The Falls Church Village Preservation and Improvement Society

The City of Falls Church
City Council
Planning Commission
300 Park Avenue
Falls Church, VA 22046

May 4, 2020

SUBJECT: Public Art Mural at Mr. Brown's Park

Dear Mayor Tarter, Members of City Council, City Manager, Planning Commission, Economic Development Authority and Staff:

The Village Preservation and Improvement Society has long stood for the preservation and celebration of the history and character of our City. We are concerned the mural image being planned for Mr. Brown's Park may not reflect that local connection. We understand that staff is moving forward with the project without following a public process, or the draft public art policy, and has a contract in place to develop that mural. VPIS requests that City staff suspend that contract and reconsider the public process for selecting the mural content.

We urge the City to work with the Arts and Humanities Council and appropriate public groups to set criteria for the subject matter of this mural and future public murals. The selection criteria should include a call for artists to submit designs that will then be juried by a qualified body. The criteria also should include a preference for celebrating the history, events and people of Falls Church, or national events related to the City, with the overall goal of enhancing our sense of place in the City. We strongly believe that these decisions should permit the citizens who live here to have a voice.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lisa Varouxis

Lisa Varouxis, President
On behalf of the Board of Directors
VPIS.President@Gmail.com