



**The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, Inc.**

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

<http://www.mvcca.org>

Supervisor Storck and Planning Commissioner Clarke  
2511 Parker Lane  
Alexandria, VA 22306

March 12, 2021

Dear Supervisor Storck and Commissioner Clarke,

Ref: MVCCA Resolution Supporting the Historic Overlay District for Wellington at River Farm

The MVCCA greatly appreciates your support of keeping River Farm open to the public by seeking a Historic Overlay District for the property.

We will be testifying in support of this matter at the March 17, 2021 and April 13, 2021 public hearings.

*Katherine Ward*

Katherine Ward  
Cochair  
MVCCA

Enclosed: MVCCA Resolution PZ-2021-03 Supporting the Historic Overlay District (HOD)  
RZ 2021-MV-001 and PA 2020-IV-MV1 for Wellington at River Farm

MVCCA Resolution PZ-2021-03 Supporting the Historic Overlay District (HOD)  
RZ 2021-MV-001 and PA 2020-IV-MV1 for Wellington at River Farm

Whereas: The property known as River Farm, located at 7931 East Blvd Drive Alexandria, VA 22308, has a long and historic past, once owned by George Washington as part of his River Farm Estate and then by the Matheson family from 1919-1973;

Whereas: In 1973 the property was sold by the Matheson family to the American Horticultural Society (AHS) for their headquarters using funds given to them by Mrs. Enid Annenberg Haupt;

Whereas: The AHS's website dating back to the time of their purchase and continuing through today indicates that River Farm was to be kept "open to the public and act as a model for their mission to educate and advocate for Earth Friendly and Sustainable gardening practices";

Whereas: The AHS mission further states "AHS connects people to gardening, raises awareness of earth-friendly gardening practices, introduces children to plants, brings together leaders to address important national issues, and showcases the art and practice of horticulture."

Whereas: The AHS Board of Directors has closed the property to the public and is pursuing its sale; and

Whereas: The AHS Board of Directors has rejected the offer made by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NOVA Parks); and

Whereas: The Historic Overlay District recommendation from Fairfax County Planning staff retains the R-2 zoning therefore, it does not preclude future development or other uses for the property.

Therefore, be it resolved: The MVCCA acknowledges the historic nature of River Farm; and

Further, be it resolved: The MVCCA strongly encourages the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors to adopt the HOD as recommended by the county staff.

Approved by the MVCCA Board and PZ Committee March 10, 2021