



## SEMINARY RIDGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

14 December 2022

Dear Neighbors,

Please find important updates from the December 13, 2022 SRCA Board Meeting included herein.

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### **Duke Street In Motion: December Advisory Group Meeting and Newsletter**

The next **Duke Street In Motion Advisory Group meeting will take place on December 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the DASH Facility (3000 Business Center Drive)**. Please note the change in meeting location. Members of the public are welcome to attend [virtually](#) or in-person.

To attend virtually, please register at [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_mXAnVFaxSxO1qzc8G0cJWw](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mXAnVFaxSxO1qzc8G0cJWw).

The December meeting will include:

- A staff recommendation to advance two options for Segment 1 to provide more data for comparison
- Recap of Segment 2 from Jordan to Roth and discussion on phasing and transitions
- An opportunity for 10 minutes of public comment on Segment 2 – speakers will have two minutes and will alternate between in-person and virtual speaker sign-ups
- An Advisory Group recommendation for Segment 2 near term alternatives to advance
- Presentation and discussion on station spacing factors
- 10-minute general public comment period at the end – speakers will have two minutes and will alternate between in-person and virtual speaker sign-ups

The Advisory Group was established by City Council to develop a recommendation on a preferred transitway concept for the Duke Street Corridor.

Meeting materials are available at [alexandriava.gov/dukeinmotion](http://alexandriava.gov/dukeinmotion) under Advisory Group Meeting #7.

If you have any comments, please use the new [ongoing feedback form](#). Comments received will be shared with the Project Team and Advisory Group.

Please check out the December [Duke Street In Motion Newsletter](#) for:

- November meeting recap
  - December meeting information
  - Next steps
  - Helpful resources
  - How to share your input
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### Reports from SRCA's ACPD Liaison/Alexandria Sheriff's Liaison

- Sergeant Tony Moore reported that traffic is higher than usual in Seminary Ridge right now because of the closed off areas on Ellsworth St. and West Taylor Run Pkwy. This increase in cut-through traffic is primarily affecting Fort Williams Pkwy. Sgt. Moore also noted there will be an increase in larceny of packages during this time of year and asked that we keep an eye out for our neighbors. Should we see anything or anyone suspicious, please alert them so they can patrol the area. Footage from security cameras is always helpful as well.
  - Lieutenant Lemuel Houston indicated they're already starting to see an increase in property crimes, which is not uncommon at this time of year as folks shop for the holidays. The NOVA regional center is also reporting an uptick in crimes against persons – these are not specific to Seminary Ridge, however that doesn't mean things can't happen to you outside of your neighborhood. The Sheriff's Office is trying to flex resources to help out the community. Lt. Houston is part of an initiative right now that is specifically related to calls for mental health services, and there's been a big uptick in these calls lately. Lt. Houston stated he's never seen this many calls for service re: orders for treatment issued by the court before, so if you know of anyone who is having a mental health crisis, don't hesitate to call the police department. There are a lot of people who have been needing services for a long time that just haven't gotten them, and this becomes especially critical around the holidays. The Alexandria Sheriff's Office and APD are the right places for these folks to go.
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### Key Updates from Partner Associations/Coalitions

- **Seminary Hill Civic Association (SHA) Report:**  
SRCA First Vice President, Krista Ludwig Poretz, attended SHA's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary / Annual Meeting in person on **Thursday, November 10, 2022**, at 7pm at Parish Hall of Immanuel Church on the Hill. Ms. Carter Flemming addressed the association with remarks announcing her departure as president of SHA and welcoming Bill Rossello as SHA's next president. Ms. Flemming will stay on the SHA board as a past president. She is moving on to be the president of the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations (AFCA). Ms. Flemming gave a passionate speech regarding the issues that the SHA board has addressed during her tenure and continues to address on behalf of the community.

Issues that will continue to be prioritized for SHA included Duke Street, school construction, new residential construction, and zoning code potentially impacting single family homes. The meeting was more of a celebration than a substantive meeting on the issues as are the normal monthly meetings.

- **West End Coalition (WEC) Report:**

On **Tuesday, November 15 at 7 p.m.**, community members, businesses and organizations attended a **virtual kick-off meeting launching the City's 18-month Alexandria West planning process**. A recording of the meeting is posted on the [project website](#). A list of pop-ups open to the community is available on the [project website](#) and will be updated with new events, as well as any changes due to weather or other circumstances. This planning process will engage the community to create a vision for the area's long-term future and explore topics such as housing affordability, equity, culture, land use, mobility, pedestrian and cyclist safety and accessibility, and connecting existing and future open spaces.

**The planning process for Alexandria West depends on input from you!** We want to hear your thoughts and ideas on what can make your community even better with regard to topics like equity, culture, housing, getting around, land use, parks, safety, etc. Your feedback will help to shape a new Alexandria West Plan to guide the future.

Alexandria West is the area of the City of Alexandria generally located west of I-395.

This poll consists of 9 questions and should take about ten minutes to complete. **Complete by December 31, 2022.**

**All questions are optional, and your individual responses will remain confidential.**

### **Community Poll #1**

Share your thoughts and ideas by December 31 on what can make your community even better. Your anonymous feedback will help to shape a new Alexandria West plan to guide the future.

- [English](#)
- [Amharic](#)
- [Arabic](#)
- [Spanish](#)

- **Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations (AFCA) Report:**

Poretz attended the virtual AFCA meeting on **November 30, 2022**, featuring guest Jim Parajon, Alexandria City Manager. Mr. Parajon provided opening remarks which included the following highlights:

- Alexandria has received an AAA bond rating again. A Triple-A (AAA) bond rating is the highest rating that bond agencies award to an investment that is considered to have a low risk of default, thereby making it the most creditworthy.

- Alexandria Police Department employee negotiations are complete.
- Still working on Alexandria Fire Department negotiations.
- 311 is still problematic.
- City is working on improving communications to residents.

Following Mr. Parajon’s remarks, residents asked questions and voiced concerns. Mr. Parajon listed and acknowledged the remarks of residents. Here are some highlights:

- 1) When asked what specific efficiencies the City would realize in the upcoming review of services, Mr. Parajon did not give specifics but said an example would be stopping extra programs that had been in place with COVID as an option.
- 2) He acknowledged the City’s response to tree canopy maintenance has not been satisfactory.
- 3) Mr. Parajon said the City is “looking at balance and choice” in regard to density and we need affordable housing and mechanisms for wealth creation. He elaborated that Metro Station areas can support more density.
- 4) Mr. Parajon acknowledged a resident’s comment that affordable housing should be going to those most in need – at the lowest income levels – and that this is not always the case regarding what is actually happening with available affordable housing today.
- 5) Mr. Parajon said no decisions have been made regarding Duke Street and that perhaps the City should pause any planned decision making at this time.
- 6) Mr. Parajon said he would support civic associations’ continued participation in zoning matters.

### **Urban Forestry Concern**

The Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations (AFCA) is very concerned about the status of staffing in the Urban Forestry Division and the Parks Operation Division within the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA). These Divisions provide services to every neighborhood across Alexandria. Given their critical role in residents’ quality of life and achieving the city’s climate goals, AFCA respectfully requests that the current staffing shortage, and the conditions that precipitated it, be remedied immediately. Status of letter from AFCA to the City Manager concerning this matter is unknown.

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### **Meetings with Alexandria Department of Parks & Recreation Regarding Medians on Ft. Worth**

Concerns have been raised about the median on Ft. Worth which tends to get neglected. SRCA President, Richie Weiblinger, has raised this with the Alexandria Department of Parks & Recreation and met with them on December 9 to figure out how we can partner with them to get the medians cleaned up. The Department of Parks & Rec will also perform a site visit where they’ll come back to our neighborhood so Weiblinger can point out some of the specific areas that require clean-up.

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## St. Stephens & St. Agnes School (SSSAS) Updates

- SSSAS's winter break is from December 16 through January 3.
  - SSSAS's Spring performance of Mama Mia will be held on January 3 and January 10 at 7:00 pm and on January 4 at 2:00 pm.
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## SRCA Holiday Party

SRCA will host its annual holiday party at the home of Ken and Elizabeth Wainstein, 4007 Moss Place on Friday, January 6, from 7:00-9:00 pm. As in previous years, because alcohol will be served, this event is for adults only.

It is important that we have a good idea of how many adult residents plan to attend so that an appropriate amount of food and wine can be ordered in advance. **Please RSVP to Karen Meade by Monday, January 2 at [news4SRCA@gmail.com](mailto:news4SRCA@gmail.com) or 858-922-4602.**

The holiday party is the most expensive event that SRCA sponsors each year. Therefore, if anyone who plans to attend has not yet paid their dues, we ask that you bring a check with you to the event, made out to SRCA, for the annual dues payment of \$50.00 (per household). To pay in advance, you may mail or drop off a check to SRCA to Scott Sutherland, SRCA Treasurer, at 813 St. Stephens Rd., or go to [www.seminaryridge.net](http://www.seminaryridge.net), click on the "Join the Community" link and follow the directions to pay via PayPal or credit card.

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## SRCA January 2023 Board Meeting Waived

At the December 13, 2022 meeting, the SRCA Board approved a motion to waive the SRCA Board Meeting scheduled for January 5, 2023 (since it falls the day before the SRCA holiday party) and reconvene on the appropriate day in February.