

Arlington County Civic Federation Public Services Committee Resolution Supporting the 2020 Stormwater Bond Referendum October 2020

Whereas the Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) recognizes and commends the County Board's and County Manager's commitment to countywide, holistic stormwater management and flood resilience by including a \$50.84 million bond referendum (question) on the November 2020 ballot to support investment in stormwater and flood-mitigation infrastructure,¹

Whereas the County Board's fiscal year (FY) 2021 amended CIP is responsive to the ACCF's November 2019 resolution,² urging the county to "expedite unfulfilled high- and medium-priority projects and provide additional funding to compensate for unmet and emerging needs,"

Whereas the storm water bond question includes \$4.8 million for strategic land acquisition, which could serve dual purposes — for storm water management and flood resilience as well as open space — and is consistent with the ACCF's resolution approved in May 2020,³

Whereas storm water projects to address long-standing under capacity issues and chronic flooding — identified for funding on November's ballot — have been in process since 2009,⁴

Whereas Arlington and the Washington region experienced repeated, intense rainstorms in 2018 in addition to the historic flooding on July 8, 2019, which devastated broad areas of Arlington County and resulted in extensive losses for numerous businesses and many homeowners countywide,⁵ and

Whereas the July 7, 2020, storm again devastated multiple Arlington neighborhoods and businesses throughout every part of the county,⁶ reminding us vividly of the urgency of mitigating our flood risk, and

Whereas the impact of climate change is increasing the prevalence of extreme, single-day precipitation events, which will place even more stress on our aging stormwater management system going forward,⁷

Therefore be it resolved that the ACCF fully supports the storm water bond referendum appearing on the November 2020 general election ballot and looks forward to further collaboration with county staff and elected officials as we work together to implement robust storm water management/flood mitigation measures to better protect countywide assets, both public and private.

¹ DMF 2020 Bond Referenda webpage: <https://budget.arlingtonva.us/bonds/bond-referenda/>

² ACCF Resolution on Flood Mitigation and Storm water Management for a Flood-Resilient Arlington, Adopted unanimously (33 yeas; 0 nays; 0 abstaining) by ACCF November 19, 2019: <http://www.civfed.org/newContent/2019-11/2019-11%20PubSvc%20Flood-Resilient%20Arlington%20Resolution%20FINAL.pdf>

³ ACCF Resolution Recommending a Balanced Allocation of Bond Funds for Park and Recreation Uses May 2020, Approved 63-5-1 by Member Organizations Delegates or Alternates, May 19, 2020: <http://www.civfed.org/newContent/2020-05/2020-05%20ParkRec%20Cmte%20Res%20Balanced%20Allocation%20of%20Bond%20Funds%20for%20Park%20and%20Recreation%20Uses%20FINAL%20AND%20REPORT.pdf>

⁴ 9-16-2009 staff report on contract award for storm sewer capacity analysis: https://arlington.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=1491&meta_id=67935

⁵ FY 2021 Capital Improvement Plan Memorandum, dated 6-16-2020: <https://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2020/06/CIP-2021-Memo-and-Appendices.pdf>

⁶ Washington Post, 7-7-2020, "Loud, damaging and repeated storms deluged the D.C. area Monday night," <https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2020/07/07/dc-md-va-storms/>

⁷ Climate Change Indicators: Heavy Precipitation: <https://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/climate-change-indicators-heavy-precipitation>