

Letter to Arlington County Board about the  
County Staff Presentation to the Board  
on Missing Middle Housing Scope, Timeline and Charge  
September 22, 2020

Dear Arlington County Board:

I watched much of the “missing middle” discussion on Tuesday afternoon and was disturbed by the lack of objectivity of the slide presentation. Here are a few things that bothered me:

1. What problem are you really trying to solve? How will you measure progress toward solving it?
2. This study specifically mentions zoning changes as a “solution.” An objective study would be open to alternative solutions (once the problem is clearly stated).
3. There is no clear approach to analysis of the problem or proposed solutions.
  - a. No analysis supports the statement that “Single family zoning does not support diversity and inclusion” on the slide that was in the presentation.
  - b. What evidence is there from other cities/counties like Arlington that zoning changes lead to more “diversity” and “inclusion”?
  - c. What evidence is there that building “missing middle” housing will make housing in Arlington more affordable?
4. The study does not appear to address how anything will be paid for. How will the impact on schools and transportation infrastructure be dealt with?
5. These are some of the issues the study must address to allow the county to make supportable policy decisions on this issue.

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