



December 15, 2022

Arlington County Planning Division
c/o Peter Schulz
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 700
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Schulz:

On behalf of the Crystal City, Pentagon City, and Potomac Yard business community, the National Landing Business Improvement District (BID) expresses its support to extend the deadline for the County Board to approve the Arlington Community High School's (ACH) lease.

With Amazon's transformative PenPlace groundbreaking anticipated early next year, the plan will deliver over 3.3M sf of office and 2.5 acres of premier open space, support thousands of new jobs, and help realize a more inclusive community through its key public benefits. As part of that package, the ACH will be an exciting part of this development program and will create a centrally located new home for non-traditional Arlington County students.

While this site plan amendment is a necessary action to extend the lease approval deadline, the applicant and the County are also currently exploring opportunities to move the school's delivery date to an earlier phase of the development program. Though the BID recognizes the relocation of the school will likely be the subject of a future site plan amendment, the prospect offers opportunities to utilize the school's presence to create an active, 18-hour urban corridor along 12th Street South called for in the Pentagon City Sector Plan. Most notably, a vibrant street-facing lobby entrance connecting to second story academic space would maximize available retail frontage while benefiting from the activation provided by students throughout the day.

Providing quality education for ACH students at Amazon's HQ2 development greatly expands tech opportunities for low-income communities of color and builds a more inclusive tech ecosystem, an important priority for the BID's stakeholders. The BID encourages the County to approve this request to extend the lease approval deadline and looks forward to future discussions about a potential relocation.

Sincerely,

Tracy Sayegh Gabriel
President & Executive Director