



**NATIONAL  
LANDING**

PENTAGON CITY

CRYSTAL CITY

POTOMAC YARD

October 19, 2021

Chair Matt de Ferranti  
Arlington County Board  
2100 Clarendon Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Chairman de Ferranti and Members of the County Board:

On behalf of the National Landing Business Improvement District (BID) and the collective business communities of Crystal City, Pentagon City, and Potomac Yard, I am writing to provide feedback regarding the **Crystal City Water Park Minor Site Plan Amendment** submitted by JBG SMITH.

The Crystal City Water Park is one of the most prominent open space sites within Crystal City. We appreciate the applicant, inclusive of the landscape designer Hoerr Schaudt, for honoring the importance of this site both through the proposed design and by holding several community engagement forums throughout the process. The team's commitment to improved outcomes through rigorous public discourse is commended and represents a success model of community engagement.

Attached is the BID's December 23 letter of support for the project and is still applicable to this submission. We applaud the landscape architect team's expertise in recommending a tree preservation plan that not only beautifies the site through biophilic design and sustainable landscape, but also strategically replaces at-risk trees with new ones. Overall, this plan increases the park's longevity and offers a refreshed new look to an important open space and to the Crystal City Drive streetscape.

We look forward to an improved Crystal City Water Park redevelopment that can be activated with great programming, concerts, thereby offering another high-quality open space amenity here in National Landing.

In all, we support this minor site plan amendment submission, commend JBG SMITH's dedication to inform this plan with community feedback, and encourage approval of the Minor Site Plan Amendment by the Arlington County Board.

Sincerely,

Tracy Sayegh Gabriel  
President & Executive Director

**NATIONAL LANDING  
BUSINESS  
IMPROVEMENT  
DISTRICT**

2021 Crystal Drive  
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December 23, 2020

Olivia Sontag  
Department of Community Planning, Housing, and Development  
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 700  
Arlington, VA 22201

Letter of Support – Minor Site Plan Amendment – SP #167 – Crystal City Water Park

Dear Ms. Sontag,

On behalf of the Crystal City, Pentagon City, and Potomac Yard business community, the National Landing Business Improvement District (BID) expresses its strong enthusiasm for the proposed updates to the Crystal City Water Park outlined in the Minor Site Plan Amendment application to SP #167.

The Crystal City Water Park is arguably the most prominent and recognizable open space within the core of the Crystal City neighborhood. The fountain and tree canopy have long served as a backdrop for BID programming and as a gathering space for the community. A changing neighborhood and dated aesthetic, however, have hindered the Water Park's ability to achieve its full potential.

The proposed improvements promise to transform the Water Park into a true urban oasis that reflects the needs of both an evolving residential community and emerging retail and entertainment destination. The incorporation of a variety of uses and reasons to visit the Water Park – passive, active, and commercial – combined with a contemporary update to the landscape aesthetic reflect national best practices in urban park design. Creative space programming within the park yields more usable space while new retail kiosks along Crystal Drive compliments the new retail main street experience provided by the Central District Retail project across the street.

Perhaps most exciting is the proposal's embrace of the Water Park's namesake and most iconic element – water. An updated and full improved water wall, a "Water Bar" to elevate its enjoyment, and an interactive water element - a much needed and long demanded amenity to serve the growing number of families within the area.

Current circumstances have elevated the importance and necessity of abundant and high-quality open spaces, especially to ensuring the resilience of our downtown communities. Though the proposed improvements may not delivery an increased quantity of open space, they vastly improve the quality, usability, and value of an existing one.

The BID looks forward to a new and improved Crystal City Water Park and encourages County staff to recommend approval of the Minor Site Plan Amendment by the Board.

Sincerely,

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

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