



PRESERVATION VIRGINIA

June 26, 2009

Mr. Chris Caperton
Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning
Planning Division
12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 730
Fairfax, Virginia 22035-5509

Re: The Alexander Company's Draft Master Plan for Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Site
in Lorton, Virginia

Dear Mr. Caperton:

I am writing to you on behalf of Preservation Virginia, Virginia's statewide historic preservation organization. Preservation Virginia is pleased that the Laurel Hill Master Plan recognizes the importance of and is working on preserving the historically sensitive features of the Lorton Correctional Center.

Preservation Virginia is, however, in agreement with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources that some of the historical elements have not been successfully addressed, specifically the baseball field, the prison wall, and the penitentiary yard, all of which are contributing features of the prison's historical composition.

The excessive number of townhouses proposed to be built in the baseball field would destroy a contributing element in Lorton's National Register of Historical Places nomination. Since the prison's closure, the field has also been used by many people in the Lorton community.

Altering the character-defining prison wall and the penitentiary yard, both contributing features of the prison, would negatively change the historic landscape of this important site that is vital in understanding prison reform in America in the early 20th century.

Thank you for considering the views of Preservation Virginia. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Sonja Ingram
Field Representative
Preservation Virginia
767 Main Street
P.O. Box 3542
Danville, VA 24543

Cc: Leanna Hush O'Donnell, Laurel Hill Planner
Lorton Heritage Society