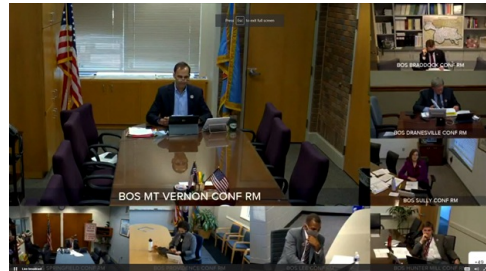


March 23, 2021



At the previous Board of Supervisors' meeting, a public hearing on the **Zoning Ordinance Modernization project (zMOD)** was held. We heard from **many residents and business owners** both in **support and opposition** to the proposed zoning changes. As a result, we **deferred the Board's decision** on the changes to Tuesday's meeting. [Read about the background and the major issues of concern in my March 9 BOS Brief...](#)



This has been one of the more challenging issues during my term as your representative. I have **heard from hundreds of you** in support of and opposition to these zoning changes. I have also heard many **requests to slow down this process and "get it right."** This I wholeheartedly agree with. While I **have broadly supported the zMOD process, I do not support a few of the changes that I was unable to get modified, and therefore voted against the zMOD package.** Our community has a long history of discussing, debating and finding consensus to meet the differing needs of our residents and future residents. I **spoke of my concerns** in my remarks to my Board colleagues before and during Tuesday's meeting.

What I support is the streamlining and common language of the update. The last major update of the current Zoning Ordinance was in the late 1970s, and since then minor adjustments and changes have expanded the ordinance approximately 1200 pages, sometimes with new sections that disagree with older ones. The **new zMOD regulations are 40% less**, even with clarifying photos and diagrams, and is designed to be easily accessible and **interactive in an on-line format**, something the unwieldy original is not.

However, I was **not comfortable with the short turn around time for the community to properly vet the recommended changes to Accessory Living Units (ALUs) and home-based businesses (HBBs), so voted against the overall adoption.** I believe that taking more time to listen to our community and **fine tune** these recommendations would have been a prudent decision of the Board and one for which **I advocated unsuccessfully.** More about **how these new zoning changes will impact you** can be found below.

Additional Meeting Highlights:

1. Proclaimed **March 25 Greek Independence Day** in honor of **all Greek Americans who make a difference in our community** (and own Chief of Staff Christine Morin).
2. Amended the Interim Agreement with Alpine X for **Fairfax Peak** to allow **additional site testing.**
3. Approved parking restrictions along **Gunston Cove Road** in Lorton.
4. Approved the sublease of the **Clark-Enyedi House** in Lorton as part of the Resident Curator Program.
5. Moved **Bellevue Polling Precinct** back to Belle View Elementary School.

At the meeting, Chairman Jeff McKay received **unanimous support to approve a resolution condemning anti-Asian racism and violence.** Close to 20% of Fairfax County's population is of Asian or Pacific Island descent, with Korean and Vietnamese being two of the five most spoken languages spoken within our community. I want our entire community to know that in Fairfax County, **we hear your concerns and anxieties** and

believe that **any acts of racism against any community, including our Asian American community are unacceptable**. No matter where you are from, **you are welcome in Fairfax**. It is necessary to say, though unfortunate that we must, that **Asians are NOT more likely to have or spread COVID-19**.

I also recognized the loss of **two beloved, long-time members** of the Mount Vernon community - **Colonel Marion "Barney" Barnwell and Chef Ramanand Bhatt**. Barney was a considerate, kind and true gentleman. One of the **best and finest among us**, one that I am deeply honored to have known and had the pleasure to work with for many years. His long and deep history of **community involvement, volunteering at INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital and service on the Fairfax County Human Services Council** (to his last day) were well known, greatly valued and appreciated by all. [Read more about Barney...](#)

Chef Bhatt of **Dishes of India** filled people's souls in a different way - through their love of food and friendship. **He cooked from the heart** and took pleasure in seeing his patrons enjoy their meal. His family noted that his secret may have been that he received an **extraordinary gift of happiness from God** which he transferred to his cooking. Many of his patrons called him the **master magician for his creations** in the kitchen. [Read more about Chef Bhatt...](#)

They will **both be sorely missed** by the many people who's lives they touched.

You can read more about COVID-19 updates, **upcoming community meetings** and information below.

Respectfully yours in public service,



Dan Storck
Supervisor, Mount Vernon District
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

The following are **highlights from the Board of Supervisors March 23, 2021 meeting**, including items of particular interest to Mount Vernon residents. For additional information, please go to the [County's Board Agenda and Meeting Schedule](#). You may listen to highlights from the Board meeting on your computer or listen directly on iTunes. Subscribe to the podcast, or choose a program and listen in.

Para recibir la información de **nuestro boletín electrónico en español**, o **para hablar con un hispanohablante**, comuníquese con **Diego Rodriguez Cabrera** a su preferencia, por teléfono al (703) 619-4339 o por correo electrónico: diego.rodriguezcabrera@fairfaxcounty.gov.

To view the March 23, 2021 Board Package [click here](#).

zMOD

The Board **approved zMOD on a 7-3 vote**. As noted above, **I voted against the package**. The zMOD process included over **100 meetings** for Board members and the community and **updated, modernized**, and made our zoning ordinances more **user-friendly and accessible**. The Board **did make some adjustments** to address many of the **concerns heard from our community** during public testimony. While the zoning modifications were a major undertaking, the most community concern was over only three changes to the ordinance.

1. **Accessory Living Units (ALUs): Interior ALUs** allow people to **house additional residents in their existing home** while still adhering to County regulations, so long as no exterior changes to the home are made and parking can be accommodated. With our previous ordinance, **permitting for ALUs was** only allowed with residents who are disabled or over the age of 55. To be approved, a homeowner **must reside at the property** with an ALU, they may not be distant landlords. **Exterior/detached ALUs** are possible if a homeowner has **more than 2 acres of**

- property and is approved for a special permit.
2. **Home Based Businesses (HBBs):** The Board also simplified the process and **lowered the permitting costs associated with establishing HBBs**. HBBs are an important part of the County's economy, especially in the midst of the pandemic. The Board agreed to **permit administrative approval** for HBBs that generate no customers coming to the home, **except for instructional activities**. Other HBBs still need to go through a public hearing process.
 3. **Flags:** I do not support regulating the American flag. After listening to the concerns of the community the Board **discarded the original staff recommendations and retained our existing standards** which allow all homes to have 25-foot flag poles and 60-foot flag poles for all other areas. Should residents wish to have taller flagpoles, they can apply for a special permit. There is **no minimum flag size**, and the limit for flagpoles was kept at the current maximum of three flagpoles.

It's also worth noting that **the above ordinances are in alignment with virtually every jurisdiction** in our region. The Board also instructed County staff to **monitor and evaluate ALUs and HBBs** in the County, with a report to be **prepared for the Board in 18 months of the effective date, July 1, 2021**, to update the Board on the new ordinance.

Administrative Items

Authorized Public Hearings on:

- Vacating and abandoning a portion of **Nicotine Trail in Lorton**. Public hearing will be held on **May 4 at 4:00 p.m.**
- Amending the current appropriation level in the **FY 2021 Revised Budget Plan**. Public hearings will be held on **April 13 at 4:00 p.m. and April 14 & 15 at 3:00 p.m.**

Action Items

Item 2: Amended the **County's Citizen Participation Plan** to update and streamline the document's policies and procedures. Updates included a list of **locations for advertising public notices**, clarified the difference between "minor" and "substantial" amendments and added a summary of **public participation requirements**. *The full item can be read on pages 82 - 94 of the Board Package.*

Item 3: Approved an agreement with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) to establish and maintain a **coordinated stormwater education program** in the Northern Virginia region. *The full item can be read on pages 95 - 100 of the Board Package.*

Item 5: Approved **Fairfax Connector service changes**, effective July 10. In the Mount Vernon District, a minor change was made to **Route 171: Richmond Highway** to improve connectivity between the **Huntington Metrorail Station and the US Army Museum** on the weekends. The route will make a minor deviation from the Fairfax County Parkway into the Museum and **continue to provide all other service**. *The full item can be read on pages 156 - 199 of the Board Package.*

Item 6: Amended the **Interim Agreement and Right of Entry Agreement** with Alpine-X LLC for the **Fairfax Peak Development** at the I-95 Lorton Landfill to allow **additional site testing**. *The full item can be read on pages 175 - 245 of the Board Package.*

Public Hearings

Amendments to Chapter 4, Articles 14, 15, and 16.1 of the Fairfax County Code

Approved County Code amendments to change the **annual tax relief deadlines** for real estate tax relief, certain **personal property tax relief and rent relief from April 1 to**

May 1 each year.

Ordinance to Amend and Readopt Fairfax County Code Section 7-2-13 to Rename the Polling Places for Pioneer Precinct in the Lee District and Hidden Meadow Precinct in the Sully District; and to Relocate the Polling Places for Skyline Precinct in the Mason District, Belleview Precinct in the Mount Vernon District, Oak Marr Precinct in the Providence District, and Centerpointe Precinct in the Springfield District

The **Belleview precinct** was moved from Belleview ES to the Martha Washington Library (across the street) during the school renovation. Now that construction is complete, the polling location is **returning to its original home at Belle View ES.**

Proposed Amendments to Chapters 107 (Problem Soils), 112 (Zoning Ordinance), and 122 (Tree Conservation Ordinance) of the Code of the County of Fairfax, Virginia (County Code) to Remove the Tree Commission and Geotechnical Review Board Provisions from Article 19 of the Zoning Ordinance and Incorporate Them into Chapters 122 and 107 of the County Code, Respectively

As part of the zMOD process, the **Tree Commission and Geotechnical Review Board provisions** were removed from the Zoning Ordinance. This action incorporates them into the County Code.

Parking Restrictions on Gunston Cove Road

Approved **parking restrictions on Gunston Cove Road** in Lorton, as requested by the business owners in the area. These new restrictions **prohibit parking of all commercial vehicles, recreational vehicles and all trailers from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., seven days per week**, where applicable.

Draft Proposed Five-Year Consolidated Plan for FY 2022 – FY 2026 and One-Year Action Plan for FY 2022

Approved the Five-Year Consolidated Plan for FY 2022 – FY 2026 and One-Year Action Plan for FY 2022 as issued by the **Consolidated Community Funding Advisory Committee.**

Sublease Clark-Enyedi House in Lorton in Connection with the Resident Curator Program

Approved the sublease of the **Clark-Enyedi House at 10605 Furnace Road** as part of the Resident Curator Program. The new Resident Curators will begin renovation of this historic property. [Read more about their plans and the Resident Curator Program...](#)

Board Matters

Recognizing March 25, 2021 as Greek Independence Day - Joint with Chairman Jeff McKay and Supervisor Penny Gross

On March 25, the **Greek American community celebrates and pays tribute** to the many brave men and women that stood-up to overcome tyranny, sacrificing their lives in the **Greek War of Independence**, a battle for freedom from oppression, slavery and subjugation. These forebears bravely **fought to liberate Greece** after four long centuries of occupation. This year marks the **bicentennial of Greek Independence Day** which was turning point for the modern Greek state, the Republic of Greece: Hellas.

Greece has given the west and America the **very foundations of democracy, government, and jurisprudence. Our English language, modern medicine, mathematics, science, architecture, entertainment, and sports** stem from Greece. At the beginning of the 20th century, Greek immigrants transitioned from working on the railroads, mines, factories and mills into **building small retail businesses**: shoeshine stands, grocery stores and **especially in the food service industry** with restaurants, diners, coffee shops and candy kitchens. These small businesses served as a **stable economic base** for Greek Americans who soon **established churches, cultural centers**

and communities throughout America. In 1919, 1 out of every 3 restaurants in Chicago was operated by Greek Americans. Today, the progeny of those heroic immigrants with the dream of better lives for their families and **giving back to their adopted country** have achieved much. They continue to **enrich the fabric of our nation, state and Fairfax County** through their dedication, integrity, work ethic and commitment. We honor their legacy and example.

Mr. Chairman, without objection, I ask that we

Action

Recognized March 25, 2021 as Greek Independence Day in Fairfax County and directed that a proclamation be signed by the Chairman, myself and Supervisor Gross and be presented out of the Board room to the National Hellenic Society.

Upcoming Land Use Cases

Board of Supervisors

April 13

- Establishment of the [Wellington at River Farm Historic Overlay District \(WHOD\)](#) located at 7931 East Boulevard Drive in Alexandria, 22308.
- Proposal to build a **Dunkin Donuts** restaurant with drive-thru at the **Woodlawn Shopping Center** (8702 Richmond Highway). Restaurant will be complete with **2 drive-thru lanes and outdoor seating**. [SE 2020-MV-018](#).
- Acquisition of land rights for the construction of **Mount Vernon Memorial Highway Trail** from George Washington's Gristmill entrance to Southwood Drive.

Planning Commission

March 24: Proposal to build a **Dunkin Donuts** restaurant with drive-thru at the **Woodlawn Shopping Center** (8702 Richmond Highway). Restaurant will be complete with **2 drive-thru lanes and outdoor seating**. [SE 2020-MV-018](#)

Board of Zoning Appeals

March 31: Farrah Deeba and Deeba LLC, SP 2021-MV-006 Appl. under Sects. 8-305 and 8-923 of the Zoning Ordinance to permit a **home child care facility** and an **increase in fence height** in a front yard. Located at **2404 Belle Haven Meadows Ct.**, Alexandria, 22306 on approx. 17,110 sq. ft. of land zoned R-4.

April 7

- SP 2021-MV-010 **Mark E. Yachmetz & Madonna C. Douglass**, 1917 Duffield Lane, Alexandria, 22307. **Reduction of certain yard requirements** to permit addition 8.2 feet from side lot line and 12.5 feet from rear lot line.
- SP 2021-MV-009 **Walter D. and Jennifer J. Kelly**, 2202 Woodmont Road, Alexandria, 22307. **Reduction of certain yard requirements** to permit addition 28.4 feet from front lot line and reduction to the minimum yard requirements based on error in building location to permit deck 4.9 feet and 5.9 feet from side lot lines and 20.0 feet from front lot line and patio 3.8 feet from side lot line.

District Information & Upcoming Events

Public Meeting: Laurel Hill Park Golf Club Wednesday, March 31 at 7 p.m.

The Park Authority will host a **virtual public meeting** on Wednesday, March 31, to **review plans and seek comment** on a proposed **canopy mounted solar array in the Laurel Hill Golf Club parking lot**. Current plans call for the installation of two solar arrays that would be mounted over the two parking islands closest to the Laurel Hill Clubhouse. The solar panels would **generate energy while providing a shade cover** for cars parked under the arrays. [Read more and join the meeting...](#)

Headstart and Early Head Start Openings in Our Area

The Fairfax County Head Start/Early Head Start program is **currently enrolling eligible families** in programs throughout the County. HS/EHS **provides early childhood education and family supports** for children ages birth to five years old and their families, at **no cost to families**. Women who are pregnant can also receive services and support through EHS. Services are provided in a variety of early childhood programs including Higher Horizons Day Care in Falls Church, **Gum Springs Children's Center and Gum Springs Glen in Alexandria, Fairfax County Public Schools classrooms, and family child care programs** throughout the County. **Don't miss this opportunity to be part of Head Start!** For more information, visit Fairfaxcounty.gov and search for "Head Start", call the Office for Children at 703-324-8290. [View the flyer...](#)

County Strategic Plan Survey

Help shape the future of the **Mount Vernon District** and our community by providing feedback on the proposed **Countywide Strategic Plan**. The proposed strategic plan was developed through **extensive community engagement** and lays out a community-based vision for the **next 10 to 20 years**. Originally proposed to the Board of Supervisors in February 2020, COVID-19 paused public progress until now. The updated proposed plan includes recognition of the **immediate and longer-term impacts of the pandemic**.

As work on the strategic plan continues, **we need your feedback again**. We invite you to take a survey to provide your input into the future of our community. **Many areas are covered**, such as Health and Environment, Safety and Security, Housing and Neighborhood Livability and Mobility and Transportation.

Find the survey online in English, Spanish, Korean, Chinese, Arabic, Farsi, Urdu and Vietnamese.

COVID-19 Updates

[Update on COVID-19 Testing Sites Available in the Fairfax Health District](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Registration Now Open for Public Transit Workers and Mail Carriers](#)

[Contacting the Health Department About COVID-19](#)

[Don't Fall Victim to These 6 COVID-19 Scams](#)

Governor Changes to COVID-19 Restrictions

The Governor announced that **effective April 1** the following changes will be made statewide to public health restrictions:

- Limits on social gatherings will increase to 50 for indoor gatherings and to 100 for outdoor gatherings.
- Limits for entertainment and public amusement venues will remain at 30% occupancy, but the cap for indoor venues will increase to 500 persons, and the cap for outdoor gatherings will be removed.
- The number of spectators allowed at recreational sporting events will increase to 100 indoors, to 500 outdoors, and remain limited at 30% capacity.
- Graduations and commencements will be limited to 500 persons indoors and 5,000 persons outdoors.
- [View mended business guidance...](#)

New Essential Worker Categories Added in Fairfax Health District

In addition, starting **Tuesday, March 23**, the following individuals who live or work in the Fairfax Health District are **now eligible to register to get a COVID-19 vaccine**.

- **Public transit workers**
- **Mail carriers**

[Read more...](#)

New Mass Vaccination Facility to Open Next Week

On March 29, Fairfax County, the City of Alexandria and INOVA will open a **mass vaccination facility in on Eisenhower Avenue** in Alexandria. **Appointments are already being scheduled** through the Fairfax County vaccine pre-registration system. If

you are eligible for a vaccine and have not signed up yet, [please do so now!](#) Also, remember to **check with your health care provider** to see if you can register with them.

As supply starts to increase (we received over 19,000 doses of vaccine this week up from 13,000 a few weeks ago!), we **need to be ready to get shots in arms** as quickly as possible. At max capacity this site can vaccinate **close to 12,000 people a day**. When this facility opens at the end of the month it will become an important **regional facility** to vaccinate residents of the **City of Alexandria and Fairfax County**. Fairfax County residents **must register through the [County's vaccination webpage](#)**.

While this site is physically in the City of Alexandria (Eisenhower Avenue near the Van Dorn Metro Station), it is **nearby and available for many Mount Vernon residents**. This is a very exciting development in our work to **vaccinate residents quickly and efficiently**. My goal has always been for residents to have a **variety of options** that are convenient to where they live and **I will continue to fight for more sites on the Richmond Highway corridor**. As doses increase, this will be very important especially for our most at-risk residents. Moving forward its critical to **provide for our most at-risk and neediest residents first, including our seniors**.

Mask up, Virginia!
You may not know you're sick.

- Not everyone with COVID-19 feels or looks sick.
- We all need to wear cloth masks to stop the spread.
- You can help save lives.

VIRGINIA'S HEALTH IS IN YOUR HANDS.
Do your part, stop the spread. vdh.virginia.gov

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

[Visit our Website](#)

Mount Vernon District Office | 703-780-7518
MTVernon@fairfaxcounty.gov | FairfaxCounty.gov/MountVernon

STAY CONNECTED

