

2(a)
6-25-11

A statement by Bert Ely to the Alexandria City Council
June 25, 2010

**Comments on flood-mitigation challenges
in the City's waterfront planning**

Mr. Mayor and members of Council, I am Bert Ely, an Old Town resident since 1981. While active with the Citizens for an Alternative Alexandria Waterfront Plan, I am speaking only for myself.

First, I commend Council for deferring action on waterfront planning and for holding another public hearing on this issue in September. However, much work must be done before the fall, with a strong focus on flood mitigation.

A key rationale for the waterfront plan is reducing "nuisance" flooding along the waterfront. However, despite pretty pictures staff has presented about flood mitigation, such as the attached, there is precious little detail about specific flood-mitigation measures.

Flood mitigation is not just a technical challenge, it also raises significant land-use, aesthetic, and historic preservation issues, including: where will the flood-mitigation measures be built, what will they look like, and will they work? More specifically, how will the three sources of flood waters be mitigated -- (1) river water coming over the top of the river bank; (2) river water backing up through storm sewers; and (3) rain water flooding down streets and alleys?

While floodwalls and berms can hold back river water, up to the height of the wall or berm, where will those structures be placed, what will they look like, and to what extent will they create visual and physical barriers between people on land and the Potomac? Due to recent changes in the proposed waterfront plan, the floodwall shown in the attached diagram bears no relationship to what is likely to be built between King and Prince, where some of the worst flooding occurs.

With regard to water backing up through storm sewers, it is my understanding that backflow preventers do not work well because they get clogged with debris. Therefore, sewer backups will have to be pumped over the floodwall, as well as the rain water flooding down King and nearby streets. Big question: How big must the pumps be and where will they be placed?

Ironically, floodwalls create a bathtub effect -- if the river overtops the floodwall, a lake will form on the landward side of the floodwall. Therefore, sufficient pumping capacity is needed to get that water back into the river once the river level drops below the floodwall.

As the attached diagram shows, staff has proposed elevating Union on either side of King, King east of Union, and Strand between King and Prince as a way to reduce street flooding, but raising streets raises a whole host of questions, including access from the elevated streets to adjacent buildings, Wales Alley, the Boat Club parking lot, and King Street Park. Also, elevating the streets may increase flooding in adjacent buildings. In sum, elevating these streets is an especially dicey proposition.

In closing, the toughest challenges in any planning exercise must be tackled first. Flood mitigation is among the toughest challenges in Alexandria waterfront planning. I strongly urge Council to direct City staff this summer to develop and cost out a detailed, three-dimensional flood-mitigation engineering plan – much more than pretty pictures – showing precisely what will be built, where it will be built, how it will be integrated into the streets and landscape, what it will cost, and what economic benefits flood mitigation will provide. Flood-mitigation design must be completed before many other aspects of a Waterfront Small Area Plan can be finalized.

I am highly skeptical that a feasible flood mitigation plan can be developed. If a feasible plan can't be developed, then the core of the Waterfront Small Area Plan will have to be fundamentally rethought. It will be back to the drawing board.

Thank you for your time. I welcome your questions.

Flood Mitigation:



2(c)
6-25-11

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.

2(e)
6-25-11

My name is Bob Wood and I live at 711 Potomac Street in Alexandria.

I am glad you've delayed any vote on the Waterfront plan until later. This was a wise move. The plan and the planning process behind it was a failure, plain and simple. It failed to provide decision quality information to this Council, it presented a single flawed alternative that simply could not be amended to reflect true imagination and innovation, it failed to resolve or adequately address crucial legal issues, and, most importantly, it failed to unite our community.

The tired refrain that we spent two years to get here and we consulted the community is equally flawed. This city spent six months to buy a concept from a consultant and the rest of the time attempting to amend this single, overbuilt alternative and mollify increasingly frustrated citizens.

We desperately need a vision for our waterfront that we can all rally behind instead of rail against.

This pause is a moment filled with opportunity. I fervently hope this moment isn't wasted. The signs are not good.

Already, we see a proposal from the city manager that in every way looks like a replay of the structurally hidebound and conflicted Waterfront committee. The vote and the views are preordained by the stakeholder makeup. It is another stalemate or ramrod...pick your own noun...waiting to happen.

It, most assuredly will not produce a new uniting vision or restore trust in the process. And, it will not articulate a new imaginative alternative that is so sorely needed.

I sent a proposal for an alternative structure to this Review Group to each of you last week.

I respectfully recommend the creation of a Citizen Ad-Hoc Review Group with the following suggested mission:

Review current waterfront planning actions and proposed zoning changes, explore alternative approaches to accomplish agreed to objectives, and recommend changes to the vision, the objectives, and planning concepts that optimally resolve competing interests and promote a waterfront that better serves all of Alexandria as it celebrates this city's remarkable history, present vitality, and future potential.

The title of this proposed entity is chosen carefully. This group is comprised of private citizens, it is short term or ad hoc, its job is to review and by implication recommend, and it is a

group without political ties or special interest affiliations. The group should be small (eg. five to seven members) to streamline support and business activities. Members, appointed by the city council, should be residents of the city, distinguished in their profession and entirely unaffiliated with any interests competing in the waterfront area.

This Group would have four key attributes. It would be independent, empowered, transparent, and informed.

It would work for the council or the mayor directly and call on staff assets, subject matter experts, and citizen groups to hear their perspectives.

Further details are included in the plan I sent to you. A variety of citizens and citizen groups have seen this plan and favor it over what looks to be old mistakes, recycled membership, and

predictable outcomes. Regrettably, obvious conflicts of interest, if left uncorrected, doom this bright opportunity to rally the community.

I respectfully ask for serious consideration of this alternative approach and would be happy to answer questions.

2(g)
6-25-11

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

June 25, 2011

Mayor William D. Eulle
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

2(1)
6-25-11

Statement to the Alexandria City Council June 25, 2011 by Gary J. Carr

public

Forty years ago, in 1971, T.C Williams became the only high school in the City of Alexandria. Lost in the story of this event dramatized in "Remember the Titans.", was the fact that the integration of the then Hammond High School was the nexus of all the controversy and animosity. Hammond High School was conveniently opened two years after *Brown vs the Board of Education*, and was never integrated as a high school. This running track and field is the last battle of the civil right era in Alexandria, and its history of separate and unequal. The repair and lighting of the field at Hammond is the epilogue an at once sad and triumphal story.

Mr. Mayor, Mr. City Manager, members of Council, my name is Gary Carr and rise as a advocate of running and running tracks to combat the malady of this generation, childhood obesity. Over the past several years my efforts have focused on the sub-optimal conditions of the field at Hammond Middle School. To the credit of the Superintendent, the School Board and all those involved, after a decade of neglect, the situation there will finally be ameliorated. The question before you now is whether to add lighting to this long neglected project. The answer to the question of lights is a categorical, "Yes."

I will not have the opportunity for detailed explanation of the need for lights, though it is part of my written statement. If I could put it succinctly into a sound bite, "you would not buy a new car without out lights." And so I will make three points.

One, it is fiscally responsible to add lights to this project. It would be imprudent to spend a million dollar to improve a valuable and needed city asset, and then not add lights (especially given the pressing need for facilities of this kind in the city). You essentially waste 50% of its usage. And may I remind you the are no lighted running tracks in the entire city.

Two, to clarify a question raised at the Planning Commission, there is no equivalency between Upper Hammond and Lower Hammond Fields. The two areas represent vastly different challenges. It is twice as hard and would cost four times as much to develop Lower Hammond (not to mention it would require an addition class period for the children to get there and back.) Don't confuse the two issues.

Lastly, a Commissioner chose to invoke some obscure and rarely use clause that says that if anyone is financial harmed from loss of property value by a project it can't proceed, or something to that effect. Someone is inevitably adversely affected by all your decisions. Your responsibility is to determine the

greater good of all of Alexandria citizenry, especially our children. If you chose to use this clause in the law, don't just use it when its convenient. Be consistent. If this clause keeps an important facility, a public middle school field from being completed, it is time to review and repeal any such ordinance.

This proposal has the unanimous support of the School Board, approval of the Planning Commission and the recommendation of city staff. Opponents of lighting never mention the welfare of the children. You cannot vote against lights at Hammond and somehow believe you are not harming children, thousands of children.. The lack of playing areas makes us have one of the highest rate of childhood obesity in this region. That hurts children and shorten their lives. Justice deferred can become justice denied. I hope that deferring action on the item is not an excuse to prevent the inclusion of lights to a vital public asset.

Let's Shed Some Light
Statement to the Alexandria City Planning Commission June 7, 2011 by Gary J. Carr

Mr. Chairman and members of the Planning Commission, my name is Gary Carr. I rise in support of the addition of lights to the field and running track being constructed at Francis Hammond Middle School.

Some of you may be aware that I have been a advocate of running tracks in general, and specifically to improving the dismal condition of the facility at Hammond. To that end, the School Board and City Council have allocated the resources to repair the field with synthetic turf and reconstruct the historic track that once graced that site. The issue before you is whether we maximize our million dollar investment in infrastructure, and by extension in our children, by adding lighting to this project. The answer is "Yes".

I am not going to recite the benefits or needs for lighting, they have been amply expressed in many forums. (Introduce for the record notes from Community Informational Forums). Quoting the SUP: the field is a "well-used, and much needed athletic/recreational resource in the City" and "to better meet the recreational needs of Alexandria's citizens and the students of Hammond Middle School, and to improve evening use of the site" we should add lights. Sounds straight forward, logical and simple. But nothing is ever so clear-cut. The proposal goes further, "In addition to lighting the field, ACPS proposes to add safety lighting for the track as a courtesy to neighboring citizens so that they have the ability to use the track in the evening". Additionally, "The proposed lighting system will use technologically advanced fixtures that significantly limit light spill-over beyond the playing field area and track". The field makes the site better, the track makes the field better, and the lights make the facility better. The design is smart and efficient.

As a proponent of lights, let me address some of the concerns raised by the opponents. *It's a school*. This cannot be overstated, Hammond is one of only two middle schools in the City of Alexandria. So, criticism of lights have to be viewed from this perspective, *it's a school*. Every effort have been made to address the concerns of the neighboring homes and the nearby community. It therefore begs the question, "Is there anything further that can be done to mitigate the impact of lights, given the fact that *it's a school*"? Trash, noise, traffic- all are being addressed to the best possible contingency. Operations will be periodically reviewed to deal with any new concerns. But a playing field at a school cannot be, and should not be, some dark, quiet, sterile environment. These are children in a learning situation, let them have fun.

As the opponents to lights make their case, children are rarely mentioned. It is perhaps unfair to ask if they have, or will have, children attending Hammond Middle School, or know it's history. Its location in close proximity to residential housing has significant implications to the City's past. Frankly, we can't change that. The recreation staff, the school and city officials have all pledged to make this work, with the least possible disruption to the quality of life for those most directly effected. Vagrant behavior will not be tolerated around our children, anymore than it will for the school's immediate neighbors.

Many of the objections go to the core issue that this is an urban school in a densely populated area. *Item:* this will be the only illuminated running track in the entire City. *Item:* in the winter it is dark by five o'clock. *Item:* in the summer it is often too hot to play during the heat of the day. *Item:* we have one of the highest childhood obesity rates in the area. *Item:* there is an unmet and growing need for play areas. This string of statements leads to one conclusion: the lighting of this field, and all the fields at our secondary schools for that matter, is a *need*, not a want.

There is a suggestion of delaying this decision and having more studies. The construction on the field will proceed regardless. The fact is, deferring on this opportunity effectively changes the future physical and emotional development of thousands of children for decades, if not generations. Make no mistake, lighting this track and field is beneficial, and in the same converse way that not lighting it is detrimental. This is not a zero-sum decision. Over time, the positives will be amplified and negatives will be diminished. Our children have waited long enough, at Hammond Middle School Field, let's shed some light.

Statement to the Alexandria City School Board June 9, 2011 by Gary J, Carr

Let me try this, all in 3 minutes, humor, history, philosophy, and poetry.

Humor- Look straight ahead when I say this- two out of three Americans are overweight or obese.

History- 40 years ago, in 1971, T.C. Williams High School was integrated "with all deliberate speed".

Philosophy- *It is easier to build strong children, then to fix broken men.* Frederick Douglas

Poetry- I'll save that for last.

Madame Chair, Mr. Superintendent and Members of the School Board. Thank you for fixing the broken field at Hammond Middle School, and for endorsing the addition of lights to this project. Lights are needed there, and at all of our secondary schools. You may think this running track is a small thing in the pantheon of your achievements, but I assure you, it is not. You have nothing less then corrected an historic omission, and changed the future physical and social relations of this community. You are building strong children.

You may have come to believe I view running as a panacea. In fact I do.

Mind you this is not about the sport of track per se, it is about running- running for fun and fitness; and you need a running track to do that. Let me give some quick examples of the benefits of running.

Stopping smoking won't make you start running, but running will make you stop smoking.

Losing weight won't make you start running, but running will make you lose weight.

Eating right won't make you start running, but running will make you eat right.

And graduating high school won't make you start running, but running will make you graduate.

(It's a statistical fact, students who run regularly graduate almost 100% rate). I could go on...

but you get my point. Positive behaviors are reinforced and negative ones diminished by the simple act of running, no matter how fast, the simple effort makes you a better person, and this a better world.

My daughter Christina is going to James Madison University. How many track scholarships do you think they have for boys? None. How many do you think they have for girls? Over forty! Twenty scholarships awards, and the running track will have paid for itself.

As this is the last Public Hearing of the year, and I have come to believe it is one of the most important. I am trying to get a few ideas onto your Board Retreat schedule. These are fully thought out concepts, but in the interest of time, call me to explore them further.

1. Build the new school first. You could address every need of the school system in one fell swoop, (Site at Jefferson-Houston is not appropriate for behemoth 3 story building being proposed.)

Combine the facility with National Science Foundation relocation bid.

Build subsidized teacher housing in critical demand areas (math, science, special education)

Build auditorium at site for Foundation, with dual-use as school board meeting room/auditorium

Move the Administration Building from this leased space. It inconvenient for teachers and it isolated from the community. And with BRAC it's going to get much worse.

Use Jefferson-Houston school for ten more years, the roof doesn't leak and the air conditioning works. Then integrate it with the Old Town pool and recreation center for a complete complex.

2. Don't delay in identifying the new school site. (Block 4 and the field site should be openly addressed), The longer you wait the less options there will be. TBD just won't do.

3. Start the school year early *virtually*. You are reinforcing the agrarian based school calendar you lament. Everything is in place- computers for every kid, widespread internet, video conferencing, email, and a relation with NOVA (a college that has distance-learning down to an art form). It could be implemented this year on a trial basis for say, Honors English. Starting the school year early should consist of simply picking up your computer in August, logging-on as required, with assignments due the day after Labor Day.

I could go on. Just wanted to end by submitting my statement to the Planning Commission on June 7, 2011, and urge anyone who is interested in to attend the City Council Public Hearing on June 25 and express your support for *sensible* lighting of the new Hammond Middle School Track and Field. Or just come to the council chamber and stand at the podium with me.

For *when* we build it, *and* we light it, they- and we- will run. (Do I have time for a poem?:)

2(1)
6-25-11

City of Alexandria, Virginia – City Council Meeting of June 25, 2011
Public Discussion Period
Comments of Donald N. Buch (389 Livermore Lane, Alexandria)

You are apparently pursuing a \$734,000 grant from the Department of Homeland Security to address Port Security in Alexandria. That would seem to beg the question of what you are doing to protect City residents from the very real terrorist-threatened facility which our City Government invited to locate at Mark Center.

We have heard how structurally reinforced the BRAC-133 building is. We have seen 5 acres of mature trees bulldozed so terrorists can't hide in the bushes. We have seen the Army insist upon having an on-site bomb detection facility. Apparently they believe the terrorist threat is very real. So, on behalf of the community, I would ask what is being done to protect us?

The CNA building can't be more than twenty feet from the BRAC building. It conveniently provides a buffer between BRAC and the bomb detection facility – a facility that is perhaps fifty feet from the I-395 on-ramp and not much further from pedestrian walkways. The BRAC building appears to be less than 100 feet from the IDA building. I would guess it is a similar distance from I-395, the major evacuation route from the Nation's Capital with 400,000 vehicles passing by on an average weekday. Children playing in the Winkler Preserve could be equally close. A 500 roomed hotel is effectively across the street. There are three elementary schools and one middle school in the immediate vicinity. There are numerous elderly and not terribly mobile residents in the area.

I believe the community deserves to know what actions you have taken to protect us. I fear that may simply be a rhetorical question. We would then ask what plans are in place to address a threat made against BRAC-133? What is the communication system? How will people know? What are people expected to do? And, should there be what I believe DoD refers to as an "incident", who do we look to for direction? Will certain buildings be on lockdown? Will people be expected to get in their vehicles and leave the area? Are parents to go to the schools and to the Winkler Preserve to pick up their children? What becomes of traffic on I-395? What are the expectations of response teams?

The BRAC building opens for business six weeks from Monday. So I ask you: What are the City's plans in response to related threats or incidents? And when and how will the community be made aware of those plans?



2(m)
6-25-11

Service Details, cont.

Contact us: www.comcast.com 1-800-XFINITY



Adjustments for services added 06/04/11

Voice/Data Modem Rental	06/04 - 06/15	2.00
12 days @ \$0.1666/day		
Total Partial Month Charges & Credits		\$4.63



TV

VA Communications Sales Tax	06/01 - 06/15	0.23
Sales Tax - Alex	06/04 - 06/15	0.10
VA Communications Sales Tax	06/16	0.25
VA Communications Sales Tax	06/16 - 07/15	2.40
Rights of Way Use Fee	06/16 - 07/15	0.76
Sales Tax - Alex	06/16 - 07/15	0.35
FCC Regulatory Fee	06/16 - 07/15	0.08
		<u>4.17</u>

Voice

Communications Sales Tax	06/04 - 06/15	-0.10
Communications Sales Tax	06/16 - 07/15	1.43
911 Fees	06/16 - 07/15	0.75
Total Taxes, Surcharges & Fees		\$6.25

Handwritten notes and signatures

Handwritten signature

005120 2/2



MORE NEWS FROM COMCAST

Closed Captioning Customers: For assistance call (800)266-2278 or go online for email or live chat at www.comcast.com/support. For written concerns contact N.W. Patel, Comcast Closed Captioning Office, 1701 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Phila., PA 19103-2838, email: Closed_Captioning@Comcast.com, fax: (215)286-4700 or leave a message on our closed captioning line (215)286-8000.

Information on upcoming programmer contract expirations can be found at www.xfinitytv.com/contractrenewals