



## The Falls Church Village Preservation and Improvement Society

April 21, 2022

Mayor Tarter and Members of the City Council  
City of Falls Church  
300 Park Avenue  
Falls Church, VA 22046

### **Subject: Support for Advancing the Community Climate Mitigation Energy Action Plan**

Dear Mayor Tarter and Members of the City Council:

The Board of the Village Preservation and Improvement Society (VPIS) strongly endorses the recommendation of the Falls Church Environmental Sustainability Council in its March 14 Memorandum to you calling for funding in the FY2023 Budget for implementing the Falls Church Community Climate Mitigation Energy Action Plan (CCMEAP) and a government-side energy plan.

VPIS has provided comments to you on the critical need for the City to develop a climate and energy plan (see [May 2021](#) letter) and comments intended to make that plan as strong and effective as possible (see [October 2021](#) letter).

Although the current Plan could be strengthened in several important respects, we believe that the City should promptly move to implement the Plan's action items. We share the view of the Falls Church Environmental Sustainability Council that the City should add to the FY2023 budget the following items identified in the draft budget as "Priorities for Future Funding":

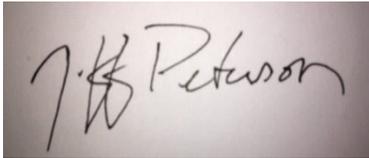
- funding for one additional full-time staff member to support Environmental Programs;
- funding of \$50k for consultant services to support a City of Falls Church government Energy Plan to complement the CCMEAP; and
- at least \$50k set-aside to support opportunities identified for community outreach, incentives, infrastructure, progress measurement, etc.

The City's schedule currently calls for finalizing the CCMEAP in June 2022. Waiting until the next budget cycle (i.e., starting July 2023) to add critical funding, staff, and related support in this area would result in a significant delay in effective implementation of critical climate change mitigation efforts.

Making progress toward the City goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions will increasingly require that the City make new, capital investments in diverse projects. The additional funding for staff and consultant support will help define the most valuable new investments and provide the analytic foundation for including climate change and energy projects in the City Capital Improvement Plan for FY2024.

We look forward to working with you on this important challenge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Jeff Peterson" in a cursive, slightly stylized font. The first name "Jeff" is written with a large, looped "J" and a small "P" for "Peterson".

Jeff Peterson  
VPIS President  
on behalf of the Board

cc: City Manager  
Environmental Sustainability Council