

April 25, 2022

Dear County Board Members and County Manager Schwartz:

We are writing on behalf of four civic associations, Arlington Forest, Boulevard Manor, Bluemont, and Glencarlyn, which represent more than 4,000 households in central Arlington. We wanted to share with you our concern about the process for public engagement following release of Phase 2 of the Missing Middle Housing Study (MMHS). We would like to know:

- Will the public engagement process following the upcoming release of the Phase 2 policy framework be limited to four weeks during May?
- Will this be the last opportunity for our civic associations to meaningfully weigh in on Missing Middle before the Board approves the Phase 2 framework to move forward for implementation in Phase 3?

As we believe you are aware, MMHS is of great interest to our neighborhoods and we have had committees studying the issue for two years. Many of us have had question and answer sessions with County Board members at civic association meetings and engaged in numerous written and telephone communications with you and staff to better understand MMHS. Throughout the two years, staff and County officials have urged us to wait for the Phase 2 study to learn the details of impending plans. We have done so in good faith, and none of us have yet taken an official position on MMHS, waiting to better understand what is being proposed and how it might impact our neighborhoods.

Once the Phase 2 details are released, it had been our associations' intentions to inform our communities, discuss the recommendations at community meetings and poll our residents. This process will take several months. However, our community associations, like so many others, are inactive during June, July and August.

The County has been studying and discussing MMHS for more than two years. Its implementation will significantly and irrevocably impact Arlington residents. To provide only four weeks for public input on an actual detailed plan of such importance does not seem like the Arlington Way.

We respectfully request that the public engagement period be extended so that our associations have no less than three months, excluding June, July and August, to give our communities the time we need to fully consider the MMHS plan.

Sincerely,

Julie Lee  
President, Glencarlyn Civic Association

Matthew Phillips  
President, Boulevard Manor Civic Association

Laura Kirkconnell  
President, Bluemont Civic Association

Esther Bowring  
President, Arlington Forest Citizens Association