On April 28, Arlington County released plans to rezone every single-family neighborhood to allow for duplexes, triplexes, townhouses and small apartment buildings to be built next to single-family homes – as long as the new housing conforms to current height and setback restrictions. Tree canopy would be reduced from 20 percent to 10 to 15 percent. One-half parking space per unit would be the standard.

The County spent two years on a Missing Middle Housing Study during the pandemic, with limited opportunities for public participation. Some civic associations invited County Board members and staff to make virtual presentations about the study, and were told to wait for a proposal to take a position. We did so in good faith.

Now that the results are in, the County has told the public that they must submit their input **in only four weeks** on a plan that will make irrevocable changes affecting residents across half of Arlington. The Arlington Civic Federation, individual civic associations and residents have asked the County for more time for evaluation, but the County has refused to modify its schedule to approve the plan in July and enact the zoning changes in October.

We all want housing that is more affordable and available, but rushing something so sweeping through without time for consideration is simply not right – or the Arlington Way.

Julie Lee, president, Glencarlyn Civic Association

Matthew Phillips, president, Boulevard Manor Civic Association

Laura Kirkconnell, president, Bluemont Civic Association

Esther Bowring, president, Arlington Forest Citizens Association

Howard Solodky, president, Old Glebe Civic Association

Scott Sklar, president, Ashton Heights Civic Association