

## COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA COUNTY OF FAIRFAX BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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## September 14, 2021 Joint Board Matter with Chairman McKay

**Access to Public Water and Sewer Services** 

Members of the Board,

This year, my office has been in touch with a Tinner Hill resident regarding the difficulties they were experiencing in receiving assistance to access public water and sewer services. With the well on the property no longer being a viable source of water, this family has been struggling to find an affordable option to access clean water.

After working with staff from across the County, I was surprised to learn that there are no ready options to provide assistance to families needing access to public water services. Although programs are available for smaller home projects for families in need, programs are not available for projects of this magnitude, where the cost to establish a water hook-up through Fairfax Water is \$25,000 before accounting for additional plumbing expenses. Access to clean water is a right that no family should struggle to achieve. And although this particular issue relates to a Providence District family, there are no doubt other families across the County who have experienced similar difficulties.

Therefore, I move that the Board direct staff to work with our partners at Fairfax Water to investigate options to assist families in need of access to public water and sewer services, and return to the Board with recommendations on a proposed program, including selection guidelines and funding options, no later than November

30, 2021. This timeline should allow for Board consideration for potential inclusion

of the appropriate funding as part of the FY 2022 Mid-Year Review. Staff should

explore various funding options including, but not limited to, County General Funds,

County stimulus funds received through the American Rescue Plan Act, and funds

which may be available as a result of the recent General Assembly Special Session.