

HOUSING COMMISSION
KELLEN MACBETH, CHAIR

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April 5, 2024

Hon. Libby Garvey, Chair
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

Dear Ms. Garvey:

At its March 7, 2024, hybrid public meeting, the Housing Commission considered the County Manager's proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Budget. The Commission voted unanimously to approve a list of recommendations. Those are:

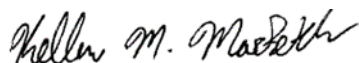
1. **AHIF** – Increase AHIF funding to \$30M to ensure that the county has additional funds in upcoming fiscal years to contribute to increases in CAF supply. There are several upcoming (re)development projects for CAFs that are at risk of not having AHIF funding at a time when construction costs and interest rates are making affordable housing development more expensive.
2. **Committed Affordable Unit (CAF) Quality** – Provide adequate funding for the implementation of the Long-term Strategies for Improved Oversight and Tenant Support at Aging CAF Properties issued in April 2022 and the recommendations from the Joint Subcommittee on the Status of Aging Properties Serrano Report issued in October 2022. Specifically:
 - a. Increase staffing for CPHD Housing Division including a Deputy Director position.
 - b. Increase funding for the formation and support of resident councils at CAF properties.
3. **Fair Housing Plan Implementation** – Provide adequate funding for the implementation of Regional Fair Housing Plan (Approved by the Board in Summer 2023) goals and strategies. Specifically:
 - a. Provide additional funding for the Office of Human Rights to do expanded Fair Housing Testing in FY2025.
 - b. Provide additional funding to the Office of Human Rights to expand enforcement of Source of Funds protection (adopted by the County Board as an amendment to the Human Rights Ordinance in 2024) to ensure that

residents with housing grants and housing choice vouchers are not denied housing illegally.

4. **Housing Grants Administration** – Provide funding to enhance the Housing Grants client management system, Yardi, to expand its capacity to improve program administration.
5. **Homelessness Support** – Provide adequate funding for the implementation of the county’s strategic plan to functionally end homelessness in the next four years including:
 - a. a. More short-term rental subsidies (like flexible Rapid Rehousing) that also create pathways for undocumented residents to stable housing.
 - b. Supportive services resources to attract and retain case managers to do the work.
 - c. More behavioral health resources and Permanent Supportive Housing
 - d. d. A continued portfolio of housing for all subsidized households on the low-income stream.
6. **Equity Analysis** – Provide adequate funding for regular equity analysis for all housing and planning projects.
7. **Planning Capacity** – Preserve the two planning positions (proposed to be cut) within CPHD to ensure that staff have the capacity to support revisiting the East Falls Church area plan and recommendations to improve the Affordable Housing Ordinance and related state enabling legislation.

Thank you for your consideration and support of affordable housing in Arlington.

Sincerely,



Kellen MacBeth
Chair