**Points you might wish to make in support of the Affordable Housing Master Plan⎯**

**Thank the County Board, County staff, and the members of the Working Group** for a thorough and responsive process that included a comprehensive **needs analysis** and **multiple opportunities for public input.**

An 18-member citizen Working Group met for the better part of 3 years, analyzing and responding to data and information compiled by staff and consultants.

The drafts of both the AHMP and Implementation Framework (IF) have been revised in response to community concerns expressed via community forums, surveys, focus groups, and online.

**Note that Arlington’s public–private partnership approach to providing affordable housing has produced attractive and well-managed units, garnering national awards and becoming a national “best practice” model**.

**But Arlington is facing new housing challenges, including:**

* + rents and home prices that have doubled or worse in the last 15 years,
	+ a middle class struggling to afford home ownership,
	+ a large cohort of Baby Boomers who want to age in community,
	+ a large number of Millennials seeking affordable housing near transit, and
	+ competition from across the region and beyond to attract and retain businesses and government agencies, which in turn seek an environment in which they can build and retain a skilled workforce.

**Include a sentence or two, if applicable, about your or your organization’s prior involvement with affordable housing.**

**Identify a community benefit/value supported by a housing mix that includes lower-wage workers.** For example,

* + Arlington’s tradition of being a welcoming community for all
	+ Retaining socio-economic diversity in an area trending toward higher-earning households and reduced ethnic diversity
	+ Keeping workers near their places of employment, reducing commute times and congestion, supporting the local economy, and giving the community ready access to goods and services

**Point out an objective in the** [**AHMP**](http://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2015/08/Clean-AHMP-8.0.pdf) **that is of particular importance to you or your organization.**

* + Eliminating housing discrimination (2.1.1)
	+ Providing rental assistance to the county’s lowest-income households (2.2.1)
	+ Protection and support for tenants facing displacement due to development (2.2.2/2.2.3)
	+ Encouraging production and preservation of family-sized affordable units (1.1.8)
	+ Promoting housing near transit (3.2) by coordinating housing with land use and transportation policy
	+ Enabling Arlington residents to age in the community (2.4) linking affordability to service delivery and universal design principles
	+ Enabling persons with disabilities to live as independently as possible (2.5), with accessible units and links to service
	+ Incentivizing production of moderately-priced home ownership (1.2.1)
	+ Preventing and ending homelessness (2.3), having affordable units available for households transitioning out of shelter and providing supportive services where needed
	+ Responsible stewardship of the County housing loan fund (AHIF) by sound underwriting and obtaining long affordability periods (3.4)

**Close by expressing pride in Arlington’s commitment to a diverse and inclusive community and the need to update our affordable housing policy to ensure that this continues.**