

Alcova Heights Walking Town Meeting May 27, 2008

Walking Tour Stop	Neighborhood Topics	County Response
<p>Starting Point: Alcova Heights Park at the picnic tables on the north side of the park at 8th Street South. There is limited on street parking on both sides of George Mason Drive and 8th Street South near the park.</p> <p>Note: In the event of rain or inclement weather, the meeting location will be held at the Arlington Baptist Church at 7th Street South and South Monroe Street as noted in the asterisk on the map.</p>		
<p>1. <u>Intersection of South George Mason Drive and 8th Street South at Alcova Heights Park</u></p>	<p><u>Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Control:</u> There are several areas in the neighborhood where automobile and pedestrian traffic conflict with one another. This stop is an example. What are the options to address these problem areas?</p> <p>The primary concern at this location is pedestrian safety. Alcova Heights Park is located at this busy intersection and enjoys maximum usage. Currently there are lots of cars and pedestrian traffic going back and forth between the two portions of the park. Also, there are cars turning to and from South George Mason Drive and also using 8th Street South. There is a safety concern when people are unloading cars and crossing the street going from one side of the park to the other.</p> <p>At this intersection, the traffic signal needs to be timed differently as back ups are increasing on the road. Residents want to know if improvements can be made at this intersection to reduce the potential for pedestrian and car accidents.</p>	<p>A traffic calming plan for 8th Street South near George Mason Drive was completed in late 2005 and consisted of the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textured crosswalk, gateway and elongated nub on 8th Street South at George Mason Drive; and • Raised crosswalk on 8th Street South at South Randolph Street. <p>These measures were implemented to encourage park patrons to use the crosswalks at George Mason Drive or South Randolph Street and not to cross mid-block. Additionally, the elongated nub on the south side near George Mason Drive prohibited parking near the intersection to provide better visibility for motorists to see pedestrians using the park. Staff will evaluate other traffic calming options.</p> <p><u>Reported Accident History:</u> According to statistical information, during the time period of January 2005 through May 2008, there were a total of 16 reported accidents in this area. Six of the 16 accidents were reported to have occurred at the intersection of 8th Street South at South George Mason Drive (2 injuries and 4 damage-only to vehicles). It is uncertain whether these injuries were to pedestrians or to vehicle occupants.</p>

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<p>1. <u>(Continued)</u></p>		<p>The ten remaining accidents had an address of the 800 block of South George Mason Drive which means that they occurred in the general area and not at the intersection. Of those 10 accidents, there were four injuries and six damage-only to vehicles.</p> <p><u>Enforcement:</u> From October 2007 through January 2008, the Police Department's Special Operations Section patrolled the area of the 700 block of South George Mason Drive. Sixty one hours of enforcement resulted in 251 citations for various violations. Police continue to regularly monitor this area for violations. In March 2008, the Police Department conducted a pedestrian safety campaign. The area of South George Mason Drive at Columbia Pike was one of the areas targeted for enforcement. There are plans to have another pedestrian safety enforcement campaign in the Fall of 2008.</p>
<p>Route: Travel east through the park on the trail toward the intersection of South Quincy Street and 6th Street South.</p>		
<p>2. <u>Northern Portion of Alcova Heights Park</u></p>	<p><u>Park Maintenance:</u> Residents of Alcova Heights would like routine County maintenance in the park. Lack of care is reflected in the encroaching ivy kudzu, tree die-off, gang graffiti, erosion, trash and debris in the stream, and overall general maintenance needs.</p>	<p>Staff will work with the residents of Alcova Heights to address the concerns such as invasive plants and the reported graffiti on the park grounds.</p>

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<p>2. <u>(Continued)</u></p>		<p>Following are staff contacts to address the noted concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Park Maintenance</u>: For general maintenance and plant care, contact park management staff Kurt Louis at 703-228-7754 or klouis@arlingtonva.us, or Kasey Spriggs at 703-228-7982 or kspriggs@arlingtonva.us. • <u>Volunteer Plant Cleanup</u>: To organize volunteer work groups to remove evasive plants, contact Jenn Truong at 703-228-7636 or Jtruong@vt.edu. • <u>Graffiti</u>: Graffiti should be reported to park maintenance at 703-228-6525 or park management staff Kurt Louis at 703-228-7754 and Kasey Springs at 703-228-7982 for prompt removal.
<p>Route: Continue on trail for about a block and a half to the intersection of South Quincy Street and 6th Street South.</p>		
<p>3. <u>Intersection of South Quincy Street and 6th Street South</u></p>	<p><u>BRAC Project at National Guard and State Department Training Center Expansion</u>: There is significant planned growth of both facilities on this federal tract of land. Residents have been kept informed about planning for the expansion of the facilities at the Army National Guard Readiness Center. In response to receipt and review of the environmental assessment, Alcova Heights Citizens Association, in partnership with Barcroft Civic Association leadership, forwarded a letter, which was copied to the County Board, outlining concerns and issues</p>	<p>On April 3, 2008, the Arlington County BRAC Coordinator attended a Barcroft Civic Association meeting in which the President of the Alcova Heights Citizens Association and representatives from the Army National Guard (NG) Readiness Center were in attendance. The BRAC Coordinator shared with residents that the County was preparing a response to the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and shared it with the respective Associations. The response was forwarded to the NG and can be made available for review.</p>

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<p>3. <u>(Continued)</u></p>	<p>to be addressed as part of this expansion effort. According to recent plans, 1,200 employees will be moving to this location by 2011. Over 354 of those relocating employees currently drive to their present employment site in Crystal City. Fifty six percent (56%) of the employees now use mass transit which is not available at the Guard site. Part of the plans include construction of a parking garage by 2014, three years after the proposed transfers. Residents feel that not enough has been done to adequately address the likely transportation and parking impacts on Alcova Heights which is adjacent to these government facilities.</p> <p>The Alcova Heights Citizens Association had no environmental impact input into the current expansion at the State Department Training Center. In regard to noise, State Department construction activity begins before 6:00 am and ends after 9:00 pm on some evenings. The neighborhood wants to work more closely with the project staff to minimize the negative impacts such as increased traffic, noise, excessive lighting, and growing commuter parking on residential streets. Neighbors are aware of parking permits but want to know what other alternatives are available. The neighbors need assistance in learning how the County can help the neighborhood with issues that concern both the National Guard and the Training Center.</p>	<p>Prior to beginning construction, the State Department sent out a letter informing residents of the beginning of construction and provided the name and contact information for a lead project staff: Nelson C. Allen, Project Manager, at allennc@state.gov, or by phone at 202-647-2074. As the project proceeds, County staff will continue to work with the State Department and the National Guard and regularly communicate project status with adjoining neighborhoods.</p> <p>In regard to traffic, Arlington County shares many of the concerns Alcova Heights and Barcroft residents have related to the planned relocation of 1,200 Army National Guard employees from Crystal City to the Army National Guard Readiness Center. The County is actively engaging with the National Guard to make sure that the comments identified in both the County's and the neighborhood review of the EA for the project are addressed in the final version of the EA. The County supports the concerns of the neighborhood regarding the relocation of the 1,200 employees. In partnership with the neighborhood, the County will continue to work directly with the NG and its Congressional representatives to mitigate the impacts of the expansion of the site as the project continues through the review process by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC).</p>

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<p>Route: Travel south on South Quincy Street and turn left into the alley mid block between 6th Street South and 7th Street South. Walk through the alley to South Oakland Street.</p>		
<p>4. <u>Intersection of alley between 6th Street South and 7th Street South and Oakland Street</u></p>	<p><u>Disposition of Alleys:</u> Alcova Heights has many alleys throughout the neighborhood, presumptively owned by the County. What is the County's strategic plan for alleys?</p> <p>The alley issues include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Maintenance:</u> Some alleys are maintained by the County and others by the neighbors who live along the alley. It is common practice for the neighbors to maintain alleys and some are using them access into their garages. The maintenance levels among the alleys vary greatly. Who is ultimately responsible for maintenance? 2. <u>Storm Water:</u> Some alleys, due to topography and maintenance, or lack there of, create storm water run off issues for adjacent property owners. How can this issue be addressed? 3. <u>Safety:</u> Some are used as roadways and have been the site of vehicle accidents. Others are strictly used by pedestrians. <p>What is a reasonable expectation for County maintenance of alleys? The Alcova Heights Neighborhood Conservation Plan specifically addresses the issue of the alleys with recommendations about upkeep and maintenance.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Maintenance:</u> It has been the County's practice to maintain County owned alleys upon resident request. Staff will continue to perform maintenance upon resident request. The Walking Town Meeting will provide an opportunity to further assess the maintenance needs of the alley. 2. <u>Storm Water:</u> Storm drainage issues in alleys need to be looked at on a case-by-case basis to determine if there are alternative solutions. If there are specific concerns regarding maintenance or drainage that need to be addressed, the point of contact is David Donahue of the Water/Sewer/Streets Bureau at 703-228-3653. Mr. Donahue will be in attendance at the Walking Town Meeting and available to discuss specific concerns. 3. <u>Safety/Reported Accident History:</u> During the timeframe of January 2005 through May 12, 2008, there were two reported accidents: one in the 3800 block of South 6th Street – damage-only to the vehicle, and one reported at South 7th Street at South 8th Street – damage-only to the vehicle.

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<p>Route: Continue east in the alley to South Monroe Street. Turn left and travel north on Monroe Street to 6th Street South. Turn right at 6th Street South going east on 6th Street South to the alley to the right just before the intersection of 6th Street South and South Glebe Road. Travel a few feet to the mid point of the alley.</p>		
<p>5. <u>Monroe Street to Glebe Road Alley</u></p>	<p><u>Disposition of Alleys:</u> The neighborhood is seeking a reasonable expectation for County alley maintenance. This alley currently serves as a road way. It has been a contributing factor in two automobile accidents in one year's time causing safety problems for some of the neighbors. The alley was paved by the county about ten years ago. As previously noted, there are issues around maintenance, storm drainage and safety.</p>	<p>The County's practice has been to maintain County owned alleys upon resident request. Staff will continue to perform maintenance upon resident request. Storm drainage issues should be forwarded to David Donahue who can be reached at 703-228-3653.</p> <p>Neighborhood Traffic Calming (NTC) staff recently received a request this month from the association to close this alley to through vehicle traffic by placing bollards or other measures in the alley while allowing pedestrian and bicycle traffic. The request is currently under review by staff. Additionally, staff is evaluating other possible safety alternatives.</p> <p><u>Reported Accident History:</u> The two automobile accidents involved motorists living adjacent to the alley. During the timeframe of January 2005 through May 12, 2008, there were two reported accidents at the intersection of South Glebe Road at South 6th Street; one injury and one damage-only. During this same time there were five reported accidents, damage-only to vehicles, in the 600 block of South Glebe Road.</p>

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Route: Travel south in the alley to the intersection of 7th Street South and South Glebe Road.		
<p>6. <u>Intersection of 7th Street South and South Glebe Road</u></p>	<p><u>Traffic Control and Pedestrian Safety:</u> This is one of several areas in the neighborhood where automobile and pedestrian traffic are in conflict with one another. What are options to address these problem areas? Drivers use 7th Street as a cut through and often race to make the light at 7th Street South. This problem often makes pulling onto South Glebe Road on a green light treacherous.</p>	<p>Staff will be collecting new traffic data along 7th Street South between South Monroe Street and South Glebe Road as part of its evaluation for possible traffic calming measures.</p> <p><u>Reported Accident History:</u> The area of South Glebe Road at South 7th Street has been an on-going complaint for a number of years for “racing to catch the light.” From January 1, 2005 through May 12, 2008, there were a total of 13 reported vehicle accidents in the 700 block of South Glebe Road. The 13 accidents may not all have occurred at the intersection of South Glebe Road at South 7th Street. Of the 13 reported accidents, 9 involved injuries and six were damage-only to vehicles.</p> <p><u>Enforcement:</u> To address the problem, the following enforcement actions have been taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In November 2006, Police spent approximately 19 hours at this location and wrote 35 citations for various offenses. • In February 2007, the area was monitored and no violations were noted. • In December 2007, this same area was monitored for five hours and a total of 23 citations were written. <p>This will continue to be an area for on-going enforcement.</p>

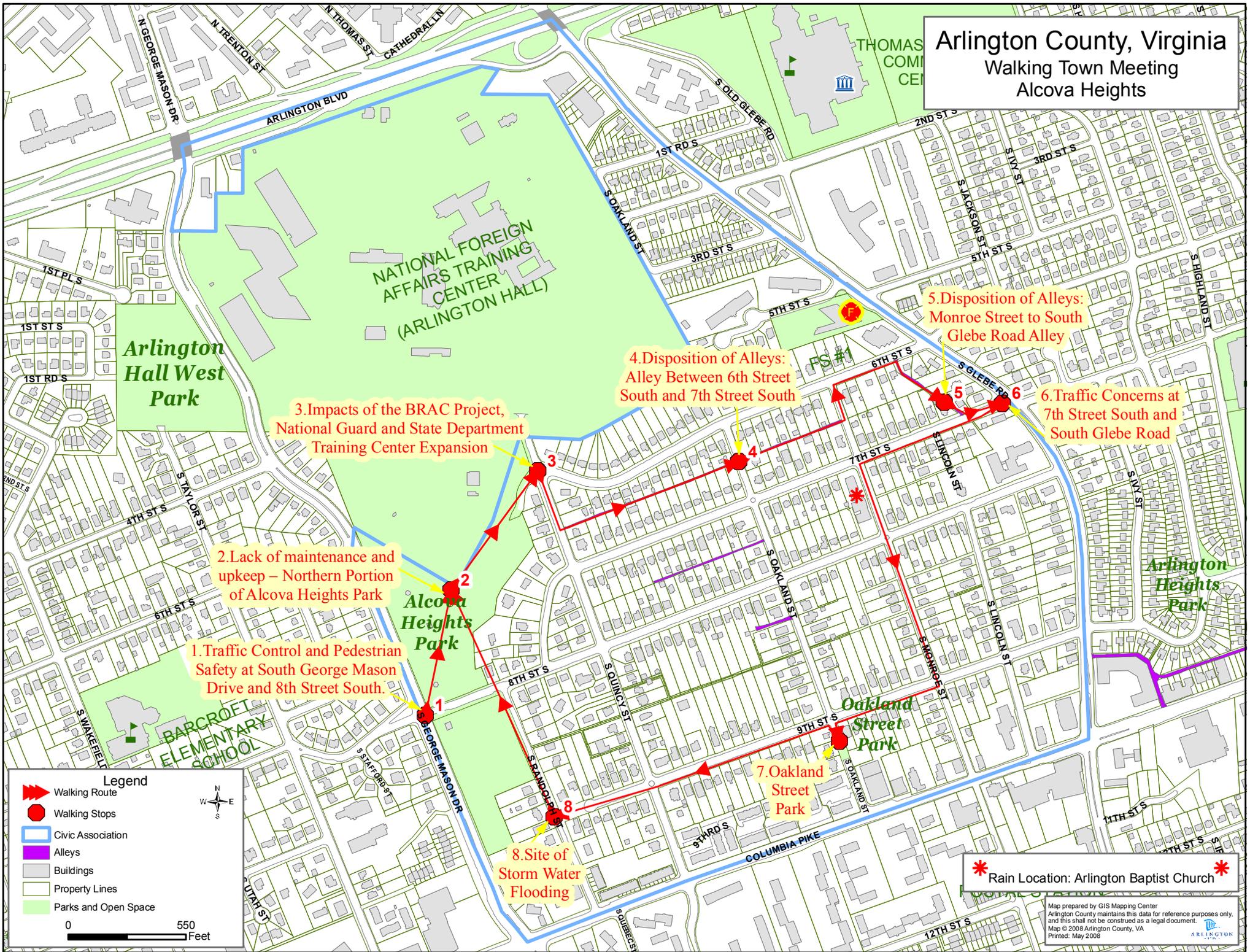
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Route: Go west on 7th Street South to South Monroe Street; turn left onto South Monroe Street going south to 9th Street South; turn right on 9th Street South heading west to South Oakland Street.		
7. <u>Oakland Street Park</u>	As an example of a neighborhood amenity, residents would like to showcase this small park. It is a favorite, highly used and treasured open space/park in the neighborhood.	Staff looks forward to the neighborhood sharing this highlight at the Walking Town Meeting.
Route: Continue west on 9th Street South to the end and down the steps to South Randolph Street. <u>Note:</u> The concrete steps and area around them are County owned but not regularly maintained. Turn right on South Randolph Street.		
8. <u>South Randolph Street</u>	<u>Storm Water Flooding:</u> Houses on the west side of South Randolph Street have had serious storm water flooding from commercial run off and the creek.	Staff will have the opportunity to further evaluate during the meeting. The point of contact for this issue is David Donahue . He will be in attendance at the meeting and can be reached at 703-228-3653.
Route: Return to playground area of the park for refreshments to end the meeting.		

Arlington County, Virginia

Walking Town Meeting

Alcova Heights



3. Impacts of the BRAC Project, National Guard and State Department Training Center Expansion

2. Lack of maintenance and upkeep – Northern Portion of Alcova Heights Park

1. Traffic Control and Pedestrian Safety at South George Mason Drive and 8th Street South.

4. Disposition of Alleys: Alley Between 6th Street South and 7th Street South

5. Disposition of Alleys: Monroe Street to South Glebe Road Alley

6. Traffic Concerns at 7th Street South and South Glebe Road

7. Oakland Street Park

8. Site of Storm Water Flooding

* Rain Location: Arlington Baptist Church *

Legend

- Walking Route
- Walking Stops
- Civic Association
- Alleys
- Buildings
- Property Lines
- Parks and Open Space

0 550 Feet

Map prepared by GIS Mapping Center
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