

*City of Alexandria, Virginia*17
10-23-01

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 18, 2001

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO CHANGE TO NOTOBENE DRIVE AND OLD DOMINION BOULEVARD NORTH OF WEST GLEBE ROAD

ISSUE: City Council consideration of making a portion of Old Dominion Boulevard north of West Glebe Road, and Notabene Drive one way streets and changing the existing parallel parking to diagonal parking on the west side of Old Dominion and on the east side of Notabene.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That City Council:

1. Receive this report and schedule it for public hearing on November 17, 2001.
2. At the conclusion of the public hearing, adopt the following staff recommendations:
 - a. Make Old Dominion Boulevard one way south between the Lenox Townhome driveway entrance and Four Mile Run Drive;
 - b. Make Notabene Drive one way north between Old Dominion Boulevard and Four Mile Run Drive; and
 - c. Change the existing parallel parking on the west side of Old Dominion Boulevard and the east side of Notabene Drive to diagonal parking.

BACKGROUND: For a number of years, residents living in the Arlandria West area, due to a parking shortage in this area, have been forced to park in the area south of Glebe Road on Tennessee Avenue, Kentucky Avenue, Old Dominion Boulevard and Norris Place. It has also been reported and noted by staff that, because they could not find parking in Arlandria West, families with small children often times must cross Glebe Road which raises safety concerns. For the last year and a half, staff has been working with the managers of apartment complexes in Arlandria, the Lenox Place Homeowner's Association, and the NorthRidge Citizens Association, to find solutions to this parking problem. Staff has held an informal meeting on site at the corner of Old Dominion Boulevard and Tennessee Avenue, as well as two community meetings to explain the parking issues and discuss possible solutions. In addition, Transportation and Environmental Services Department staff had met with Lenox Place Homeowner's Board

members and conducted a walking tour of the neighborhood in August of this year. The Traffic and Parking Board held a public hearing on these issues on September 24.

DISCUSSION: The vast majority of the parking in the Arlandria West area is on-street, and the number of on-street parking spaces is not sufficient to meet the demand. Staff, in analyzing the situation, determined that additional parking spaces could be made available if the parallel parking that currently exists on certain streets could be changed to diagonal parking. However, in order to change from parallel to diagonal parking, these streets have to be of sufficient width to make the change workable. Old Dominion Boulevard and Notabene Drive could meet this requirement if diagonal parking was confined to one side of the street only, leaving parallel parking on the other side, and each street was made one way.

To provide this increase in parking spaces, the staff is recommending making Notabene Drive and the majority of Old Dominion Boulevard one way streets, and changing parallel parking on one side of both streets to diagonal parking (Attachment 1). Currently, there is a total of approximately 80 unmarked parallel spaces on Old Dominion Boulevard and on Notabene Drive. Creating diagonal parking spaces on Old Dominion Drive and Notabene Drive would add another 70 spaces. As another alternative to this increase in on-street parking spaces, staff examined the parking lot owned by Dominion Virginia Power located on Glebe Road west of the apartment area. Staff determined that, even if Dominion Virginia Power would allow Arlandria residents to park on the lot (which they will not), it is unlikely that the lot would be utilized because the walking distance is too far from the Arlandria apartments. National and local studies indicate that motorists will walk up to a quarter of a mile for parking, and this lot is farther than that.

At the September 24 Traffic and Parking Board public hearing, about half of the people who spoke in favor of the staff recommendation lived in the NorthRidge area and half lived in the Arlandria area. The Lenox Place Homeowners Association is not in favor of the recommendation. While the Association acknowledges the shortage of parking spaces, they prefer to solve the problem in a way that would not increase the number of on-street spaces. Suggestions to date from the Association include the City leasing or purchasing private land to construct a parking garage facility in the Arlandria area or the City constructing a parking facility on private property. The Association expressed a desire to work toward achieving another solution.

Following its public hearing, the Traffic and Parking Board approved the staff recommendation. Members of the Board recognized the need for additional parking and felt the staff recommendation was a good beginning in meeting the needs of the community.

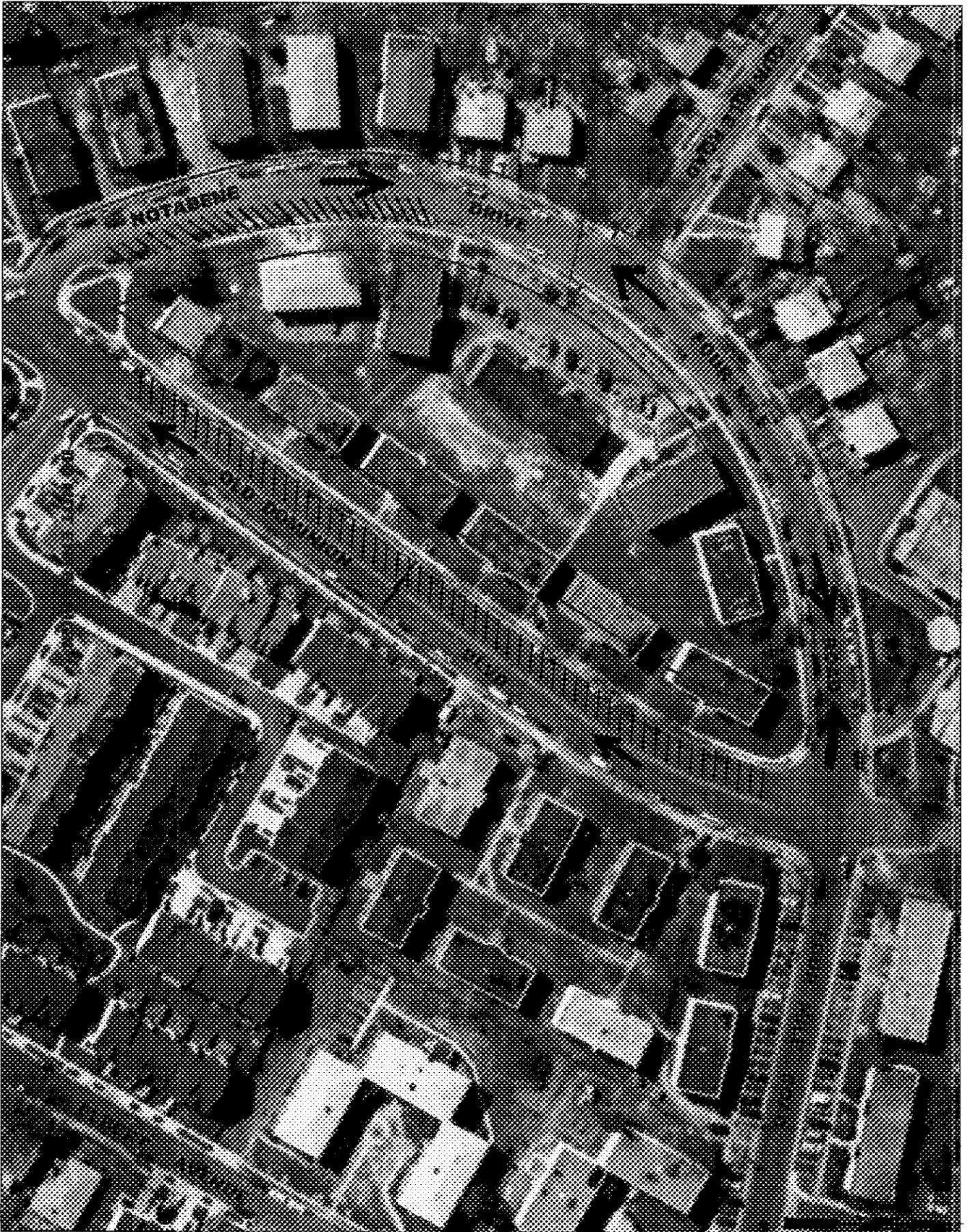
The Police and Fire Departments have been consulted and are not opposed to the recommendation. The Alexandria City Public Schools' Transportation unit does not oppose the recommendation but notes minor re-routing of bus travel ways will be necessary.

FISCAL IMPACT: The cost of striping the diagonal parking space is \$500. These funds are in the FY 2002 operating budget of the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Map showing proposed parking improvements.
2. Letter from Randolph Sengel, Commonwealth's Attorney

STAFF: Richard J. Baier, P.E., Director, Transportation and Environmental Services
Douglas McCobb, P.E., Deputy Director/Transportation and Transit Services,
Transportation and Environmental Services





2 2001

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth's Attorney City of Alexandria

520 King Street, Suite 301
Alexandria, VA 22314-3140
(703) 838-4100
Fax (703) 838-3897

S. RANDOLPH SENDEL
COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

KRISTA G. BOUCHER
DEPUTY COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

COMMUNITY PROSECUTION PROGRAM
THOMAS CULLEN
3805 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Suite C
Alexandria, Virginia 22305
(703) 519-3318
Fax (703) 519-3320

ASSISTANT
COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEYS

JENNIFER POLLARD
SONYA SACKS
MOLLY SULLIVAN
ERIK BARNETT
ROGER CANAFF
TIMOTHY CALLAHAN
JAMES LAY
ELLIOTT CASEY
CATHRYN FLANAGAN
LARRY CUNNINGHAM

October 1, 2001

Mr. Converse West
200 N. Pickett Street, # 907
Alexandria, Virginia 22304

Dear Mr. West,

I am writing to advise you that the comments of Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Thomas Cullen made at your September 24, 2001 meeting regarding the proposed configuration of angled parking in the existing right of way on north Old Dominion Drive and Notabene Drive do not reflect the position of this office. While I had discussed this matter with Rich Baier before your September 24 meeting, I had not communicated that discussion fully to Mr. Cullen, and that failure to communicate with him, for which I take responsibility, in part resulted in his comments at your meeting.

In my view, solutions to traffic and parking issues in Alexandria are generally beyond the purview of my staff and are being handled in a capable and professional manner by Mr. Baier and his staff. Mr. Baier and his staff devoted substantial time and effort to developing a solution to this particular problem, and I am sorry if Mr. Cullen's comments at your meeting created any misunderstanding that my office is opposed to staff recommendations in this case. We are not.

Very truly yours,

S. Randolph Sengel
Commonwealth's Attorney

cc: Tom Cullen
Rich Baier
Joe Bowman
William Clayton
Don Shepperd



Judith Bliss, President
Arlandria Civic Association
725 Four Mile Road
Alexandria, VA 22305
703 683-2954

17

10-23-01

A C A

ARLANDRIA CIVIC ASSOCIATION

October 17, 2001

Kerry Donley, Mayor
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Donley,

I am writing on behalf of the Arlandria Civic Association requesting you DENY the request to make Old Dominion Boulevard and Notabene Drive one way streets.

This request came from Northridge Civic Association due to the fact they do not want "those people" (this is a direct quote) parking on their street. Therefore Northridge decided to change the parking on the streets in our neighborhood.

There has been no communication between Rich Baier or anyone at T&ES and this community except for the meeting at Lenox place, which I just happened to hear about while attending another meeting and I ask if I could come. There has been no study or traffic count on the cars going through the neighborhood. There has been no meeting with the managers of the apartments this will effect. No communication at all.

Assistant Commonwealth Attorney Tom Cullen and spokespersons from Lenox Place spoke at the board meeting and ask for this proposal to be denied.

I am asking you to please DENY this request.

Sincerely,

Judith Bliss, President
Arlandria Civic Association

