

**ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

c/o Department of Environmental Services  
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 705  
Arlington, VA 22201

January 26, 2015

The Honorable Mary Hynes, Chairman  
Arlington County Board  
2100 Clarendon Blvd.  
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Thomas Jefferson (TJ) Site Evaluation Working Group

Dear Chairman Hynes:

The Arlington County Environment and Energy Conservation Commission (E2C2) was pleased to provide representation on the recent Thomas Jefferson (TJ) Site Evaluation Working Group (TJWG). The E2C2 generally endorses the findings of the TJWG that the proposed elementary school can physically fit on the western side of the TJ campus, provided that it is a multi-story building with a compact footprint and structured parking capped by green play areas. Further, several of the concept designs will meet the environmental portion of the TJWG charge for avoiding any significant loss of green space, retaining the current wooded eastern end of "TJ Park", and maintaining a cohesive park.

According to the Arlington County Public School Board, the alternative to developing on the TJ site is to develop additions at two existing school sites (Randolph and Barcroft), with no similar assurance of minimal green space impacts, but with less net elementary seats gained from the projects. Given the potential impacts of these alternate projects, E2C2 supports provision of land by the County for the proposed TJ elementary project under the following conditions:

- Development must be limited to existing developed areas to the west and south of the existing TJ Middle School and no development should be permitted east or north of the existing APS/County property line (the area generally known as "TJ Park").
- Development must be planned to minimize any increase to site imperviousness. Preliminary calculations provided to the TJWG indicated that the proposed schemes would have a relatively small impact on site imperviousness. This goal must be maintained throughout the development process.
- Development must limit any loss of mature trees.
- Development must minimize the developed footprint through an "up-not-out" approach. The current schemes recommend a 3 to 4 story building which is in keeping with this approach.
- Development should include underground structured parking as a method for minimizing site impacts.

Through the process of addressing the significant environmental and community concerns related to the TJ site, APS has developed a project with features (up-not-out design, structured parking, construction on existing impervious areas, protection of existing green, open space) that reduce the environmental impact of such a major project. E2C2 urges Arlington County and APS to plan for and incorporate these design standards in all future projects where technically feasible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Dicke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Scott Dicke