

Dear Arlington County Board Members,

We write to ask the County Board to hold public hearings, in which the community members can directly ask questions of and hear from Amazon, prior to taking any vote on the Amazon incentives package. We appreciate the County's efforts to reach out to community members about the proposed Amazon Headquarters in Arlington. However, many questions and grave concerns remain about how we will protect against mass displacement and a worsening housing crisis, Amazon's history of anti-worker union busting, its troubling partnership with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency, and whether the wealthiest corporation in the world will have outsized influence in local and state government.

Whether we're tenth generation or new to the area, we all want to live in the best places for our families. That means we need funding for our schools, to ensure affordable housing and to promote small businesses while protecting our right to an equal say over what happens in our communities. The Arlington value of inclusion requires real, accessible public engagement from Amazon, not backroom deals or pay-to-play events. For all of us to live, work, and thrive here, we need to be able to stay in our homes and improve our roads, transit systems, and schools. All of this requires that we join together to ensure fairness and transparency.

We all agree that the consequences of Amazon coming into Northern Virginia will be felt across the region and we don't want any of our neighbors to be left behind. According to a [New Virginia Majority report](#) on the likely impacts of the "National Landing" project, "the most significant impact will be the pricing out of low-wage working people from the area's homeownership and rental markets."

We agree with Board Member Cristol, who recently acknowledged on [Vox's Today Explained podcast](#) that the county has not done a good enough job reaching low-income people, immigrants, and communities of color. We also share the concerns expressed by Board Members Gutshall and de Ferranti about Amazon's lack of engagement with the public.

Public hearings that are accessible to all residents is a critical step to doing better. Hearings are necessary to give the people the assurance that the county board is acting in the interest of all of us, and not just those with means or who stand to profit from Amazon's HQ2.

We are your constituents. We are your neighbors. Amazon is not.

We are working people, labor leaders, immigrants, students, long-time residents, homeowners, newcomers, people of color, multilingual, black, and educators. We are Arlington and its community. We ask that you postpone the vote on incentives and hold public hearings to foster transparency and understanding.

Signed,

La ColectiVA
Tenants and Workers United
Virginia Educators United
Nauck Civic Association
Arlington NAACP 7047

New Virginia Majority
NAKASEC
Tech Workers Coalition
Our Revolution Arlington
Showing Up for Racial Justice Northern Virginia
Justice For Muslims Collective
Our Revolution Northern Virginia Steering Committee
Metro DC DSA NoVA Branch
Our Revolution Alexandria
Richmond for All
Grassroots Alexandria
Virginia River Healers
VCU Adjuncts Organizing for Fair Pay
Virginia Student Power Network
Sanctuary DMV
GMU Student Power
Fair Budget Coalition
BYP100
Preserve Floyd
Citizen Voices Radio show
SURJ DC
RAPTORS - Rockingham Alliance for the Protection & Transformation of Our Resources & Society
Chesapeake Earth First
Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless
Ice Out of RVA