

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the project named the “City of Falls Church Affordable Housing” in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Falls Church, located at 300 Park Avenue, Suite 203E, Falls Church, VA 22046. This funding will be used to preserve affordability in the Virginia Village subdivision, which contains 20 buildings with 4 one-bedroom units each from the 1940s.

Initially, Falls Church will repair five City owned parcels to ensure safe and efficient operation of the units. They will then seek out and acquire additional market rate affordable parcels in the Virginia Village subdivision both preserving their affordability and ensuring the buildings are operating with modern safety and environmental standards.

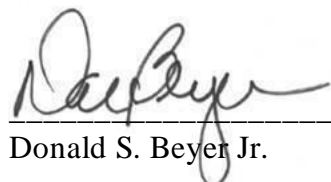
The City is experiencing rapidly rising housing costs. In recent years the City has seen a significant decrease in the number of market rate affordable rental homes. There are currently only 31 market rate apartments affordable to families at or below 60 percent of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Area Median Income (AMI). This is a decrease from 224 homes in 2012, a net loss of 193. This decrease in the market rate affordable housing stock may be attributed to rents in the City rising faster than wages. Severely cost burdened households are more likely to experience food insecurity, child poverty, and poor health. Additionally, stable housing can influence education outcomes. Workers in the City are moving too far out to suburbs, negatively affecting commute times, the environment, transportation infrastructure, and quality of life. Housing plays a role in where businesses decide to locate and a lack of affordable housing can put a jurisdiction at a competitive disadvantage.

One way to ameliorate these growing problems is to prioritize affordable housing. To address this, the City has developed an Affordable Living Policy and identified two priorities: to preserve affordable living options and to create additional affordability solutions. The Virginia Village Project addresses both.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2) and U.S.C. 5305(a)(4).

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Donald S. Beyer Jr.