

12(r)4
5-12-12

My name is Kathlyn Hoekstra and I've lived in the West End of Alexandria for over 20 years – first in an apartment along Duke Street and then in Lincolnia Hills when I bought my house in 1997. I'm a federal employee and I commute every day to and from work via Metro bus ~~and rail~~. *which is late 95% of the time*

After moving to Lincolnia Hills, I joined our local civic association, writing neighborhood newsletters after which I served as Vice President or President of the Association for more than 5 years. *BRAC*

The last time I saw many of you was when you came to our Civic Association's annual meeting to tell us about BRAC and how you could do nothing about its associated impacts.

I think that is when I began to wonder if my elected officials were really concerned about what went on in the West End or whether they had some other agenda that was apparently more important.

Unfortunately, after reviewing the first and most recent drafts of the Beauregard Small Area Plan – I'm even more convinced you don't see the West End as important as other areas or perhaps there is something else going on.

Let me explain.

As a Project Manager in the federal government I have learned that there is a big difference between requirements and recommendations. Simple put --- one is enforceable and one is not.

When I look at this Plan I find the word "require" or "requirement" is used 159 times. But when you dig down further you find that the word "require" or "requirement" appears mostly following the words "will" or "may" – these are NOT true requirements that enable me or anyone else to hold you or the developers accountable. Requirements must be specific, measurable, agreed-upon, realistic and time-bound. I see very little of any of those within this so-called plan.

Perhaps the best example of this is on page 140 where under the title "Transportation Recommendations" the plan then describes a number of requirements.

As we say in the federal government – recommendations are "nice to haves" but requirements are "must haves" If you can explain to all of us here today

how I or **you** can hold the developers accountable for a recommendation, I'd love to hear it.

But until you can provide every resident of this City with a list of requirements that enable all of us to hold both you and the developers accountable – on transportation and all other issues raised today – I cannot support this plan. I therefore urge each of you to reject this plan until a true requirements list is produced.

~~And if you decide not to do this – I would ask each of you to explain to me and everyone else here today – what are the small "d" democratic principles you are supporting – if they don't include the ability of your citizens to hold their officials accountable for their actions?~~

Thank you.

I'd be happy to help ensure the Plan going forward has such a list

Mark Lack of clarity - what does ^{annoying} ~~this~~ Plan force us to give up & what are we getting in return.