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## Committee Resolutions

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### ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION

#### ER-2009-01: PROPOSED NORTH HILL WALL

1. **WHEREAS**, the Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RHA) geotechnical engineer consultants recommend a below-grade retaining wall - commonly referred to as a "drill shaft wall" - to be placed on the designated parkland at North Hill in order to mitigate the marine clay instability;
  2. **WHEREAS**, the drill shaft wall, as presented to the Planning and Zoning Committee in 2007, will consist of approximately 160 shafts with each shaft being approximately 36 inches in diameter, six feet apart on center, with an average depth of 40 feet, requiring a total of approximately 1675 cubic yards of concrete or approximately 200 truckloads;
  3. **WHEREAS**, the RHA consultants for North Hill are not certified arborists;
  4. **WHEREAS**, the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) and the Fairfax County Urban Forestry Division (FCUFD) have not yet commented upon the proposal for the retaining wall and its location;
  5. **WHEREAS**, the value of the parkland with its mature trees is for all residents within the Mount Vernon District;
  6. **WHEREAS**, construction of this type involving large heavy vehicles will damage all trees in and near the location of the wall causing future death of these trees and a potential hazard for those living downhill;
  7. **WHEREAS**, Fairfax County has a 30-year 45% tree cover goal to be achieved by 2037;
  8. **WHEREAS**, the mature trees near the proposed wall offer a pleasant shaded scenic view for the residents of the housing area making this community a pleasant place to come home to;
  9. **WHEREAS**, the Mount Vernon District citizens have made it clear in all North Hill public meetings that they desire a large tree-filled park along the Richmond Highway corridor at the North Hill site that is sustainable and adds value to the neighborhood.
- A. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Supervisor Hyland direct the RHA to post information on the wall (the engineering and construction process, cost of construction, and number of mature trees that will be lost) on its website in order for citizens to be able to make proper and informed judgments regarding this critical issue;
- B. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Supervisor Hyland direct the RHA to extend its comment period so that the FCPA and the FCUFD can evaluate this critical engineering feature, its installation on future FCPA property, and the potential damage to the tree-scape and value of the parkland.

**C. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Supervisor Hyland direct the RHA to seek an alternative location for the retaining wall that is within the confines of the 11-acre housing segment of the North Hill development;

**D. BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that, should an alternative location not be feasible, a bond be set aside to cover any expense for the removal of trees that die as a result of the wall installation from four years of completion, and that any such removed trees be replaced with new trees of 8-12 inch caliper.