

June 29, 2021

Supervisor Dan Storck
2511 Parkers Ln.
Alexandria, VA 22306

Dear Supervisor Storck,

I am writing on behalf of Hope United Church of Christ (UCC) to express **our support for the replacement of the Kennedy Shelter at the former Hybla Valley Nursery Site alongside the Penn Daw Fire Department.** Hope UCC is located a few miles away from the proposed site and several members of our congregation live in the Mount Vernon District. We strongly believe that all who call Mount Vernon home should have respectful, supportive, and dignified housing options.

We are extremely grateful for your leadership in evaluating the best location to replace the Kennedy Shelter and finding the proposed site at Beacon Hill Road. We wholeheartedly agree that the County has made the best choice for the location taking into consideration a wide variety of factors including its central location in the Route 1 corridor with easy access to transportation, proximity to health facilities, and employment opportunities at nearby businesses. The currently proposed design of the site will provide a supportive and supervised environment where members of our community can get access to the resources and services they need, and proximity to health facilities. This will positively impact the Fairfax County community as a whole.

The new modern facility will provide a temporary home and enable folks to transition to more stable and permanent living situations. Unhoused individuals in Fairfax County cannot continue to be served and suffer from the existing inadequate and aging facility. The continued delay in the start of construction of the new facility is perpetuating harm to the most vulnerable members of the Mount Vernon District rather than making sure everyone has the resources they need to thrive.

As a community of faith, Hope UCC is calling on the Board of Supervisors to act swiftly and begin building the new facilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amber Neuroth
Pastor
Hope United Church of Christ