

FAIRLINGTON ARBOR
3472 A-1 South Utah Street
Arlington, Virginia 22206

January 11, 2005

Mr. Jay Fiset
Chairman
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 300
Arlington, Virginia 22201

RE: Trash Franchising Feasibility Study

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Fairlington Arbor Board wishes to express strong opposition to the Arlington County Board's proposed plans to eliminate private trash collection on multi-family properties.

Fairlington (both North and South) are listed as historic properties in the National Register and Virginia Landmarks Historic District. The success of a planned garden-style community including town homes and apartments with park-like common areas has made all of Fairlington a sought after place to live.

Fairlington Arbor has provided six day a week pick up since 1975. Recycling is provided once a week for newspapers, paper, glass and plastic. In addition, on the first Saturday of every month large items are picked up. We feel very strongly about the environment and encourage our residents to recycle. The Arbor is adamant that household trash items are removed from the property six days a week in order to maintain the integrity and beauty of our property.

The Fairlington Arbor Board believes that our present system of soliciting bids and negotiating a price is much more cost effective for our homeowners than having the Arlington County bureaucracy set the price and charge us for it. The Arbor's contract includes six day a week trash pick up at the front door, the removal of large items once a month and the once a week recycling pick up. The contract also specifies that the daily trash pick up will occur early in the morning so that bagged trash does not sit in front of the courts most of the day detracting from the appearance of our village, and inviting rodents and birds to rip open the bags and scatter debris over the grounds.

The suggestion that dumpsters might be an option is not viable for the Arbor or any village in Fairlington. Simply put, there is no place that a dumpster(s) could be placed that would not detract from the character of our villages. Parking lots are not an option because they are located in the front of the residences, the interior common areas are

maintained as open areas for the enjoyment of our residents and have no access for delivery/removal of dumpsters.

Not all residences have patio areas. In Fairlington Arbor's 26 acres there are 367 units of which 42 are apartments on the upper level that have access only through the front door of the building to their units. To expect these residents to hold trash in their units for an extended period of time is unacceptable nor would creating areas in the rear of these buildings to store trash cans be feasible. Most of the apartment buildings and many town homes are built so that taking something from the rear of the building to the front is very difficult because of the distances involved. A resident who is physically handicapped or elderly would be unable to manage moving these trash cans to the front of their building.

The housing of trash, using trash cans held in outside areas or in dumpsters, would also create a rodent problem. This would require the villages to contract for exterminator services adding additional costs to our homeowners in their condo fees and would not eliminate totally the rodent problem.

Fairlington Arbor urges the Arlington County Board to work with the private trash collectors to resolve how the information the county needs on recycling and trash can be obtained without creating a nightmare for communities that are well maintained, have gone up in value over the years, and do not have a trash or recycling problem. As the cliché goes, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Sincerely,

/s/ Patricia Schoen

Patricia Schoen, President

Board of Directors, Fairlington Arbor

cc: Arlington County Board Members

Barbara Favola

Paul Ferguson

Walter Tejada

Chris Zimmerman

Scott MacDonald, Department of Environmental Services

Fairlington Arbor Homeowners/Residents