

Community Engagement Task Force Draft Recommendations

- During site plans, county staff and the SPRC committee should do targeted outreach to make sure that the people most directly impacted (e.g. close neighbors) are heard from.
 - Examples: Tabling at local apartment buildings
 - Reaching out to local community organizations to connect with residents
 - Ensuring that residents of nearby buildings are on the SPRC committee.
- County staff should continue and expand targeted pop-up tabling at events or sites to hear from historically marginalized groups about housing policies.
 - Examples: Barcroft, Fillmore Gardens, Gates of Ballston, Sequoia Plaza (DHS and APS), community centers (Arlington Mill, Gunston, Lubber Run, Walter Reed), cultural events, cultural supermarkets
- Continue and expand partnerships with community organizations to be “trusted messengers” about county updates and gather feedback.
 - Examples: Bu-GATA, resident services at CAF properties, nonprofits, congregations
- Provide confidential and/or anonymous ways to participate to address worries about retaliation (by landlords or ICE).
 - For example, set up an anonymous hotline to report housing concerns.
- County staff should strengthen coordination with the Tenant-Landlord Commission to proactively identify resident concerns.
 - For example, present periodic reports to the TLC about patterns in calls to Code Enforcement, inspections, and/or calls to the anonymous hotline (if created).
- Expand outreach at market-rate affordable apartment complexes and condo buildings.
 - Develop relationships and partnerships with property managers and owners at market-rate properties and do outreach through them.
 - Develop relationships and partnerships with condo associations.
- Simplify and provide clear context in communications about housing policy engagement.
 - Keep language as short as possible.
 - Provide explanations of unknown terms.
 - Use infographics to clarify.
 - Make it clear to audience members “why should I care” and “what can I do.”
- Housing Commission should continue regular community outreach:
 - Visits to CAF properties
 - Attending events