO YOU IF YOU HAVE ASKED ONE QUESTION BUT MAY HAVE ANOTHER ONE LATER ON. THIS WILL GIVE EVERYONE WHO HAS A QUESTION OR A COMMENT THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO. WE ALSO HAVE OTHER STAFF HERE WHO ARE PART OF THE ZONING FOR HOUSING/HOUSING FOR ALL TEAM AND ARE LISTENING TO YOUR THIS EVENT.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLANS

THE SESSIONS FROM THE KICK-OFF WERE RECORDED AND WE HOPE TO HAVE THE RECORDING UP ON THE WEBSITE EARLY NEXT WEEK. THAT SAID, THE PRESENTATIONS BY ALL THE SPEAKERS ARE POSTED. TO ACCESS THE ZONING FOR HOUSING/HOUSING FOR ALL WEBSITE, PLEASE JUST LINK TO THE CITY'S HOMEPAGE AND YOU WILL SEE A LINK TO ZONING FOR HOUSING/HOUSING FOR ALL THERE. WWW.ALEXANDRIAVA.GOV

BECAUSE THIS IS THE PRELIMINARY STAGE OF THIS PROCESS YOUR COMMENTS ARE IMPORTANT TO US AS THE PROJECT MANAGERS FOR EACH OF THE ZONING FOR HOUSING INITIATIVES CONTINUE WITH THEIR DATA GATHERING AND ANALYSIS. YOUR INPUT WILL HELP INFORM THAT WORK AND THE PRELIMINARY FINDINGS THAT WILL FOLLOW.

AT THE KICK-OFF EVENT HOUSING DIRECTOR HELEN MCILVAINE POINTED TO DATA SHOWING THERE ARE 15,000 HOUSEHOLDS IN THE CITY WHO ARE COST-BURDENED, MEANING THEY ARE PAYING MORE THAN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SAYS THEY SHOULD BE PAYING. THIRTY PERCENT IS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S GUIDELINE.

ZONING FOR HOUSING IS A COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSAL OF ZONING REFORMS WITH THE GOAL OF EXPANDING HOUSING PRODUCTION AND AFFORDABILITY AND ADDRESSING PAST AND CURRENT BARRIERS TO EQUITABLE HOUSING ACCESS. HOUSING FOR ALL IS THE EQUITY COMPONENT OF *ZONING FOR HOUSING* AND WILL EXPLORE THE EXTENT OF PAST DISCRIMINATORY HOUSING POLICIES AND THEIR CONTINUED IMPACT, ESPECIALLY ON PEOPLE OF COLOR AND/OR LOW-INCOME.

THIS IS NOT THE END OF YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE – IT IS THE BEGINNING.

THE CITY IS SCHEDULING THREE HYBRID COMMUNITY MEETINGS OVER THE SPRING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STAGE FROM APRIL TO JUNE.

- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 6-8:00 PM AT THE RAMSAY RECREATION CENTER ON THE WEST END.
- WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 6:00 – 7:45 PM AT BEATLEY LIBRARY IN THE CENTRAL AREA.
- WE ARE CONFIRMING THE THIRD HYBRID MEETING FOR THE EAST END AND WILL HAVE IT POSTED SHORTLY.

WHILE WE ARE SCHEDULING THESE IN DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE CITY, STAKEHOLDERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND ANY OF THEM AND, OF COURSE, WATCH THEM VIA ZOOM. YOU ALSO HAVE THE OPTION OF SHARING YOUR COMMENTS VIA A COMMENT FORM THAT IS LOCATED ON THE WEBPAGE.

ADDITIONALLY, TO KEEP YOU INFORMED OF MEETINGS, EVENTS AND THE LIKE THE WEBPAGE WILL ADD INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROJECT AS IT EVOLVES. WE WILL ALSO USE ENEWS AND SOCIAL MEDIA TO HELP KEEP THE COMMUNITY INFORMED AND ENGAGED.

I WILL NOW TURN THE MICROPHONE OVER TO KARL MORITZ, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING WHO WILL GIVE AN OVERVIEW OF THE ZONING FOR HOUSING TOOLS WHICH WE WILL BE EXPLORING IN CONCERT WITH YOU THE COMMUNITY AND THEN I WILL TALK ABOUT THE OTHER PIECE TO THIS – HOUSING FOR ALL WHICH IS THE EQUITY COMPONENT OF ZONING FOR HOUSING.

AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING TONIGHT.