

August 27 2020

Dear Ms. Bodine and ASF Members:

Thank you for contacting the County Board regarding the Missing Middle Housing Study. We appreciate Arlingtonians for our Sustainable Future (ASF)'s mobilized advocacy around this important topic. While we recognize your concerns, we must reiterate that the planning process has not started. As you have detailed in your message dated July 28, 2020, Board members and Staff have spent considerable time with the community – discussing objectives pertaining to the umbrella program, Housing Arlington, as well as having initial conversations around Missing Middle. We have already heard from a broad cross-section of the community, sharing all manner of thoughts, suggestions, questions, and concerns which are all being considered as part of this ongoing effort.

Regarding the publication of the Research Compendium which was released over the summer, it is a pre-cursor to the community engagement that is planned for the fall. The intent of the bulletins is not to preempt a planning process, but rather to introduce terms and present factual data, background, and history. They do not serve as a policy platform or anything representing a final position on the study's outcomes. The phases of planning include first building a shared understanding of the problem, which these bulletins help to accomplish. This is a starting point for discussion, not a decision point.

Finally – to your request to be included as a Community Partner, Staff has received your request, however, due to the delay in starting the planning process, which is attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic, Staff has also delayed communication with the Community Partners. Closer to the kick-off of the planning process, Staff will initiate contact with the Community Partners. ASF and other Community Partners will be hearing from Staff at that time.

If you have questions, please contact the Project Coordinator Richard Tucker at Rtucker@arlingtonva.us or [703-228-0069](tel:703-228-0069). Mr. Tucker is aware of your correspondence and is happy to communicate directly.

Thank you again for writing and sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Libby Garvey, Chair
Arlington County Board