



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of February 23, 2008**

DATE: February 13, 2008

SUBJECT: Arlington Heights Neighborhood Conservation Plan Update.

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the attached resolution to accept the Arlington Heights Neighborhood Conservation Plan Update with staff comments specified in the plan.

ISSUE: This is a review of the Arlington Heights Neighborhood Conservation Plan Update and no issues have been identified.

SUMMARY: The Arlington Heights Civic Association began work on this plan update in 2000. A written survey was distributed to every household in the neighborhood. Neighborhood Conservation (NC) staff worked extensively with volunteer plan writers to complete and review this plan update, which was approved by the Association in March of 2007. The Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee reviewed the plan update on September 13, 2007, and recommended it be forwarded to the Planning Commission and County Board for acceptance. Therefore it is recommended that the County Board accept the plan update with staff comments specified in this report.

BACKGROUND: The Arlington Heights neighborhood is located in South Arlington just south of Arlington Boulevard, which makes up its northern boundary. Glebe Road makes up the eastern boundary, Columbia Pike serves as the southern boundary and Fillmore Street and Walter Reed Drive comprise the western boundary. Alcova Heights, Ashton Heights, Lyon Park, Penrose, and Douglass Park all surround the neighborhood. The neighborhood consists of mostly single family homes, but does have some semi-detached duplexes and row-style townhouses. In addition, the neighborhood has one 1940s garden-style condominium complex and one high rise apartment building. It is also home to the Thomas Jefferson Middle School and Community Center, which hosts the annual Arlington County Fair.

In 2000, a survey was distributed throughout the neighborhood. The survey response for the neighborhood was 11 percent, which is above the average response rate of 10 percent for Civic Associations in Arlington. The original committee of the Arlington Heights Civic Association working on the update dissolved in 2003, and a new committee was formed in 2006, which

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

Staff: Tim McIntosh, CPHD, ONS

completed the plan update. In March of 2007, the Civic Association voted to adopt the plan update. On September 13, 2007, the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) reviewed and approved the Arlington Heights Neighborhood Conservation Plan Update and recommended that the Planning Commission and the County Board accept this plan update.

Staff has provided comments on a number of recommendations to clarify issues and provide additional information. Staff generally supports the Arlington Heights Neighborhood Conservation Plan Update and recommends County Board acceptance of the plan update, subject to staff comments attached to this report.

DISCUSSION: The Arlington Heights Neighborhood Conservation Plan Update makes 112 recommendations covering a broad spectrum of topics. County staff will work to implement the community projects as initiated by the neighborhood, subject to funding availability and NCAC approval. For non-capital recommendations, NC staff will act as a liaison between the community and other County agencies. Attached is the plan update, along with staff comments, organized around various sections in the Arlington Heights Neighborhood Conservation Plan Update. This report and staff comments will be printed and bound with the Neighborhood Conservation Plan Update when it is published.

The Planning Commission accepted the Arlington Heights Neighborhood Conservation Plan on December 5, 2007. During that meeting, a question regarding access for bus shelters was brought up by one of the members. Arlington County has adopted a design standard for bus shelters that ensures full accessibility for persons who are wheelchair users. For the past year, all new installations have utilized a shorter bench to permit wheelchairs to gain full access into the shelter. Older installations may not meet that standard, but will be brought up to ADA requirements when significant renovations/repairs are made. We currently do not have a program to retrofit shelters with new benches.

FISCAL IMPACT: The acceptance of the Arlington Heights Neighborhood Conservation Plan Update does not have any immediate fiscal impact upon County operations. If recommendations from this plan requiring funding or staff resources outside of the NC bond allocation are brought forward for implementation, they will each be analyzed as part of the County budget process.