



**NATIONAL
LANDING**

PENTAGON CITY

CRYSTAL CITY

POTOMAC YARD

December 16, 2022

Ryan Delaney
Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)
2100 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

Letter of Support – Alcohol Permitting at Long Bridge Park

Dear Mr. Delaney,

On behalf of the Crystal City, Pentagon City, and Potomac Yard business community, the National Landing Business Improvement District (BID) would like to express support for the proposed amendment to Section 17-2 of the Arlington County Code to permit the serving of alcoholic beverages at special events in Long Bridge Park.

The BID has been producing high-quality community events that include the serving of alcohol for over 15-years. These programs – almost exclusively held on private property – have been regulated through the County’s Special Events process and subject to Virginia ABC rules and regulations.

The proposed update to County policy enables the BID to hold some of these events within Long Bridge Park – a long held goal of the BID as well as a key policy recommendation of the Arlington County Public Spaces Master Plan. These types of events have been held at Rosslyn’s Gateway Park for several years without issue. It is also notable that enabling the serving of alcohol at special events received broad support from the community through the plan’s public outreach and engagement efforts.

The BID remains committed to following all applicable Virginia ABC requirements and working closely with the County’s special events committee. As the County refines the language around how this policy will be implemented, the BID recommends retaining flexibility as to where the serving of alcohol may occur. Prematurely restricting specific areas of the park for such activity could hinder the creativity and experience of future events. Location details and necessary requirements to support a safe and comfortable event environment while protecting park resources can be discussed as part of the special events application and review process.

The BID is eager to bring world-class programming and major events to Long Bridge Park including a signature National Cherry Blossom Festival event in April 2023. Approving the proposed change to the County Code to enable the serving of beer and wine at Long Bridge Park is an important step towards achieving that goal.

Sincerely,

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

**NATIONAL LANDING
BUSINESS
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DISTRICT**

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