**Erik Gutshall – Brief Bio**

Erik Gutshall was the owner of Clarendon Home Services, a small business which he founded in 2008 in Arlington, VA after recognizing that many homeowners didn’t have adequate time to care for their homes.  Erik's business model offered regular routine maintenance to subscribers, along with full Class A contractor services for remodeling and renovations.  In 2012, Clarendon Home Services was recognized by the Chamber of Commerce as the Small Service Business of the Year, an achievement that he spoke of proudly.

Believing it is important to give back to your local community, Erik actively volunteered during his "free" time to many Arlington organizations, including serving: as the Chair of the Arlington County Planning Commission, as Transportation Commissioner, on the Zoning Committee, on the Board of the Doorways Home for Women and Children, as the President of the Lyon Park Citizens Association, and as a soccer coach for the Arlington Soccer Association for many seasons.

Growing up with a father in the United States Air Force and a mother hailing from Denmark, Erik moved around, experiencing housing of all types across the globe. As a long-time community activist and General Contractor, his passion for finding market-driven solutions to housing affordability across the economic spectrum compelled him to run for public office on a “Missing Middle” platform.  Erik won a seat on the Arlington County Board in November 2017, and took elected office in January 2018.  Serving the Arlington community as an elected official was the culmination of Erik’s dream.

Upon receiving a diagnosis of a brain tumor, Erik lost his short but fierce battle on April 16, 2020. Erik leaves behind his wife, Renee, and their three children in the Clarendon neighborhood of Arlington, VA.