

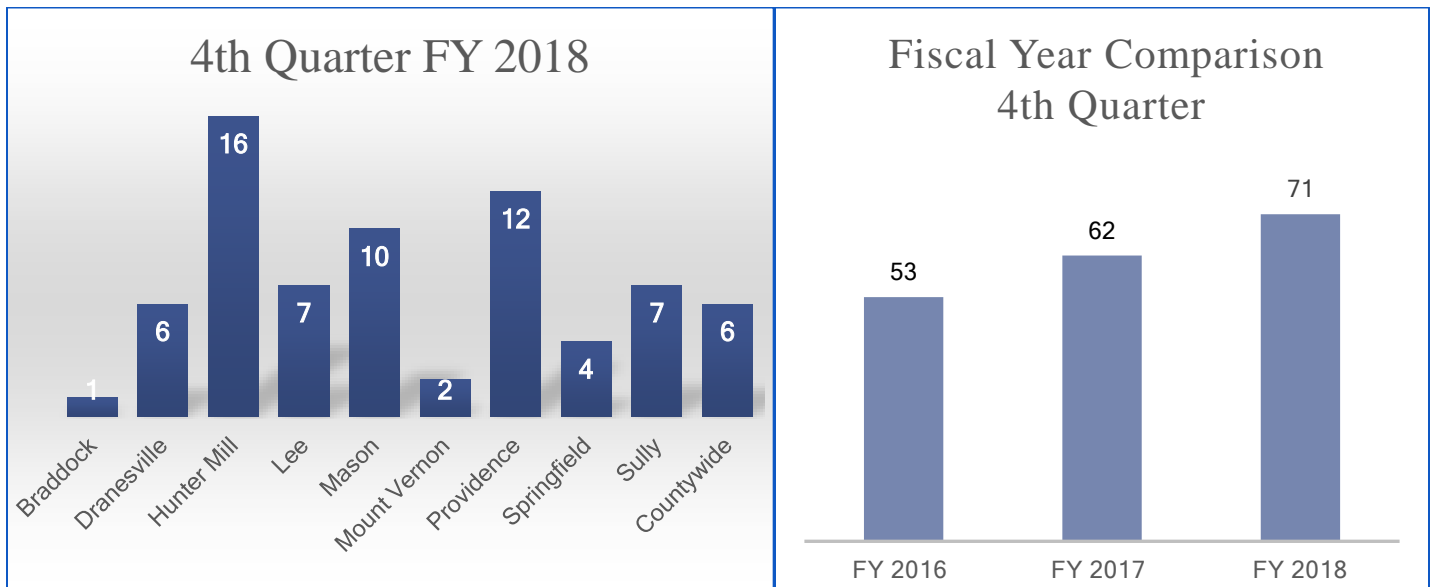
PLANNING COMMUNICATOR

July 2018

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planningcommission>

LAND USE ACTIONS

During the 4th Quarter of Fiscal Year 2018 the Planning Commission took action on 71 applications; affording 66 citizens an opportunity to speak in person at the 10 public hearings held. It was a busy quarter overall, the district with the highest number of applications considered was the Hunter Mill District with 16 applications acted upon.



COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Committee

Met on April 4 to discuss the potential Planning Commission motions regarding the CIP FY 2019 - 2023. The Committee met again on June 20 to review the adopted CIP FY 2019-2023. The Committee also received a briefing by the Fire and Rescue Department staff on the emergency vehicle pre-emption devices.

Housing Committee

On April 25, the Committee was constituted and Julie M. Strandlie was elected Chairman. The Committee discussed with the Department of Housing staff the Community-wide Housing Strategic Plan.

Land Use Process Review Committee

On May 9, the Committee received a presentation by the County Contractor, Clarion Associates, LLC on the Zoning Ordinance Structure Options as part of the Zoning Ordinance Modernization Project. On May 16, Ellen J. Hurley was elected Vice Chairman. The Committee discussed the Proposed 2018 Zoning Ordinance Amendment Work Program and endorsed its recommendation for approval by the full Planning Commission. The Committee was also provided with an update by the Planning Division staff on the Site-Specific Plan Amendment process.

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COMMISSIONER JOHN A. CARTER HUNTER MILL DISTRICT

What was the number one factor in the decision-making process of becoming a Planning Commissioner?

As a forty-year resident of Reston, the number one factor in my decision-making process of becoming a Planning Commissioner was the desire to use my planning and design experience, to plan for the future of Fairfax County including the emerging Metro station areas in the Hunter Mill District. I was employed for over thirty years in the Montgomery County Planning Department of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. During this time, I served as the Chief of the Community Based Planning Division and the Chief of the Urban Design Division responsible for master planning, zoning and the review of new development. I participated in the completion of over twenty master plans for Metro station areas and the transformation of the I-270 Corridor into a series of balanced communities designed to serve the needs of the 21st century.

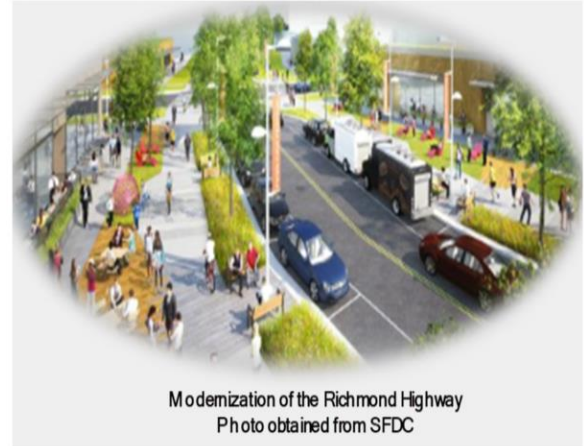
What have you learned in the short period of serving as a Planning Commissioner? Hard work, time and patience are required for a Planning Commissioner to adequately serve the public in Fairfax County. Learning the legal framework in Virginia is also important for a Planning Commissioner. The legal framework is different in Virginia than my experience in Maryland, but the planning goals are often similar.

What are some of the environmental concerns in your district? The Hunter Mill District has several streams that serve as the headwaters of the Potomac River. Ensuring the adequate protection of these streams through enhanced tree canopy, strong stormwater management practices and reduced imperviousness is critical to enhancing the water quality of the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay. In addition, I would like to see several communities in Fairfax County nominated as Energy Star Communities and recognized for leadership in energy and environmental design of their neighborhoods.

What are some of the housing concerns in your district? Providing housing for all is a primary concern. Supporting the Work Force Housing and Affordable Housing initiatives in Fairfax County is essential to the creation of thriving communities. Supporting these programs is often a challenge during the review of individual developments. Maintaining the existing supply of affordable housing is also challenge.

DISTRICT BUZZ THE INTERVIEW

COMMISSIONER WALTER C. CLARKE MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT



Modernization of the Richmond Highway
Photo obtained from SFDC

What was the number one factor in the decision-making process of becoming a Planning Commissioner?

My involvement with Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation and Embark Richmond Highway and wanting to see Mount Vernon continue quality revitalization.

What have you learned in the short period of serving as a Planning Commissioner? The many different factors that impact an application for development.

What are some of the environmental concerns in your district? Resource protection areas, streams, creeks and traffic.

What are some of the housing concerns in your district? Affordable housing, coupled with a balance to attract families with disposable income for purchasing market rate housing.

What are some of the challenges voiced from citizens regarding land use? Concerns for traffic that come with drive-thru restaurants which are not necessarily a welcomed use. Also, maintaining open spaces as well as attracting quality retail businesses and restaurants.

How can citizens in your district give back and get more involved to their community? By being an active member with their HOA, Mount Vernon Council, South County Federation, the local Chamber of Commerce and Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation.

DISTRICT BUZZ

THE INTERVIEW – CONTINUED

COMMISSIONER DONTÉ TANNER SULLY DISTRICT

What was the number one factor in the decision-making process of becoming a Planning Commissioner?

The number one factor in becoming a Planning Commissioner is a desire to serve my community and help it grow in a way that benefits us all.

What have you learned in the short period of serving as a Planning Commissioner? I have learned that there is no such thing as an easy case. Every case that comes before the Commission requires a true team effort and relies on input from everyone. Every new initiative will have an impact on someone's life and we want to always remain mindful.

What are some of the environmental concerns in your district? In my district, we want to make sure we preserve our natural areas and keep our open spaces. Even in the development projects, preservation of open spaces and mindfulness of future generations.

What are some of the housing concerns in your district? In my district, affordable housing and workforce housing is a priority. Northern Virginia is very expensive and we realize that it is important for us to make sure that our development projects are setting aside units for workforce and affordable housing.

What are some of the challenges voiced from citizens regarding land use? One of the main concerns expressed by citizens is traffic. Whether it is an office building or a residential mixed use area, growth means more car trips generated. They are concerned that their neighborhoods won't be as safe if a daycare center goes in, or a church expands. And they are right, so we have to make sure to have a plan that will factor in their concerns and provide options for road improvements, such as traffic calming measures.

How can citizens in your district give back and get more involved in their community? Citizens can give back by participating in the process. Every case that comes before the commission has multiple steps for community involvement. It is during those sessions that the applicant can hear and adjust their plan to make sure they are good partners with their neighbors. The more participation earlier in the process, the better the final application will be.

TESTIFYING BEFORE THE PLANNING COMMISSION

Ready, Set, Testify! The following is a link to a video on how to testify at a Planning Commission hearing. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact our office at (703) 324-2865.

https://www.ebmcndn.net/fairfax/fairfax-cable-viewer-cc.php?w=768&h=432&viewnode=0618_TestifyingPC2



COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

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Policy and Procedures Committee

On April 4, the Committee was constituted and Ellen J. Hurley was elected Chairman. The Committee discussed the citizen engagement in land use matters.

Schools Committee

Met with the Fairfax County School Board and Public Schools (FCPS) staff on April 25 to discuss the co-location of County and FCPS facilities, repurposing of buildings for FCPS facilities, and vacant and underutilized properties for potential FCPS facilities and programs. On June 27, the Committee discussed the reallocation and disposition process of County-owned vacant or underutilized property.

Telecommunications Committee

On June 27, the Committee was constituted; Peter F. Murphy was elected Chairman and John C. Ulfelder was elected Vice Chairman. The Committee discussed the implementation of House Bill 1258 relating to zoning for wireless communications infrastructure.



The Planning Commission will be on recess from August 1, 2018 through August 31, 2018

Hearings will resume on September 13, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

Fairfax County Government Center, Board Auditorium
12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22035



The Voices of our Citizens Matter

**Take an active role in the
land use planning process**

“The role of citizens in the comprehensive planning process varies, although the best plans typically are those that include the most citizen participation, from the beginning of the process to the end. Citizens are entitled to comment on the plan at a formal public hearing before the Planning Commission adopts it; this is the law in every state. At best, citizens should help the planning body to identify important issues that the planning process

will address, identify strengths and weaknesses of the community, develop a vision or goals for the community, comment on alternative plan scenarios and various aspects of the plan as it evolves and comment formally at a public hearing before the Planning Commission adopts the plan.” – Eric Damian Kelly