

CCFAC Public Needs Hearing Summary of Public Comments

November 12, 2019
Fairfax County Government Center
Conference Room 9/10

1. **Michael Mahrer, Literacy Council of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA (Presented and submitted written testimony)**
 - Demographic focus is residents that make up 20% of Fairfax County who understand little or no English.
 - Issues identified include the strong connection between English proficiency and poverty; the impact of an adult's lack of language and literacy skills on his or her family; and the studies that have concluded that programs designed to boost academic achievement in children also help the adults in their lives.
 - There are very few places in Fairfax County that offer beginning level English at an affordable rate.
 - **Needs: 1) increase affordable language and literacy learning opportunities and 2) beginner class offerings for extremely limited-English speaking adults.**

2. **Ken McMillon, Member, Fairfax County Community Action Advisory Board (CAAB) (Presented and submitted written testimony)**
 - Attended recent town hall meeting sponsored by Delegate Ibraheem Samirah on addressing affordable housing inequities.
 - Hourly workers, who are employed at businesses in the county, cannot afford to live within the county on 30% of their income.
 - Groups such as Morgan Properties, who are working on the Mt. Vernon Square project, are helping low to moderate income residents.
 - **Needs: 1) more investment is needed in state/local subsidy programs and 2) discuss how to make housing affordable to service workers in a metropolitan area where housing is increasingly unaffordable.**

3. **Barbara Milleville, National Capital Citizens with Low Vision (Presented and submitted written testimony)**
 - According to the 2000 US Census, there are 36,000 Fairfax County residents who have low vision or are legally blind.
 - Many in the low vision community choose to relocate to Fairfax County to take advantage of the employment opportunities.
 - Affordable housing options are limited for this vulnerable population.
 - **Needs: 1) include the cost of live-in aids as impairment related expenses and not as income on applications to determine housing eligibility for Fairfax County housing programs; 2) exclude savings accounts that have funds allotted for impairment items from being included as income; 3) adjust AMI for applicants that need to live in a more walkable community; 4) adjust how retirement income is**

calculated for housing applications; and 5) consider modifying the First Time Homebuyer Application form to include applicants with a visual disability and accept home requests that meet the specific needs.

4. Jerry Poje, Member, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (Presented and submitted written testimony)

- Representing the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in partnership with four nearby faith communities.
- Deficit of over 30,000 affordable rental units and the coming need of 15,000 new units to support those living below 60% AMI, calculating to approximately 5,100 new units in each magisterial district.
- **Needs: 1) build awareness and support the YIMBY (Yes in My Back Yard) movement in each district across the county; 2) increase to two pennies for affordable housing to result in a larger investment to reach the 5,000 new unit goal; 3) include affordable housing in the County's state legislative package and budget recommendation; and 4) create a new county joint committee to plan for affordable housing in CIP and bonds.**

5. Mary Paden, Couth County Task Force for Human Services (Submitted written testimony)

- Submitted report titled *Identifying Housing & Human Services Needs Across Fairfax County* hosted by the Consolidated Community Funding Advisory Committee.
- Summary of a community meeting held September 26 at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Gum Springs at which about 100 members of the Gum Springs and Hybla Valley community spent about 90 minutes brainstorming what they wanted for their community in the areas of:
 - Housing
 - Transportation
 - Schools/ job training
 - Jobs (what type?)
 - Safety / crime / drugs
 - Recreation/ parks/ culture programs
 - Access to health care and healthy food
 - Shops/retail/ offices/ restaurants/local businesses
 - Value of community vs. individual gains
- Small group discussions were led by facilitators and captured by recorders to get direct input from this community as to their needs and desires for the future for an area on the border of a large proposed development zone.
- A report was submitted from an earlier meeting April 30, 2019 (Hybla Valley Gum Springs Listening Session) organized by the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance and other local groups at Bethlehem Baptist Church that focused on community assets and challenges.

6. Donald Brown, (Submitted written testimony)

- Wants Fairfax County to get rid of the zoning and safety requirements for housing so that affordable housing can be supplied by the private sector.