



**Commonwealth of Virginia**

**RODNEY L. LUSK**

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March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Dear Community Members,

Thank you for reaching out to my office regarding the process that will be undertaken to obtain community input on the potential redevelopment of the current Franconia Governmental Center. With the deferral of the decision to transfer the property to the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority until May 21, 2024, we have the opportunity to have a thoughtful conversation about the future of the site. To that end, I am convening a series of three community meetings in partnership with a variety of County agencies including Neighborhood and Community Services and my office. The meetings will be held at John Lewis High School on the following dates:

Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> from 12 to 2:00pm (receive input from community)

Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6-to 8:00 pm (receive input from community)

Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8:00 pm (report back to community)

As I have mentioned previously, the meetings will be led by a skilled outside facilitator to help ensure that the perspectives of the entire community can be heard in a welcoming, respectful environment. The meetings will allow residents and stakeholders the opportunity to express their ideas and vision. In a subsequent meeting those who participate will receive feedback on their proposed ideas, the development processes, and concepts. These in-person community conversations, along with an online engagement platform option are also intended to increase public understanding of affordable housing and other community needs, and general knowledge to inform decision-making.

Additionally, I would like to acknowledge concerns expressed to my office regarding the proximity of the Franconia Governmental Center to multiple gas stations and the potential effects of benzene on residents or employees located near or in the building. I have attached a copy of the Virginia Department of Health's 2015 Suspected Cancer Cluster Analysis of the Franconia Governmental building site. This analysis was requested by the Fairfax County Police

Department to determine the health impacts of this location. The Fairfax County Health Department will participate in the community meetings and will be able to speak more about the findings of this report.

From the perspective of equity, we are including considerations in our planning and decision-making, informed by data, that will help county leaders to look intentionally, comprehensively, and systematically at barriers and issues that create gaps in opportunity. The very nature of inequity is complex, and the remedies are multi-layered, often yielding both benefit and burden. Throughout this process, our analyses and engagement of the community and key stakeholders will help us to understand the impacts associated with proposed actions and will inform strategies that mitigate unintended negative consequences and ensure benefits are more broadly shared, and mechanisms will be in place to evaluate impact and adjust strategy as necessary.

I look forward to these community meetings and hearing from residents and stakeholders to make the best decision for the future of this site. Thank you in advance to all of those who plan to participate in this community engagement process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rodney Lusk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Rodney L. Lusk  
Franconia District Supervisor