

July 13, 2017

Madame Chairwoman and Task Force Members:

Thank's for hearing me this morning. I've lived in Alexandria 32 years. For 37 years I managed and developed low-income elderly housing that included assisted and nursing care services. I've continued as a volunteer advocate during 16 years retirement years. As you deliberate I urge you to keep in mind the following:

1. Co-location of public/private interests is increasingly popular, and cost effective.
 - a. Affordable housing above the fire station in Potomac Yard is just one of several examples that serve both interests well.
 - b. Residential over commercial is a practical use of *both land and air rights*.
2. The *greatest housing need* in our City is not affordable housing, as great as that need is, but *affordable assisted living*, which is non-existent. There is none!
 - a. Low-income frail elderly need care!
 - i. Many live in ARHA's Ladrey,
 - ii. And in Annie B Rose,
 - iii. And in Claridge House,
 - iv. And throughout the city that we don't know about.
 - b. Their only option is to go Manassas, some 35 miles away.

When I retired in 2001 the City owned and operated an affordable assisted living facility called the ARCH. It only served 12 residents, and the money it cost the City was enough to subsidize 100 residents in a larger facility. On April 17, 2003, City Council votes to close the ARCH, and appoint a Work Group to "develop concrete options for expanding affordable assisted living for Alexandria seniors." The Work Group was unable to find a suitable site and eventually disbanded.

Fourteen years after closing the ARHC, the City's need for affordable assisted living is greater than ever.

Thank you for your time, attention and support.

