



County of Fairfax, Virginia

**Supervisor Pat Herrity
Board Matter
Home Share Pilot Program
June 28, 2022**

Background: The Fairfax County 50+ Community Action Plan identified a key barrier and solution to keeping our older adults in their homes as they age in place. Many of our older adults live alone in large homes and want to remain there as long as possible while recognizing that affordability, upkeep and maintenance of the house as well as general safety issues become hurdles. Meanwhile there are many individuals looking for an affordable place to live including: young adults are entering the workforce, responsible graduate students and independent older adults with limited income.

Home sharing is a program identified as part of the Board approved 50+ Community Action Plan that would serve the housing needs of each of these groups at a very low cost and management burden for the County. According to the National Shared Housing Resource Center, "Home Sharing is a simple idea: A homeowner offers accommodation to a home sharer in exchange for an agreed level of support in the form of financial exchange, assistance with household tasks, or both . . . for these people, shared housing offers companionship, affordable housing, security, mutual support and much more." With the proper interviewing, background checks and references, along with guidelines for personal compatibility checks, home sharing could provide benefits to both the homeowner and the homesharer.

While the ideas were originally presented to the Board as a nonprofit initiative, the leader of this initiative as part of the 50+ Community Action Plan looked primarily at a for profit model. I believe the idea is worth exploring with our non-profits as a public private partnership model with the County playing a small role with initial funding and providing creative lease models, and a screening process for participants including running background checks. This idea got a positive reception during a meeting with members of the Fairfax County Alliance for Human Services as well as with the Commission on Aging.

Motion: Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Board direct the County Executive to work with staff from the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging to identify the feasibility of a Home Share pilot program, potential next steps, and potential fiscal impacts of implementing a pilot Home Share program in Fairfax County. This information should come back before the Board for discussion at the Older Adults Committee in September.

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