

Old Town Alexandrians Oppose Massive Commercial Development

Alexandria, VA - January 19, 2021

Residents in the Southwest Quadrant of Old Town Alexandria, Virginia created an organization to oppose the City of Alexandria's planned construction of [three massive, 750-unit high rise buildings](#).

In September 2020, the City of Alexandria approved the demolition of the existing Heritage at Old Town properties. [Asland Capital Partners](#), a New York-based investment company and owners of the properties, and their legal representatives, the Arlington-based [Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley & Colucci](#), intend to replace the existing four-story Heritage buildings with **three, 7-story 750-unit buildings**. The project would include both affordable housing and market rate units. It would cram up to 1,000 new residents into a compact area within and adjacent to Old Town. Alexandria is already the most densely populated city in Virginia. If the project were to go forward, it would place hundreds of additional vehicles on area streets which are already severely congested during periods of morning and evening rush hour. Images of the planned buildings are available at the [Citizens Association of the Southwest Quadrant \(CASWQ\)'s website](#).

In addition to being a vibrant, walkable community, Old Town hosts unique history, architecture and charm, all of which would be severely diminished by the imposition of a massive, densely packed apartment complex. The [South Patrick Street Housing Affordability Strategy](#), adopted by the City of Alexandria in October 2018, states that any affordable housing initiative must "ensure future development is not only compatible with the existing neighborhood, but enhance it." This development project clearly does not meet this requirement.

The City's Planning Commission is scheduled to [discuss the project on February 2](#), and the City Council will discuss the project on February 20.

CASWQ is a group of over 80 neighbors and residents who strongly support the need for additional affordable housing, but request that the new residences be at scale, and consistent with building designs that are compatible with the surrounding neighborhood. CASQ is launching an aggressive public information campaign to fight the City's initiative in the Old and Historic Alexandria District which is the [third oldest urban district in the United States after Charleston and New Orleans](#). Specifically, we will urge the City to require the developer to redesign the project, and significantly scale down its building height. For information about CASQ, or about the City's plans to irresponsibly destroy the historic charm of the Southwest Quadrant of Old Town Alexandria, please contact us at info@caswq.org, or follow us on Twitter ([@CitizensAssoc2](#)) and Instagram ([@citizens_assoc_sw_quadrant](#)).