

ARLINGTON COUNTY
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 414
Arlington, Virginia 22201

May 12, 2021

Honorable Matt de Ferranti
Chair, Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: 2001 S. Clark St. (2001 S. Bell St.) - Crystal Plaza 1

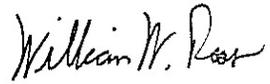
Dear Chair de Ferranti,

The Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) would like to express its support for the propose development of 2001 S. Clark Street - Crystal Plaza 1. We participated in the LRPC, SPRC and Planning Commission reviews of the project. It was a cooperative and productive process among the applicant, staff, neighbors, and commissions resulting an improved and acceptable project.

The proposed community benefit of a pedestrian pathway has come a long way from its original depiction. The applicant made many beneficial changes taking into account community feedback to make it a more attractive and biophilic space. The PRC looks forward to the connection and integration of the pathway with future Park #8 (called for in the Crystal City Sector Plan). Looking forward, a thoughtful design of the combined areas would provide and protect about 9,700 square feet of public space in Crystal City. This could create an urban oasis that is both visually appealing and physically accessible from Crystal Drive. To achieve such a future design for this and other spaces will require a close eye on providing adequate sunlight. For the pedestrian passageway, we are counting on a final selection of trees and plantings that will thrive in a fairly shady environment and support a more sunny space for future Park #8.

Regarding other aspects for the proposal we appreciate the design of the underground connection. The enclosed underground is much improved from the original proposal and offers pedestrians a protected underground passage enclosed and separate from the underground garage. We further appreciate the sustainability improvement from LEED Silver to LEED Gold. Finally we endorse the inclusion of bird-friendly glass and materials for the project. These materials can help reduce the threat of bird strikes against the new buildings and look forward to their continued use in future projects,

Sincerely,



William Ross

Chair – Park and Recreation Commission

cc: Members, Arlington County Board
Mark Schwartz, Arlington County Manager
Jane Rudolph, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation