

# Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Mount Vernon, Virginia

P.O. Box 31631

Alexandria, VA 22310

April 24, 2021

Dan Storck  
Supervisor, Mount Vernon District  
2511 Parkers Ln.  
Alexandria, VA 22306

Dear Mr. Storck:

## **Support for Replacement of the Kennedy Shelter at the Former Hybla Valley Nursery Site at 2801 Beacon Hill Rd.**

The Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Mount Vernon is the nine-member governing council of the Bahá'í community covering most of the Mount Vernon and Lee Districts. We wish to express our full support for the long-overdue replacement of the Kennedy Shelter with a modern building at the site of the former Hybla Valley Nursery at Beacon Hill Road and Richmond Highway.

Bahá'u'lláh, the Prophet-Founder of the Bahá'í Faith was made homeless and sent into exile along with many of his followers. Bahá'ís are urged by their scriptures to succor the dispossessed, not to withhold favor from the those in need, to tend the sick, raise the fallen, care for the poor and needy, give shelter to the destitute, protect the oppressed, comfort the sorrowful, and love the world of humanity wholeheartedly. The greatest harm is to reject the oneness of humanity, to keep the poor out of sight, and to follow limited loyalties and prejudices that cause the “smoke of anguish” to ascend from the “lacerated hearts of the bereaved, the maimed, and the homeless.” It is for this reason that Bahá'ís are counselled: “Let them see no one as their enemy, or as wishing them ill, but think of all humankind as their friends; regarding the alien as an intimate, the stranger as a companion, staying free of prejudice, drawing no lines.”

The Bahá'ís of Mount Vernon desire that all our fellow citizens and neighbors share the dignity of having a home. We urge Fairfax County to proceed expeditiously to approve and construct this updated modern replacement for the Kennedy Shelter, along with permanent supportive housing, at the location of the former Hybla Valley Nursery at 2801 Beacon Hill Rd., which the county owns. We would all be poor indeed if only those with means could afford to live in Fairfax County and the neighborhoods along the Route 1 Corridor.

For the Glory of God,



The Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Mount Vernon, Virginia

cc: Rodney Lusk, Supervisor, Lee District