APRIL 2025 MEETING MINUTES OF THE
ARLINGTON COUNTY TECH COMMISSION (ITAC)

April 23, 2025

The **TECH COMMISSION** convened its meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23, 2025.

The meeting was hybrid with the following Commissioners in attendance:
John Burke
James Smith
Jonathan Adelstein
Biran Zhang
Gary Thayer
Frank Jazzo
Michael Cornfield
Laura Gross
Andrea Wingo
Jaqueline Snell

Staff members in attendance:
Holly Hartell, DTS
Tracey Jewell, DTS

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- Meeting called to order at 7:30pm.
- No public comment.
- **Adoption of Minutes:** John led the adoption of the minutes from the last three meetings.
    - Mike asked for confirmation that the notes were AI-generated. Tracey confirmed that they were, though they are manually edited to ensure accuracy, particularly around motions and votes.
    - Frank moved to adopt the minutes, and Andrea seconded. The January, February, and March minutes were adopted unanimously.
- **Chair's Update:** John reported that the county's Long Range Planning Commission is initiating planning discussions on the next phase of the Arlington 2050 project.
    - Representatives from all advisory commissions have been invited to participate. As incoming Chair, Mike will take the primary role. John will serve as an alternate.
    - The intent of the Tech Commission is to incorporate the planning principles already adopted and sent to the board as policy recommendations into the comprehensive plan update.
    - Jackie inquired about including a digital strategic plan in the comprehensive plan update, and John confirmed that it was included in recommendations to the board and will be emphasized again.
    - Jackie inquired about how the planning commission planned to incorporate feedback and engagement, particularly the focus groups with underrepresented populations. Jackie asked if John could circulate the invitation information to help the group understand the vehicles for engagement. John agreed.
- **Cybersecurity Presentation:** Connie Uthoff, a cybersecurity expert from George Washington University, discussed the future of cybersecurity, drones, robotics, and AI. She also emphasized

the need to integrate cybersecurity into planning and procurement processes to mitigate risks and ensure the security of emerging technologies. Highlights included:

- o Connie mentioned that Arlington County recently launched a drone program for emergency services, showcasing interagency capability between the Fire Department, Police Department, and Department of Public Safety, Communications, and Emergency Management. Connie highlighted the potential cybersecurity risks associated with using drones manufactured by Chinese companies, such as DJI. She mentioned that Chinese law could compel companies to share user data with the Chinese government, posing a risk to sensitive data.
- o Connie discussed the advancements in robotic technology, including their use in various sectors such as manufacturing, medicine, military, and retail. She mentioned the integration of robots in public services, such as Denny's service robots and autonomous shuttles in Las Vegas.
- o Connie discussed Smart City innovations such as digital twins, which are data-driven virtual replicas of physical locations. She mentioned that cities like Las Vegas, Singapore, and Dublin are using digital twins to visualize urban growth and plan for the future.
- o Connie discussed AI-powered traffic systems, such as those used in Las Vegas to detect driving patterns and reduce congestion. She also mentioned the use of AI cameras for accident response and traffic flow analysis.
- o Connie highlighted the use of IoT-enabled parks in Las Vegas, which feature AI cameras, smart lighting, and real-time analytics to enhance safety and track public usage. She suggested that similar technologies could be implemented in Arlington's public parks.
- o Connie emphasized the potential cybersecurity risks associated with smart city innovations, such as data privacy concerns and the need to secure the vast amounts of data collected by these technologies.
- o Connie discussed the increasing prevalence of ransomware attacks, citing examples such as the attacks on Frederick County public schools and the Virginia Attorney General's office. She emphasized the need for robust cybersecurity measures to protect against these threats.
- **Legislative Update:** Frank provided a legislative update, including the decline in broadband subscriber growth, the FCC's efforts to safeguard NG911 networks, and the confirmation hearing for the nominee for the open Republican seat on the FCC.
- **DTS Update:** Holly provided updates on the budget adoption, the digital equity grant, and the blocking of certain websites in alignment with Virginia and federal guidelines.

MOTIONS & ACTIONS/VOTES

Minutes Adoption: John called for a motion to adopt the January, February, and March minutes. Frank moved to adopt, and Andrea seconded. John confirmed the quorum and conducted the vote, with all members present voting in favor. The minutes were legally adopted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.