

**While we acknowledge Supervisor Pat Herrity's difference of opinion regarding the role of local government in housing, we continue to be troubled by his inaccurate and careless portrayal of the facts regarding housing programs in Fairfax County.** The Residences at the Government Center, a mixed-income community of 270 units **servicing a range of households from 50 to 100% of area median income**, is the latest housing initiative under attack by Mr. Herrity.

Approval of the Residences at the Government Center supports multiple county goals and objectives, including addressing a critical shortage of workforce housing. In its March 8<sup>th</sup> presentation to the Board of Supervisors, the Economic Advisory Commission reported that one of the strategies essential to the County's success in recruiting business is the availability and affordability of housing.

The Residences at the Government Center leverage underutilized county land to attract private capital in the form of low income housing tax credits to develop a mixed-income residential property. This development will include green building principles, and when completed, will provide new tax revenue to the county. The location of the Residences in the vicinity of the County Government Center, a major shopping mall, and numerous service and retail centers, provides housing opportunities in close proximity to jobs.

There is broad-based support for this particular land use strategy among constituent groups in Fairfax County. In addition to the business community, TOD proponents, organizations supportive of land use policies that are more compact, green and sustainable, members of faith communities committed to expanding housing choices for residents in the County, and community-based organizations who serve the needs of low and moderate income households so essential to the workforce in the county all support this new development.

With the Residences at the Government Center, Fairfax County joins Arlington and the City of Alexandria in implementing a strategy that puts underutilized land to better use through a public private partnership. The result is development that provides attractive housing for the workforce, and new tax revenue for the county. For high growth, high cost areas like Northern Virginia this is truly a best practice, and a win-win for all partners involved.

The Alliance applauds the leadership of those Fairfax County board members who voted to support this development thereby adopting a creative solution to address one of the County's most challenging issues. The future depends on our elected officials who possess the vision to support smart, strategic investments in areas that are critical to the well-being and sustainability of the County. Housing opportunities for our workforce is one of those areas.