

Sully District Council of Citizens Associations



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Joint Sully District Land Use and Transportation Committee Letter on Site Specific Plan Amendment 2023-III-1BR, Park Center (Dulles Suburban Center, Land Unit J)

29 October 2025

Ever since the Sully District was created in 1992 the citizen groups of Sully, specifically the Sully District Council of Citizens Associations (“SDCCA”) and West Fairfax County Citizens Association (“WFCCA”), have engaged in a long tradition of grass-roots informed independent review of proposed land use and transportation cases within the Sully District. For the past decade the SDCCA and the WFCCA combined their review and formed the Joint Sully District Land Use and Transportation Committee.

The Joint Committee recognizes the paramount importance of the protection of the Occoquan Watershed and upholding Fairfax County’s environmental policies, as expressed in the adopted Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan; and as well as protection of residential neighborhoods from development impacts.

Both the county and private developers were aware of the Joint Committee’s existence and have actively sought out feedback on their proposals before they came to your body and the Board of Supervisors. We believe that involving citizens in the process in the early stage of development yields an improved product with citizen buy in. We are therefore disappointed that Site Specific Plan

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Amendment 2023-III-1BR is in front of you tonight without the opportunity for its review by an informed and independent citizenry.

Lord Acton has been quoted as saying "everything secret degenerates, even the administration of justice; nothing is safe that does not show how it can bear discussion and publicity." One of Virginia's founding fathers, Patrick Henry, stated "The liberties of a people never were, nor ever will be, secure, when transactions of their rulers may be concealed from them."

Secret proposals do not serve the county's and its citizenry's interest. The Joint Committee has been involved in the review of other parcels that had national security components such as the Dulles Discovery site proposals.

It's quite possible that if the Joint Committee had had the opportunity to review this Site-Specific Plan Amendment prior to its being brought before you, we could have, based on adequate give and take, been able to endorse the Amendment. But that did not happen. We object to what seems to us a streamlined process that eliminates citizen review in order to expedite timelines. We caution staff and other developers that eliminating such an important step in the approval process is detrimental to citizen buy in and trust that the county is, in fact, looking out for our interests equally as well as the proponents.

Therefore we ask that consideration of this Amendment be postponed until such time that it is brought before the Joint Committee so that grass-roots informed independent review can occur. If that cannot happen, we recommend that this Amendment be rejected as not in the public interest.

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