

From: <CountyBoard@arlingtonva.us>
Date: Tue, Mar 16, 2021 at 9:50 AM
Subject: RE: ASF Input on the Missing Middle Housing Survey
To: <asf.virginia@gmail.com>

Dear Team ASF,

On behalf of my colleagues on the County Board, thank you for sharing your thoughts about the Missing Middle survey. I have shared your letter with all members of the Board, and have reviewed your attachments, analysis of the survey questions, and considered your concerns regarding the Missing Middle work.

In the past year, all our lives have been drastically changed by the coronavirus pandemic. It has affected the health, well-being and economic stability of our community. It also has led to a delay in my responding to you for which I sincerely apologize.

As you asked, I have reviewed your specific concerns with respect to the study in Attachment 2 of your letter of January 5. The Board and staff have considered the concerns with respect to the wording of questions and Spanish availability.

The concerns you identify are reasonable ones. They do not lead me to conclude that the survey is not useful, but I hear and respect your views on the survey. The survey was one of many outreach efforts, the results of which will be considered as the Board continues to work with the community to develop recommendations.

I also have considered your concerns that the County has engaged with the Alliance for Housing Solutions on Missing Middle work, your view that we have reached a conclusion regarding policies, and comments about the appropriate process for moving forward on Missing Middle work.

While the Board does not believe that our community can stop evolving, or that the status quo will serve us well going forward, we have not reached conclusions on policies – the study is still in Phase 2. We will continue to offer multiple venues for debating ideas and policy on Missing Middle in the coming months.

Finally, we think a debate that brings in more individuals via online discussion has the potential to lead to more voices and greater participation in the development of policies.

I will continue to listen, engage and respect the concerns you fairly raise in your letter. We may not agree in every case, but we will continue the conversation and consider policy ideas for how best to address the identified need to develop types of housing that help serve all Arlington residents, now and in the years to come.

Thank you again for writing. I hope that this recognizes your concerns even if I suspect you may not agree.

Sincerely,

Matt

Matt de Ferranti
Chair, Arlington County Board