



**NATIONAL
LANDING**
PENTAGON CITY
CRYSTAL CITY
POTOMAC YARD

November 14, 2023

Director Anthony Fusarelli, JR
Arlington County Planning, Housing and Development
2100 Clarendon BLVD, Suite 700 Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Director Fusarelli,

On behalf of the Crystal City, Pentagon City, and Potomac Yard business community, the National Landing Business Improvement District (BID) supports the proposed redevelopment of Melwood's property at 750 23rd Street S.

The BID prides itself on its commitment to supporting economic opportunity, elevating diversity and representation, fostering inclusion in community-building, and advancing racial equity in its programs and practice. Melwood's proposed redevelopment will be an important project making progress toward solving the region's affordable housing crisis while also providing housing opportunities for traditionally underserved populations.

This project meets key County goals outlined in Arlington's Affordable Housing Master Plan by delivering new affordable units, of which 1/3 of its units will offer homes to people with disabilities. Producing new units for a community of people who need it most, especially in walkable, transit-rich, and bikeable neighborhoods in Arlington County, is the BID's preferred approach to addressing housing affordability. We support Melwood's most recent development proposal as it considers taller buildings, thereby offering more flexibility in lot coverage, setbacks, and tapering to be more compatible with the existing uses in the neighborhood.

Melwood has been a leader in our community and a dedicated organization supporting employment, job training, and community services for people with disabilities. Melwood supports and empowers over 700 individuals with disabilities in Northern Virginia with job coaching, employment services, and various other meaningful programs. The National Landing BID supports Melwood's proposed development project and its commitment to serving our community members with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Tracy Sayegh Gabriel
President & Executive Director
National Landing Business Improvement District

**NATIONAL LANDING
BUSINESS
IMPROVEMENT
DISTRICT**

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