

The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, Inc.

P.O. Box 203, Mount Vernon, VA 22121-9998

http://www.mvcca.org

April 12, 2024

Supervisor Storck
Mount Vernon District Supervisor
2511Parkers Lane Alexandria, VA 22306

Re: 2550 Huntington Avenue—Second Floor Uses

Dear Supervisor Storck,

We understand that there have been discussions regarding a community center on the second floor of the apartment building proposed for 2550 Huntington Ave. As you know, the MVCCA and the SSPA Task Force members have argued repeatedly in public hearings that the second floor of this building should remain residential. The comprehensive plan for this building says, "second floor retail if feasible". It is our position and was the position of the SSPA Task Force that it is not feasible nor appropriate for retail or community service activities to be on the second floor of 2550 Huntington Ave. Continued argument by the County Staff that the second floor should include commercial (or now a community center) has only had the effect of delaying development of this property, an all too familiar scenario in our part of the county. Frankly, this kind of stalling has put the brakes on too many projects along the Richmond Highway Corridor, instead of promoting development as foreseen in the Comprehensive Plan.

The Huntington community already has a community center which is located 5751 Liberty Dr, Alexandria, VA 22303 which appears to be under-utilized. Furthermore, there are multiple vacant buildings and office spaces along Richmond Highway near Huntington, as well as a large recreation center currently being constructed on Beacon Hill Rd very close to Huntington Community, that could very easily serve as a community center.

We, therefore, ask that you push back against the county staff's advocacy for second floor retail or a community center at 2550 Huntington Ave. We need to get our development projects going again (like the booming construction next door in Alexandria and Arlington) rather than stopping them with unreasonable demands.

Thank you.

ynn Pascoe, Cochair MVCCA