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REMARKS TO CITY COUNCIL - JUNE 25, 2011

Mayor Euille, Members of Council, my name is Jack Sullivan

We are entering the the summer recess. All over Alexandria, teachers have handed out summer reading lists for our kids. I have no list, but just a few thoughts for you to contemplate over the Summer.

There is lots of scepticism and very little trust among Alexandria citizens in your Planning Office, in your Transportation Office, and, frankly speaking, in this Council.

No better demonstration of that has been the enormous backlash against the plans for redeveloping the Waterfront. You have done the right thing by postponing a vote until more work can be done toward a community consensus on the issues.

But that is only one area of mistrust. Another is the planning process for the Beauregard Corridor.

Your Planning Office seems to many to be a co-conspirator with the developers and landowners in the

Corridor to maximize development at the expense of current residents and neighbors.

Moreover, your Transportation Office has been pushing costly plans for a greatly widened Beauregard Street and ellipse that would promote massive redevelopment in the Corridor and facilitate Fairfax County through traffic.

And at least one Council Member has been heard to opine that the West End deserves fast action on transportation along Beauregard. That ignores the fact that three major West End civic associations are on record against the “add a lane” option explained to Council on June 12, the option being advocated by Mr. Baier and his staff.

Moreover, recall that it was West End representatives, contrary to a Council decision, who **opposed** a fast-track categorical exclusion for the BRAC HOV exit ramp. Through the BRAC Advisory Committee they asked that an EIS be conducted -- despite the inevitable delay.

Similarly many believe that the Baier Plan for the Beauregard Corridor -- Corridor C -- needs careful restudy. That study should not be fast-tracked but

conducted as part of Council deliberations on all three corridors.

It is fiscally irresponsible not to look at the entire universe of costs involved in these transportation plans. As well as how figuring out they can be paid for.

Similarly, attempts to fast-forward on the Beauregard Special Area Plan may well meet the same resistance citizens have shown on the waterfront.

You may be aware that on June 16, a group of West End neighbors submitted to Council a petition declaring that they would file a Section 11-808 protest on any future rezoning of the Foster-Fairbanks neighborhood. It would require a supermajority of Council to overturn the protest of neighbors.

This is just one expression of citizen worry and concern with what deals are being made in City Hall.

To restore trust, you must be able to assure citizens that you and City Staff are looking after their neighborhood interests and not in bed with developers.

Please think about these ideas over the summer. Be

assured that your constituents will be back here in the fall to resume the discussion.

Thank you for your time and attention. I will be happy to take questions.