



March 15, 2023

Mr. Mark Schwartz
Arlington County Manager
County Manager's Office
2100 Clarendon Blvd, Suite 302
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear County Manager Schwartz,

Arlington County has a long and respected reputation as one of the safest urban communities in the country. Great schools, a strong safety net, a focus on building a connected and inclusive community, and a high-quality police force have established a strong foundation for this success. The National Landing Business Improvement District (BID) would like to express its support for additional funding for public safety to ensure this important quality of life differentiator for Arlington County is maintained.

Recent crime incidents in the immediate area have elevated awareness of broader national trends impacting cities and towns throughout the region and the country. Building on the success of a disciplined and character-driven police force represents an important tool in keeping our community safe.

We recognize that the Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) is affected by many of the same economic and labor market forces impacting police departments and other employers throughout the country. A limited labor market, accelerated retirement, private sector competition, and a high urban cost of living all make it difficult to maintain the number of officers necessary to patrol neighborhood streets and enforce traffic safety laws.

Understanding County budget limitations, the National Landing BID encourages the County to make every effort to continue to prioritize making ACPD officer recruitment competitive within the region and attractive to the most talented and qualified law enforcement recruits. Additionally, as National Landing continues to grow in population and employment, we encourage additional patrols and resources be assigned to the area to keep up with the transforming downtown community.

Finally, additional ACPD resources will enable ACPD to increase attention on traffic safety and enforcement – a key component of the County's commitment to Vision Zero goals.

Arlington is fortunate to have one of the top law enforcement departments in the country and we look forward to furthering our partnership and collaboration with ACPD. Ensuring that ACPD is well-resourced and supported by the community at large is key to maintaining public safety and making Arlington County one of the safest urban communities in the country.

Thanks in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Tracy Sayegh Gabriel'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Tracy Sayegh Gabriel

Cc: Arlington County Board
Chief Charles "Andy" Penn, Arlington County Police Department