

Douglas Park Civic Association
Adam R Henderson, President
2005 South Quincy Street
Arlington, VA 22204-5151

Thursday 20 June 2013

Arlington County Board
J Walter Tejada, *Chair*
Jay Fisette, *Vice-Chair*
Libby Garvey, *Member*
Mary Hynes, *Member*
Christopher Zimmerman, *Member*
2100 Clarendon Blvd
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: 16th Street South 'Green Streets' Project

To the Chair and Members of the County Board:

On Tuesday evening 18 June, Greg Emanuel, Christin Jolicouer and two other members of Arlington DES staff appeared at a regular meeting of the Douglas Park Civic Association (DPCA) to discuss the 16th St S 'Green Streets' project. The Association also heard from residents of 16th St S regarding their concerns about the project. While DPCA is highly supportive of Arlington County's efforts to improve stormwater management and reduce adverse impacts on the environmentally-sensitive Chesapeake Bay watershed, we are concerned that the project requires more inter-departmental coordination amongst County staff than has so far been demonstrated and further is adversely impacting a critical traffic calming project approved some time ago by the County Board. Therefore, DPCA requests the following:

1. **De-link the 'Green Streets' project from the 16th St S traffic calming project approved by the County Board on 15 October 2011.** While we as taxpayers understand the desire to coordinate projects to reduce expenditures, the Association is very concerned that an urgent and approved traffic calming project has now been delayed over a year as the 'Green Streets' concept is fleshed out. Residents and the Association spent considerable effort in complying with the protocols to receive calming measures on 16th St S only to see these approved measures arbitrarily put on hold for an unrelated project.
2. **Develop a pilot program to demonstrate proposed new residential stormwater management technologies on a County-owned parcel so that residents can see these solutions firsthand.** We appreciate assurances by staff that the proposed technologies have been used successfully in other jurisdictions; however, we know of no current curbside bioremediation projects in the county of a similar nature to the one proposed for 16th St S. A pilot demonstration project on County land would serve to reassure residents of the practicality of these new measures and create community buy-in.

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3. **Develop a process for addressing and providing solutions to other aspects of Arlington residential life that are affected by curbside bioremediation.** These aspects include such items as parking, code enforcement, project maintenance, sidewalk safety, weekly refuse and bulk brush collections and other quality-of-life issues. While staff has begun to address some of these concerns, it is a source of frustration to both the Association and residents that County staff often approaches projects with a 'siloes' management style rather than with a coordinated effort across departments. This leaves residents with the perception that solutions to disruptions in their quality of life are an afterthought that they need to figure out on their own. Again, coordinated solutions will help to increase community buy-in.

I will reiterate that DPCA is broadly supportive of the goals of the 'Green Streets' initiative. We are, however, of the opinion that the successful implementation of the concept requires a more thorough coordination across County departments. In the interim, we find the delay in implementation of our approved traffic calming project unacceptable.

On behalf of DPCA, I thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing your reply.

Sincerely,



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xc: Barbara M Donnellan, County Manager
Greg Emanuel, Director of Environmental Services
Christin Jolicouer, Watershed Planner, DES
Jen McDonnell, DES
Board of the Douglas Park Civic Association