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April 14, 2021

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035

Dear Chairman McKay and District Supervisors:

All of us long for a return to normalcy and the way of life that we cherish. At the Fairfax County Park Foundation, and in my role as Chair of the Board of Directors, our desire to begin anew is keen. Ironically, this aligns with our 20th anniversary, a time when we celebrate two decades of tremendous accomplishment and the promise of more to come.

Your constituents continue to demonstrate their love of Fairfax County parks! Our popular parks, trails and open space are being utilized more than ever. Park benefits ranging from the tranquility of nature and active exercise, support the collective physical and mental health of those in our community.

A growing number of Fairfax County residents from every district make voluntary contributions for parks to the extent of their ability while living through uncertain economic times. The Park Foundation's status as an independent not-for-profit corporation enables fundraising from individuals, organizations, businesses, and foundations. Supplementary support is attracted via grants, Donor Advised Funds; Vehicle Donations; and IRA Distribution Gifts that provide supplementary support for Fairfax County parks, which all require the Park Foundation to be an IRS designated 501(c)(3) organization.

The Park Foundation's diverse supporters are often representative of the very beneficiaries who are served by the FCPA programs and outreach services. **This is one reason why the Park Foundation Board of Directors is proud to have officially adopted and refer to the One Fairfax Policy!**

As the Park Authority has adapted to deliver services and is preparing to reopen responsibly, the Park Foundation utilized technology to engage new and existing donors whose generous gifts to FCPF made the following, and more, possible:

- The popular **Summer Entertainment Series** returns this year to entertain and bring much-needed joy throughout all nine supervisory districts;
- **Two picnic shelters near the Burke Lake Park train station are now** open for reservations, providing new revenue streams to FCPA, while serving as safe open-air sites for family and group celebrations;
- **FCPF funds annual grants to qualified Friends Groups** to encourage park projects at no cost to taxpayers;
- **PACT camps for children living in homeless shelters and supportive housing** plus Rec-PAC scholarships for under-privileged youth; and

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Phone 703-324-8582 • Fax 703-653-7048 • www.FairfaxParkFoundation.org

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- **Our Legacy Circle membership expanded beyond 30 individuals** who have or pledge to include the FCPF in their will or other gift plan.

These select accomplishments do narrow the gap between resources and demand for services, yet more is needed to meet the massive public demand from the Park Authority. Please know that **our volunteer board and Foundation staff remain committed to continuing FCPF's service as your partner** to engage citizens while supporting the long-term success of our valued park system.

Your leadership that has protected and reassured our community while leveraging the value of Fairfax County parks is notable. We recognize and greatly appreciate your commitment.

Sincerely,

Michael Gailliot, Chair
Fairfax County Park Foundation Board of Directors

cc: FCPF Board of Directors

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