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**Subject: Concern About JFAC Process and Proposals**

County Board and JFAC Members:

I am writing to express my profound disappointment at the land use options presented by JFAC earlier this month. None of the options would create any new field space or permanent school buildings for APS students. I understand that there are many competing uses for the Buck and VHC properties. However, the JFAC proposals don't allow the County Board to even have that debate, because none of the options include APS in any meaningful way. I believe this exposes a fundamental flaw in the JFAC process.

I'd like to remind the County Board and JFAC that your stated mission is as follows:

*The overall mission of the JFAC is to provide input to the Boards on capital facilities needs assessment, capital improvement plans and long range facility planning for both the Arlington County Government (the "County") and Arlington Public Schools ("APS").*

Further, on the JFAC website, you state that the scope of JFAC will:

*4. Place a special emphasis on long range planning for future County and APS facility needs, based on analysis of the latest trends, forecasts, and service delivery models. Big picture, visionary thinking is encouraged, and the Commission should be a forum where fresh and creative ideas can be discussed freely.*

With all due respect, the JFAC proposals do not demonstrate any long-term planning for APS facility needs. The School Board is voting this month to add anywhere from 600 to 1300 students to the Washington-Lee campus. And yet, JFAC did not include additional school field space in any of its proposals for the Buck property.

Similarly, JFAC did not include any use of the VHC site that would create space for a new permanent school building. Superintendent Murphy has repeatedly said in his recent updates to the School Board that we will need 2-4 new elementary schools, 1-2 new middle schools, and 1 new 2,000 seat comprehensive high school in the next decade. These schools are in addition to the 1300 high school seats that we are adding now, and in addition to the new elementary schools planned for TJ and the Reed building in Westover.

I am even more concerned that the school construction needs identified by Superintendent Murphy are not included in the JFAC "10 Year County Project List" that JFAC presented to the community on April 19. Perhaps JFAC members are just uninformed about the severity of the capacity crisis facing APS over the next decade and the construction needs that Murphy has repeatedly articulated at School Board meetings this year. Or perhaps JFAC is giving the County Board political cover so that the County Board can continue ignoring its role in

solving Arlington's school capacity problem. Either way, the disconnect between JFAC and the well-known infrastructure needs of APS is a poor example of how the "Arlington Way" is supposed to work.

Over the past two years, I've heard numerous County Board members and County Board candidates state that school capacity is not the County Board's problem to solve. However, school buildings are fundamentally a County infrastructure issue. School capacity goes hand in hand with everything that the Arlington Economic Development office is doing to attract new businesses (like Nestle) to Arlington. School capacity goes hand in hand with all that we are doing to build more affordable housing in the County. School capacity goes hand in hand with expanding access to early childhood care. And school capacity goes hand in hand with tax revenue, because we all know that residential real estate values are directly tied to the quality of our schools-- parents aren't going to pay top dollar to live in Arlington in 8 years if their kids are taking on-line classes due to the lack of physical high school classroom space.

Given the County's widely-known population projections, I would urge the County Board to contract with a professional urban planner, who can develop a comprehensive 10 year infrastructure analysis and land use plan that *includes* the building needs of Arlington Public Schools. JFAC's piecemeal approach to decision-making about the Buck and VHC site is not going to position the County for longer-term success. The County Board needs to step up and support APS by ensuring that the school system has access to the LAND that it needs to build new facilities over the next decade-- this is ultimately YOUR ROLE as elected County Board officials. Please don't continue to shirk this responsibility.

Sincerely,  
Carly [REDACTED]