



# Waterfront Commission

Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

1108 Jefferson Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

January 28, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council

At its September 13 meeting, the City Council considered a number of recommendations regarding City boards and commissions, including a recommendation that the Waterfront Commission be sunset in 2029 or 2030 with the completion of projects along the waterfront. We believe the value of the Commission as an advisory entity for the City of Alexandria may well warrant its continuation. The Commission is currently undertaking a substantive review and evaluation of the Commission's purpose and value to the city's government and residents. That process will include reviewing its charter and membership, developing bylaws that would govern the Commission, and documenting the ongoing potential value of our Commission to the City Council and City staff, even after the completion of the projects along the waterfront.

We recognize that many of the issues our Commission considers are also within the purview of other City boards and commissions and City departments. This overlap was explicitly contemplated when the Waterfront Committee was made the Waterfront Commission in 2012.<sup>1</sup> The waterfront is a key economic engine for the City, and we expect that our assessment will indicate that there would be considerable value in continuing the Waterfront Commission for the foreseeable future to ensure that this economic potential is fully realized. We ask that the Council defer any final action on the recommendation to sunset the Waterfront Commission until our review is completed. We plan to bring to bring our recommendations to the City Council by later this winter or early spring.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Louise L. Roseman

Chair

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<sup>1</sup> The March 2012 memorandum from the City Manager recommending changes to the composition and functions of the Waterfront Committee stated "Staff recommends that the Waterfront Committee become the waterfront "implementation advisory group" to the City. While the City has a number of boards and commissions that look at a relatively specific set of issues, such as art, history, transportation, the environment, for the entire City, the Waterfront Commission would focus on a relatively narrow geographic area but consider a broad spectrum of issues for that geographic area... The Waterfront Commission will help to coordinate waterfront-related issues that involve more than one board or commission."