

July 5, 2023

Honorable Christian Dorsey
Chair, Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Parks and Recreation Commission Future of Outdoor Dining (FOOD) Study Letter

Dear Chair Dorsey,

The Parks and Recreation Commission would like to offer our support for the Future of Outdoor Dining (Food) Study proposed by Department of Parks and Recreation Staff.

On June 20, 2023, the Parks and Recreation Commission heard a presentation by county staff on the status of Phase 3 of the overall study schedule, which began in August 2022 with the County Manager's removal of the COVID Emergency Order.

The Commission is in support of the study's purpose and goals, which include incorporating the Temporary Outdoor Seating Areas (TOSA) program as a permanent Arlington program. We are pleased to see wider, clearer sidewalks being proposed and recommend that the revised regulations call for for increased tree planters, garden boxes, and greenery. Since the guidance will fall under the Public Spaces Master Plan, the PRC believes Staff should continue to advocate for biophilic sidewalks through the FOOD study.

The Parks and Recreation Commission looks forward to continued outcomes of this project and hope that staff and the CBO are able to work towards the August 15, 2023 goal so study outcomes can be implemented before the TOSA program ends.

Sincerely,

Shruti Kuppa



Chair – Park and Recreation Commission

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

Commission Members

Shruti Kuppa
Jill Barker
Sarah Baryluk
Nelson Dimpter
Sergio Enriquez
Dean Foster
Colt Gregory
Gretchen Hickey
Neal Hunter
Mark Lincoln
Adam Rasmussen
Melissa Riggio
Alex Sanders