

Dan Storck

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Joint Board Matter with Supervisor Penny Gross To Proclaim October 7, 2020, Energy Efficiency Day in Fairfax County

September 15, 2020

Energy Efficiency Day is an opportunity to share the transformative benefits of saving energy. Energy efficiency is the heart of a clean energy future and critical to the Board's climate action commitments. Energy efficiency continues to be the cheapest, quickest, and cleanest way to meet our energy needs and reduce utility bills for residential, business, and industrial customers. Energy efficiency can also make our homes and workspaces healthier, safer and more comfortable.

Smarter energy use reduces the amount of electricity we need to power our lives, which helps avoid power plant emissions that can harm our health, pollute our air and warm our climate. Cutting energy waste saves U.S. consumers billions of dollars on their utility bills every year, up to \$500 per household from appliance efficiency standards alone.

Implementing energy efficiency and other clean energy policies and programs can help boost economic opportunities and job creation while continuing to move toward a sustainable future. More than 2.4 million Americans were working in the energy efficiency sector prior to the pandemic in local, good-paying, clean energy jobs that couldn't be outsourced and increasing America's recovery efforts by ramping up our efficiency efforts will sustain and create more of them.

Improved energy codes for homes and commercial buildings also can significantly reduce utility costs and create new jobs, and Fairfax County supports increasing the minimum levels of efficiency for new buildings through adoption of a stricter code.

The residents of Fairfax County can continue to contribute to our energy efficiency efforts by learning about and participating in our Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP).

A nationwide network of energy efficiency groups and partners has designated the first Wednesday in October as the fifth national annual Energy Efficiency Day. Together the residents of Fairfax County can continue to contribute to our sustainability efforts by learning more about energy efficiency and practicing smarter energy use in their daily lives.

My work on the Joint Environmental Task Force (the JET) has shown that we will need to reduce our energy consumption by at least 50% - even while our energy use grows as the economy grows – just to meet the Commonwealth's carbon-free goal by 2045.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, we ask, with unanimous consent, that a proclamation be prepared with my and Supervisor Gross' signatures designating October 7, 2020, as Energy Efficiency Day in Fairfax County. We also ask that the Office of Public Affairs to register the County as a participant in Energy Efficiency Day 2020 on the official website https://energyefficiencyday.org/, where information can be found to publicize energy efficiency tips and information in recognition of this day.



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Request for Authorization of a Special Lorton Area Study September 15, 2020

Background

The Lorton area of Fairfax County has evolved from much of its industrial and institutional past into a diverse community with many distinctive assets such as the historic Workhouse Arts Center, extensive parkland at both the county's Laurel Hill Park and NOVA Park's Occoquan Regional Park, access to the Occoquan River, and the regional and national access provided by the Amtrak and VRE stations. These existing cultural, natural, recreational and transportation assets, combined with recent developments such as Liberty at Lorton and the new Lorton Community Center contribute to the reputation of Lorton as a unique place.

To be truly successful, the Lorton area and its assets need to be considered comprehensively. We have the opportunity to develop a new vision for Lorton, which should be evaluated with placemaking and connectivity goals in mind, especially as they relate to bicyclists and pedestrians, and within the backdrop of the larger context of the cultural and recreational systems to define a "there, there" and strengthen the places where community members can meet their neighbors, businesses can thrive, and everyone who lives, works, and visits Lorton can share in the benefits of these resources.

As a part of developing a structure for that new vision, the connections, both physical and thematic, between that new vision and the potential for new indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities on industrial sites, and the potential for re-imagining the Workhouse, the I95 landfill area, and other county owned land should be considered. While the intention is not to re-plan areas that are 1) established, 2) developing under recently developed master plans, and/or 3) expected to be master planned in the future; it is critical to understand how the entirety of Lorton can be planned in a cohesive manner.

The Lorton community, with representatives from the South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, the South County Federation, and other community leaders and HOA representatives, began a visioning process in 2012. To support their efforts, I created the Lorton Visioning 2040 task force which has worked together with county staff since 2018 to share its vision and goals for future development of the Lorton area. The task force has

guided the Lorton Visioning process, defined priorities and goals for the Lorton community, and provided recommendations to the Mount Vernon District office and Fairfax County staff on strategies to accomplish these goals. A community survey was undertaken in the summer of 2019, followed by a community open house in October 2019 to better understand the interests, needs and vision of Lorton residents. The task force, with assistance from County staff, has developed key themes to be addressed from the survey and the open house, drafted a set of visioning principles, and refined the study area within Lorton. The visioning principles work to better define the community identity, support commerce in the area, and maintain a high quality of life.

At this point, the group is ready to formally work with staff to determine the best approach to incorporate these principles into the Comprehensive Plan and to identify and evaluate changes to the Comprehensive Plan regarding land uses, densities, transportation conditions, parks, recreational areas, environmental corridors, and other supporting infrastructure and public facilities.

Proposed Motion

Therefore, I move that the Board of Supervisors authorize a special study for the Lorton Area and direct staff to prepare a Comprehensive Plan amendment that reflects the community's future vision. As part of the study, new or improved placemaking and connectivity opportunities should be considered in the context of the immediate area's many unique historic, cultural, natural, recreational and transportation assets to ensure that we take a comprehensive look at additional ways to embrace and link to these distinct places. Specific focus should be placed on the Lorton Road area east of Silverbrook Road including the Lorton Town Center, and the Route 1 corridor from Fort Belvoir to the Occoquan River. The work should also establish a context for future potential land use changes, including linkages with those areas, that could help strengthen a distinct identity for Lorton and that would examine ways for existing and potential future assets to complement one another to build community identity and an improved sense of place.

The work should be managed by the Department of Planning and Development with engagement of other departments, such as Fairfax County Department of Transportation, the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Park Authority, among others.

Due to the nature of the request, it is envisioned that the effort may be furthered by hiring consultants to support planning, community engagement, and transportation analysis. As such, I further move that the Board direct the Department of Management and Budget to identify funds sufficient to support this effort, as needed.



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Joint Board Matter with Supervisor Dan Storck and Chairman Jeff McKay

Request for Additional Funding towards the Completion of Architectural and Community Survey for Gum Springs Historic District

September 15, 2020

Throughout almost 200 years of history and existence, the Gum Springs community tells the story of the oldest free sustained African American community in Fairfax County. Although the history of Gum Springs is recognized by the county, no comprehensive cultural resource survey has been conducted for this area. In 2018, during the adoption process of the Embark Richmond Highway Comprehensive Plan Amendment, the Gum Springs Community was identified as an important historic and cultural community needing further study.

In June 2020, County Heritage Resources staff, working with the Gum Springs Historical Society, applied for and received a Certified Local Government (CLG) grant in the amount of \$10,800. This money, including a non-federal share of \$16,700 (\$27,500 total), is intended to prepare and complete a National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form for the Pride of Fairfax Lodge #298 (former Odd Fellows meeting hall), located at 7809 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA.

While Heritage Resources staff used the grant process to initially launch this study, through conversations with my office, we mutually recognized that a fully-funded study is needed to adequately address community and county concerns about the history and preservation of Gum Springs. The existing grant funds are insufficient to accomplish that objective.

The requested carryover funds would enable a complete historical review where buildings and sites that contribute to the historic themes of the area will be identified and analyzed, contributing factors for the significant historical themes of the community will be determined, and oral histories

will be created by working with Gum Springs community groups. This will allow us to partner with the Gum Springs community and residents to create a recommended management plan that could clearly define, preserve, and celebrate this historic area.

Therefore Mr. Chairman, I move the Board of Supervisors add a consideration item of \$60,000 as part of fourth quarter carryover to be allocated to the Fairfax County Department of Planning and Development to further fund the cultural resource survey, a complete historical context of Gum Springs, and to develop a management plan with recommendations.

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WALKING WEDNESDAYS

Background

This year, in the midst of the pandemic and school closures, Walking Wednesdays will be a county wide community program designed to promote community values of physical and mental health.

FCPS Safe Routes to School is pairing with Fairfax County Park Authority's Move Your Way campaign and Healthy Strides.

Engaging in physical activity is often easier for people when they can join with others. Even though we will be social distancing we can walk together apart. This program encourages Walking Champions in each neighborhood to help get out the word and engage their neighbors to participate. Each community could find creative ways to encourage and promote safe walking, biking, and outdoor exercise before school or work.

The first Walking Wednesday will take place on October 7, 2020 which is also Walk to School Day. Even though we will not be walking to schools this fall community members and families are encouraged to walk in their neighborhoods and register as a family, school or neighborhood.

Supervisors Palchik and Storck will also be participating and promoting in their districts, and encourage our colleagues to join as well!

Proposed Action

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, we ask, with unanimous consent, that the Board of Supervisors direct the Office of Public Affairs to publicize the Walking Wednesdays program in collaboration with FCPS and the Park Authority's Move Your Way campaign.

