



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

The Coalition For A Livable Alexandria, Inc.

Website: <https://livablealexandria.org>

Alexandria, VA 22314

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ABOUT US

Who We Are

The Coalition For A Livable Alexandria, Inc. (the “Coalition” or “CLA”) was incorporated by the Commonwealth of Virginia on July 17, 2023, as a nonprofit corporation organized under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. We are a City of Alexandria grassroots organization and are not affiliated with any other regional or national civic social advocacy organization.

Purpose

The Coalition was founded by a group of community members who recognized the need for a local organization dedicated to: the quality of life of all residents of the City of Alexandria, truth and transparency in City government, balanced and informed debate on policy and procedural issues, and ensuring that the voice of residents are given equal weight in policy formulation and decisions; all reflecting and in furtherance of the principals of representative democracy.

Mission

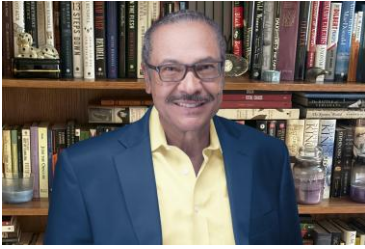
To promote equal opportunities for all residents, foster informed debate and discussion, and facilitate a balanced understanding of policy and procedural issues being considered by the City of Alexandria.

“Together we can create an Alexandria that works for everyone.”

Focus

Quality of life and livability; housing and development, neighborhood composition; accessibility and mobility; economic opportunity and prosperity; education; health and safety; infrastructure; environment; recreation; sensible density; and overarching concerns throughout the City.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



CLA was established in 2023 after gathering feedback from Alexandria residents across various social, political, and demographic backgrounds. The response indicated widespread concerns among many residents about the City's direction, transparency, and public engagement related to policy formulation and implementation. In January 2024, legal representatives for CLA and several residents filed a Complaint for Declaratory Relief against the City of Alexandria. The lawsuit, filed in the Circuit Court for the City of Alexandria, alleges violations of state laws governing zoning under the City Charter and challenges those actions. We see this filing as a crucial step in protecting Alexandria residents' due process and property rights against discriminatory actions by the City of Alexandria in making sweeping changes to housing zoning regulations. Zoning law is complex, often misunderstood, and financially challenging to contest. The lawsuit, *Phyllis Burks, et al. v. City of Alexandria, et al.*, seeks to restore residents' rights and prevent developers and speculators from benefiting at the expense of low and moderate-income residents. CLA will continue its fundraising efforts to support the litigation. While supporting the lawsuit will remain a priority for CLA throughout 2025, it will not be our only focus area.

CLA will address various issues that impact residents' quality of life, including but not limited to, housing, economic development, transportation and infrastructure, and governance issues. The organization will present alternative viewpoints when policymakers offer biased perspectives and strive to ensure that city officials consider and respect all residents' opinions. Our primary objective for the upcoming year is to enhance our capacity to function as an independent advocacy group, representing the underserved interests of Alexandrians.

Roy R Byrd

Chair

The Coalition For A Livable Alexandria, Inc.

FINANCIALS



**The Coalition
For A Livable
Alexandria, Inc.**

EMPOWERING VOICES, SHAPING OUR CITY

Statement of Financial Position

The Coalition For A Livable Alexandria operates as a 501(c)(4) nonprofit. The Coalition is unaffiliated with, and does not receive funding from, any regional, state, or national organization. Presently, CLA collects no membership dues; instead we rely solely on the non-tax-deductible donations of individual supporters.

Statement of Income & Expenses January 2024—December 31, 2024

- Opening Balance: \$.....1,618.76
- Income: \$.....98,017.45
- Expense: \$.....89,171.03
- Ending Balance: \$.....10,044.24

Description of Expenses

DESCRIPTION	EXPENSES
PayPal	\$ 1,462.14
Bank Fees	\$ 10.00
Marketing	\$ 370.94
Annual VA SCC Registration	\$ 25.00
ZFH Legal Fees	\$ 87,312.95
TOTAL:	\$ 89,171.03

GOVERNANCE

Leadership

A graphic with a black background. On the left, a large white circle contains the text "2024 LEADERSHIP TEAM" in white. The circle is decorated with a wavy line on the top left, a dotted pattern on the bottom right, and a smaller orange circle at the top right. To the right of the circle, a list of names is displayed in white text.

Chair: Roy R Byrd
Treasurer: William Shen
Director: Sylvia Alimena
Director: John Fehrenbach
Director: David Rainey
Director: Yvonne Weight Callahan

Organization

The Board of Directors is the administrative body of CLA and in accordance with the corporation bylaws consists of not less than five (5) or more than seven (7) Directors including three (3) Officers: Chair, Treasurer, Secretary. During 2024 the CLA Board maintained the minimum five (5) Directors including two (2) Officers, the Chair and Treasurer, with the remaining Directors alternating as acting Secretary.

“CLA serves to encourage the full an open dissemination of all sides of major issues affecting the welfare of residents of the City of Alexandria with a focus on quality of life and livability.”

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Key Events and Accomplishments

- ✚ In response to public outcry over the passage of Ordinance No. 5514 and Ordinance 5515, also known as Zoning For Housing/Housing For All, CLA along with several individual plaintiffs, filed a complaint for declaratory judgement against the City of Alexandria contesting the validity of the sweeping zoning changes; that the City Council acted beyond the authority under the City Charter and violated the City Charter; and that the zoning amendments are arbitrary and capricious and bear no reasonable relationship to public health, safety, morals or general welfare.
- ✚ CLA's Board expressed support for the Coalition to Stop the Arena at Potomac Yard, which opposed a \$2 billion proposal, a portion of which would have been subsidized by the City taxpayers, to create a new entertainment district to house the Washington Wizards and Washington Capitals sport franchises owned by Monumental Sports & Entertainment. The proposal was backed by the Mayor and City Council without constituent consultation. Residents expressed valid concerns over traffic congestion, neighborhood disturbances, the potential dismantlement of historic communities, property value implications, increased noise and crime, exacerbating the city's already stressed infrastructure, environmental consequences, and an overall deterioration of quality of life for residents, families, and children.
- ✚ The City of Alexandria made several attempts to have the ZFH lawsuit dismissed. Ultimately, CLA was removed from the case due to a lack of standing, as it does not own any real property in the City. However, the judge ruled that the remaining named plaintiffs do have standing and scheduled a trial date for July 2025.
- ✚ The judge presiding over the ZFH lawsuit rendered a decision against Arlington County in a related case concerning the Expanded Housing Options (EHO) ordinance, often referred to as the Missing Middle zoning changes. The judge determined that the county had inadequately assessed the impacts of increasing density in areas previously designated for single-family residences, particularly with respect to stormwater management and sewage infrastructure.

LOOKING AHEAD

Building on recent achievements, CLA will continue to expand its advocacy efforts. We are committed to ensuring that our local officials serve all segments of the public and are held accountable for their actions. CLA will actively promote neighborhood quality of life and livability; neighborhood composition; accessibility and mobility; economic opportunity and prosperity; education; health and safety; infrastructure; environment; and overarching concerns throughout the City of Alexandria. We will campaign for the equitable prosperity of all residents, foster informed debate, discussion, and public education, and encourage the comprehensive dissemination of diverse perspectives on major issues affecting the welfare of residents.

