

Public Comments for Virtual School Board Meetings #239

I would like to provide: *	Written Public Comments
My public comments are related to:	General Public Comments
Topic *	Opposed to Adult Housing Co-location at Minnie Howard
Full Name *	Fran Vogel
What is your relationship to ACPS? *	Community Member
Enter your comments here OR upload below:	<p>Ms. Fran Vogel, President Strawberry Hill Civic Association</p> <p>Alexandria City School Board Clerk of the School Board 1340 Braddock Place Alexandria, VA 22314</p> <p>February 3, 2021</p> <p>Re: The High School Project and use of ACPS Campuses for Adult Housing</p> <p>Dear Chair Alderton, Vice Chair Nolan and Board Members:</p> <p>As President of the Strawberry Hill Civic Association, I am writing on behalf of our community regarding the use of school properties for co-locating adult housing. Our members have stated unequivocally that they favor restricting the colocation policy so as not to permit adult housing on school property, making sure that our scarce school property is reserved for school related uses.</p> <p>We understand the need for increased affordable housing however we do not believe co-locating housing on school grounds is a sound practice for a multitude of reasons. Among them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whether Virginia law permits the use of school property for this purpose• Limiting the viability for future expansion of school related needs• Addressing the issue of student overcrowding that will occur through the increase of housing stock and overdevelopment within the City<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Schools will be at or near capacity from day one so using school property for housing units lacks foresight• Safety issues with adults living on school property, expressly:<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Screening for those coming onto the property i.e. delivery drivers,

installers, cleaning services

o Instances of domestic or other types of violence

o 2nd Amendment rights – gun ownership

- Parking priorities for those living on the property and their visitors, teachers and parents to access the school and its facilities

- Determination of exactly who will be ‘allowed’ to live there i.e. teachers, firefighters or others. Questions remain with regard to Fair Housing and how the City will regulate this.

- The only semblance of an example of what Alexandria intends to do is in East Harlem, co-located with a K-8 charter school where parents choose to send their children and are free to pull them and go somewhere else for free if they so choose; not a mandatory situation comparable to ACPS

There are many unresolved policy questions that need to be vetted and determined yet. While there is continued pressure to use school campuses for affordable housing, Strawberry Hill Civic Association remains concerned about this non-core uses of school sites.

We urge the Board to pause all decision-making on colocation of housing with regards to the High School Project and Minnie Howard.

Respectfully,

Fran Vogel

President, Strawberry Hill Civic Association
