



HOPE HALLECK  
CLERK TO THE  
COUNTY BOARD

## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA OFFICE OF THE COUNTY BOARD

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### MEMBERS

LIBBY GARVEY  
CHAIR  
JAY FISETTE  
VICE CHAIR

KATIE CRISTOL  
CHRISTIAN DORSEY  
JOHN VIHSTADT

May 27, 2016

Dear Community Leader,

We have heard from many people and advisory groups including the Planning Commission, the Urban Forestry Commission and the Alliance for Housing Solutions about our charge to the Blue Ribbon Panel. We heard concerns about the lack of notice and opportunity for input. Therefore, the Board decided to pause and take time to allow for public comment.

We have deferred the implementation of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Strategic Priorities for Arlington, as well as the appointment of any members, to the July 2016 County Board meeting, to allow for the appropriate time to [seek feedback and receive input](#) from advisory commissions, the Civic Federation, the Community Facility Study Committee and the broader community on the proposed charge. You may want to [View the Board discussion on this motion](#). (The discussion begins at 34:10.)

In order to guide the feedback, we asked specific questions, although other comments are welcome. Comments should be received no later than July 1, 2016. The original [charge is attached for your reference](#). The questions are:

- Which tasks described in the Charge cause concern to, or require further clarification for your Commission/organization? Are there any tasks with which you are already comfortable or supportive? Are there any tasks you would add?
- What elements or questions would you recommend be incorporated in the Panel's report to the County Board? Are there other deliverables that you think the Panel should generate?
- What additional guidance (not formally part of the Charge) would you like the Panel to consider? For example, what forms of engagement would you like Panel to pursue with your Commission? With the general public?

Again, on behalf of the Board, thank you for all you do for our community. We welcome any comments you would like us to have before we take this up again in July.

Sincerely,

Libby Garvey  
Chair, Arlington County Board

Attachment: Blue Ribbon Panel Charge

## **Blue Ribbon Panel Charge**

The Blue Ribbon Panel should provide an evaluation of the current policy goals and objectives for the County, identification of conflicts (if any) between these policy goals and objectives, and recommendations for a plan to reconcile and prioritize those goals. Specifically, the Blue Ribbon Panel will:

1. Review a summary of policy goals and objectives from the Comprehensive Plan and other supporting documents, as prepared by staff, to:
  1. Affirm these goals and objectives and/or consider policy areas that should be revisited, and
  2. Highlight any ambiguities or inconsistencies in these documents;
2. Offer recommendations for :
  1. Providing a clear understanding to the community of the framework and process by which strategic priorities are determined, how they relate to the vision statement and how they are reflected in the annual budget process, as well as any recommended changes to that process. A flow chart and good graphics would be useful.
  2. Curation of essential documents and language on the County website,
  3. A process for community engagement to discuss strategic priorities;
3. Offer recommendations on how the Comprehensive Plan and supporting documents could be better reflected in the budget and CIP processes;
4. Propose a framework for periodic engagement on the review of community priorities and strategies and consider how it could or whether it should relate to APS and its strategic planning process.
5. Regularly update the County Board Liaison on progress, discuss process issues, and keep the Liaison informed on any issues.
6. Prepare a written report for County Board consideration by December 2016.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### County Staff:

The County Manager will form a staff team that will:

1. Conduct an integrated review of Arlington's statements of policy goals and objectives, included in:
  1. Arlington's Comprehensive Plan, including the goals and objectives from the Plan's Executive Summary and each of the eleven Plan elements;
  2. Other supporting documents as appropriate, including:
    1. The County Vision Statement,
    2. The adopted FY 2017 County Budget,
    3. The update to the County's ten-year Capital Improvement Plan,
    4. The Community Facilities Study report;
2. Compile a summary of policy goals and objectives from this integrated review; and,
3. Provide other information or assistance as requested.

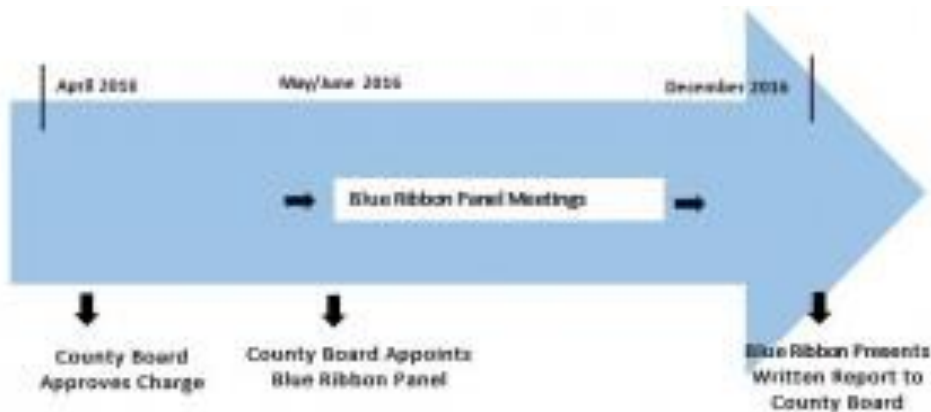
Blue Ribbon Panel:

1. Regularly update the County Board Liaison on progress, discuss process issues, and keep the Liaison informed on any issues.
2. Prepare a written report for County Board consideration by December 2016.

County Board Liaison:

The County Board chair will serve as the liaison for this effort. The County Board Liaison will work with her colleagues on the County Board to keep them informed.

**Proposed Timeline**



[1] **Vision:** “Arlington will be a diverse and inclusive world-class urban community with secure, attractive residential and commercial neighborhoods where people unite to form a caring, learning, participating, sustainable community in which each person is important.”