

City Clerk
~~City Clerk~~

Good Morning Mayor, Vice Mayor and Council Members

2
2-23-08

My name is Charlotte Landis . I have lived at 433 N Patrick Street for 18 years.

All know that I've been here before. In summary, I agree to Phase 1 of the BRT system, the Potomac Yard, Glebe Road, Braddock Metro connection, so long as the buses are of appropriate size, turn right on First Street after crossing the Monroe Bridge and use the service road to the Metro. They do not traverse our neighborhood. I oppose Phase 2 of BRT on Patrick and Henry Streets.

Today I am concerned about the Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA request) that I filed on Jan 28 2008 (case # 08-249). I requested specific studies from 1993 related to the environmental quality along Route 1 corridor.

The City hosted many meetings on the Braddock Metro Small Area Plan Consultants were hired by the City of Alexandria to..dare I say... "educate us". While talking to Consultant David Dixon, and his transportation subcontractor, Yolanda Takesian, it was mentioned that the City had studied the effects of truck traffic and it was agreed that this information would be shared with me. At the following meeting the consultants indicated that no reports could be found. I followed up with another request to the consultant and copied Ms Hamer. There was no response to my request, and that is the reason for my filing the FOIA.

In a letter, dated February 6, 2008 and signed by Rose Williams Boyd, I was told that a review of my request did not reveal any information, no studies found. Just yesterday afternoon, Friday 22 February Rich Baier hand delivered the No Thru Truck Ordinance of 1991. While I appreciate Mr. Wilson's intervention, the documented research studies have not been given to me and remain missing. These studies are relevant to ongoing transportation planning concepts and have been paid for by the citizens of Alexandria. Are people afraid of what these studies will reveal? I just don't understand because I saw a many of the relevant study papers on the very day that I filed the FOIA with Citizens Assistance. I am sure the City staff is aware of the Commonwealth law regarding retention and freedom of information.

For reasons related to this and other experiences, my neighbors and I need to be especially careful of the language used in this Transportation Chapter. We citizens need to protect ourselves from random interpretation years hence. So, today, I give you the language that we insist be inserted in this document.

1. Parking is essential to the residents who live along the Route 1 corridor not only for access but as a safety buffer to persons and homes. Therefore, language should be included that specifies that no parking will be removed or reduced for a dedicated/non-dedicated BRT and no new SUP will be given for new development that includes a reduction of required parking standards.
2. Historic homes cannot handle the physical stress of heavy vehicles. Abuse of our homes violates the character of our historic neighborhood. Therefore, language should be included that no vehicle, greater than an automobile, shall travel on the exterior or outer lanes abutting homes, of a BRT corridor.
3. The environmental quality of life must be honored. One needs to question why the City has invested so much in issues related to the Mirant Plant while telling us, the residents of the historic District of Parker-Gray neighborhood to "eat cake". This is inequitable. Therefore, the plan should guarantee that all efforts will be made to provide a "quality of life "better than exists now.



CITIZEN ASSISTANCE OFFICE

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February 6, 2008

Ms. Charlotte Landis
433 N. Patrick Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Ms. Landis:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. Your request for a copy of the noise, air quality, soil and EMF testing studies and the summary supported with figures done for the Inner City Civic Association has been assigned number 08-249. I have been advised by staff in the Environmental Quality Division of the Transportation and Environmental Services Department that a review of the files did not reveal any information relating to your request. I have also been advised that you were contacted by William J. Skrabak, Division Chief of the Environmental Quality Division and notified to contact him directly with your concerns.

This letter is for your records and to inform you that your FOIA request file is closed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rose Williams Boyd".

Rose Williams Boyd
Freedom of Information Officer