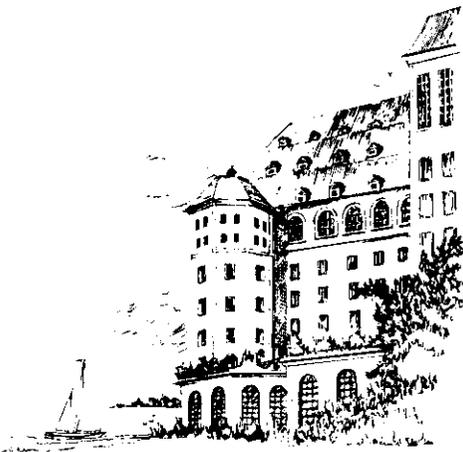


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Porto Vecchio

CONDOMINIUM UNIT OWNERS ASSOCIATION

April 9, 2002

The Honorable Kerry J. Donley, Mayor
City Hall, City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

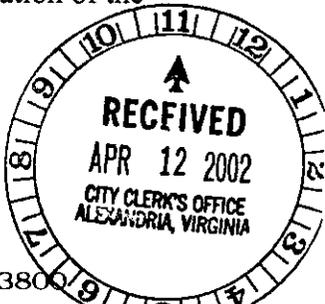
Dear Mayor Donley:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Porto Vecchio Unit Owners Association to request your assistance, as our elected representative, in a matter of significant importance to our residents.

Porto Vecchio is a 170-unit high-rise condominium located at 1250 South Washington Street, the southern extremity of Alexandria. We have been and will continue to be directly affected by construction of the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge. Matters such as noise abatement, truck traffic and construction of the bridge approaches have been extensively debated and have substantial neighborhood involvement. One aspect, however, the proposed new landscaping of the southernmost part of Washington Street, has a major affect on the residents of Porto Vecchio but has not received the same public attention.

When Porto Vecchio was developed almost twenty years ago, the City allowed the developer to landscape the area between the property's fence line and the street. The developer created a beautiful arrangement, including a berm, on which are now ten large (+30 feet) Norway Spruce, together with numerous smaller conifers and shrubs. The design's intent was to afford year-round protection from prevailing west winds and also serve as a buffer from automobile traffic. It has done so admirably. The landscape installation was funded by Porto Vecchio and has been attractively maintained at a significant financial cost to Association members.

The current landscape plan, made available to us only in February of this year, requires the removal of our berm, the relocating of large (30') Norway Spruce trees and the relocation of the current bike path.



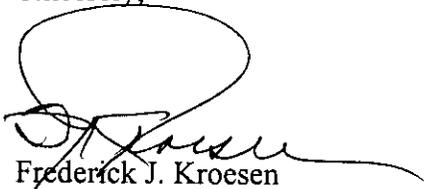
There are two reasons given for these changes. First, a desire to enhance the entrance to Alexandria by creating a balanced design of trees and shrubbery, to be alike on both sides of the road. Secondly, the new widened roadway requires a curb line that will encroach four feet into the berm and bring the line of spruces too close to the roadway.

We find these reasons questionable. First, a balanced design can be achieved by replicating on the west side, in as far as possible, what we already have on the east side. And secondly, the curb line of the road can remain exactly as it has been, for many years, a draftsman's drawing of a symmetrical curve notwithstanding.

Beyond all of the above is the ridiculous waste of taxpayer money protended by this project. The premise in the current plan to move, not destroy, the Norway Spruce trees alone will cost tens of thousands of dollars. The landscape changes to the east side of the roadway and the relocating of the bike path are unnecessary and a completely avoidable expense that we do not want to go unnoticed.

We are pursuing this issue now at the City Manager level, and it is possible that we may be able to resolve these problems. Because time is important in this planning stage, however, we believe it is prudent to now notify you of our concerns. We request that you, as Mayor of the City of Alexandria, take the time to meet with us, hear our concerns, and help mediate a mutually satisfactory outcome that balances the needs of the City with those of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Kroesen', with a large, looping flourish above the name.

Frederick J. Kroesen
President