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Old Town Civic Association
P.O. Box 1213
Alexandria, Virginia 22313

June 25, 2011

Mayor William D. Euille
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

The Honorable Mayor and Member of City Council:

Re: Waterfront Small Area Plan Work Group – Background Material

We appreciate the changes that have been made to the Waterfront Small Area Plan in response to our concerns since it was released in February 25, 2011. We applaud your decision to delay the public hearing and assemble a representative work group to address outstanding issues with the plan.

However, two months for this process is not very long. If the starting point for the work group is to build upon the existing plan, then a critical first step should be to quickly assemble and broadcast to the public a simple, comprehensive summary of the latest plan revisions, together with an evaluation of the factual background conditions that affect the plan. The material presented by City Planning staff at the City Council's June 11, 2011 workshop should be the basis for this summary, edited and condensed into a simple document.

We cannot underscore the importance of this step in managing the expectations of the community. This material will allow the assembled work group and the public to arrive at a shared understanding of the facts underpinning the waterfront plan's challenges and opportunities. It will help everyone to work off the same page, providing a "reality check" for all plan modifications, and will avoid the unnecessary, and time-wasting, rediscovery of the context in which the plan is being developed.

We would like to emphasize that OTCA will continue to work with the City to arrive at a workable plan that the majority of our members, and the larger Alexandria community, can accept.

Respectfully submitted,

OLD TOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
John Gosling, President