



**ARLINGTON COUNTY
URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION**

**2700 South Taylor Street
Arlington, VA 22206**



September 12, 2011

Hon. Christopher Zimmerman
Chairman
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Monument View

Dear Mr. Zimmerman,

The Urban Forestry Commission has reviewed the final site plan for the Monument View project, and we note that it provides significantly more tree canopy than is typical for projects in high-density urban areas. Proposed plantings are fully consistent with the Crystal City Sector Plan, which calls for maintaining and increasing tree canopy. The extensive plantings in this plan will help to achieve the goal of maintaining the existing 17.6% canopy cover in Crystal City despite future density increases.

Proposed plantings include an allee (double row of trees) along Old Jefferson Davis Highway and South Ball Street, with multi-rows of canopy and ornamental trees along South 6th Street. Concerning tree species, the Commission encourages the planting of native canopy trees as appropriate.

Any changes in the curb line to provide more on-street parking should not reduce tree plantings. There is generous space between the building and the sidewalk that can be reduced to provide more on-street parking, so it would not be necessary to give up the allee of trees that is one of the more desirable elements of the plan.

The Commission supports the use of lawn panels along all street frontages to prevent compaction of soil around tree roots. In addition to benefiting the trees, the use of lawn panels will match the character of the streetscape by Long Bridge Park.

If trees are planted in pavement cut-outs as shown on the final plans, we recommend use of Silva Cells or other means of suspending the pavement over uncompacted soil to encourage healthy root growth. We also recommend the use of a loam-based soil mix, not a structural soil consisting primarily of crushed rock; this would benefit the trees and also assist in stormwater management.

Thank you for considering our suggestions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Finch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "F".

Larry Finch
Chair, Urban Forestry Commission

cc: Barbara Donnellan, County Manager