

Audrey Clement

**Clarendon Courthouse Civic Association
Candidate Questionnaire
2015 County Board Election**

- 1) Our neighborhood considers it critical that the county staff and board maintain and active listening and responsive relationship with our residents. We are concerned that these relationships are not as strong as they could be based on experiences ranging from continuously neglected potholes to ignored neighborhood input into policy and planning conversations. What will you do to ensure Clarendon-Courthouse residents have a voice in county decision making?

The Clarendon Civic Association's concerns are well placed. While Arlington County Board plays lip service to the so-called "Arlington Way" citizen input and advice is routinely ignored.

For example, County Board recently voted to raze historic Wilson School to further a private development agreed to in secret in 2013 over the objections of the Rosslyn civic leaders and the Arlington Historic Affairs and Landmark Review Board (AHALRB). Rosslyn civic leader Stan Karson declared publicly that he was as disillusioned with the "long and unsatisfactory process" as he was by the decision to demolish the historic school.

If elected, I pledge to restore democracy to County government by listening to and acting upon citizen input, not simply going through the formality of public hearings.

- 2) As residents of a dense, mixed-use neighborhood we both appreciate the benefits of local restaurants and remain concerned about the noise their events and patrons can inflict on nearby residents. The county's recently approved noise ordinance creates geographic areas in which different standards apply. Do you believe that residents living apartments and townhomes should be able to sleep during the same hours as residents in detached houses?

Apartment dwellers are entitled to the same right of quiet enjoyment as everyone else. I happen to be an apartment dweller myself. Yet at a recent County Board meeting an irate Clarendon resident was told by the County Attorney that County Board could nothing to curtail drunken pub crawlers other than have them arrested for disorderly conduct due to the so-called Dillon Rule, which holds that local jurisdictions enjoy only those powers expressly delegated by the state legislature.

One solution is to introduce a bill in the state legislature to impose a nuisance tax on establishments open after hours. Arlington has four state delegates and three state senators. If I'm elected to County Board, I'll exhort them to lobby the General

Assembly to introduce legislation to curtail public nuisances in the Rosslyn/Ballston corridor.

- 3) A lively bar and restaurant scene also leads to our neighbors discovering large amounts of cigarette butts and other refuse in our neighborhood Saturday and Sunday mornings. This is particularly true after bar crawls. One proposed solution to this and other neighborhood problems would be to establish a local business improvement district (BID) that would have the resources to keep the area clean. Would you support a vote on a local tax district supporting a BID?

I would support a BID tax district provided that it is narrowly drawn to include only those neighborhoods that are predominantly entertainment, as I do not believe that ordinary commercial enterprises should be unduly burdened with BID taxes.

- 4) It is important to ensure that our neighborhood's retail is local, sustainable and contributes to an active streetscape. Have you been engaged in the county's Retail Action Plan discussions? How will you ensure that the Clarendon-Courthouse neighborhood is able to continue to attract interesting and diverse outlets?

While I have not been involved in the Retail Action Plan, I am acutely aware of and concerned about Arlington's 23 percent office vacancy rate, which is among the highest in Northern Virginia. If elected, I will exhort County Board to lower BID taxes in Rosslyn, Ballston and Crystal City to stem the exodus of federal agencies and small businesses to cheaper venues elsewhere in Northern Virginia.

- 5) A large part of our neighborhood's growth is thanks to transit accessibility and pedestrian friendliness. Currently there is a project in the county CIP to build a second elevator at the Courthouse metro station. Our neighborhood has also long advocated for a second, western entrance for this heavily used station. Do you support these specific proposals? If so, would you support using all available federal, state, regional and local funding sources to accomplish them?

Absolutely. As a resident of Westover, I regularly commute to/from Ballston Metro. At a recent County Board meeting several Bluemont residents made a strong pitch for a western entrance to the Ballston Metro, arguing that it is not simply nice but necessary due to the densification of west Ballston with upscale development. The same argument applies as strongly to Clarendon as it does to Ballston. And now that funds earmarked for the Pike trolley have been freed up, there is no reason to delay these needed improvements any longer.

Katie Cristol

Clarendon Courthouse Civic Association

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I know that the concern felt by the CCCA and Clarendon-Courthouse residents is widely shared; in fact, lack of responsiveness from the current Board and staff is among the chief issues I hear about in neighborhoods across Arlington. For this reason, I'm focused on responsiveness to neighborhood concerns *throughout* the County. I am committed to improving two-way communications both in tone and in policy. For example:

- On the County Board/governance side, I will never mistake a process for actual engagement, which I believe is at the root of our responsiveness problem. My priority in any decision will be to ask who in the community the County Board has *not* heard from, and to knock the doors and go directly to the neighborhoods necessary to hear those perspectives.
- On the staff side, I will push to hire a County Manager with a sharp focus on customer service, who will emphasize community satisfaction as the chief measure for performance of all of Arlington County's different divisions.

With respect to Clarendon-Courthouse residents in particular, I believe that genuine two-way communication means hearing from you about how you'd like to be engaged and which processes either facilitate or pose barriers to your involvement. (For example, I know many Clarendon-Courthouse residents are part of two-working-parent families, which can make participation in a weeknight, 7-9 pm Commission or Advisory Group meeting very difficult; holding a "listening session" at a neighborhood park on a weekend afternoon may be a better approach). As a start, I appreciate this questionnaire as a chance to learn about the issues that are top of mind for your neighborhood.

- 2) As residents of a dense, mixed-use neighborhood we both appreciate the benefits of local restaurants and remain concerned about the noise their events and patrons can inflict on nearby residents. The county's recently approved noise ordinance creates geographic areas in which different standards apply. Do you believe that residents living apartments and townhomes should be able to sleep during the same hours as residents in detached houses?

Yes - and as a former Clarendon resident, I empathize with this problem. I believe the CCCA is right to point out the trade-off here; the overarching need is to get the balance of "vibrancy" right for our mixed-use neighborhoods.

- 3) A lively bar and restaurant scene also leads to our neighbors discovering large amounts of cigarette butts and other refuse in our neighborhood Saturday and Sunday mornings. This is particularly true after bar crawls. One proposed solution to this and other neighborhood problems would be to establish a local business improvement district (BID) that would have the resources to keep the area clean. Would you support a vote on a local tax district supporting a BID?

Before committing my vote on this or any issue, I'd like to study the proposal further. In this instance, I would want to learn more - including from the CCCA about whether a BID is the most efficient mechanism to address the issue at hand. I do agree, however, with what I read as the underlying principle here: That Arlington's businesses should be good neighbors and help address the "externalities" that result from Clarendon-Courthouse's bar and restaurant commerce.

- 4) It is important to ensure that our neighborhood's retail is local, sustainable and contributes to an active streetscape. Have you been engaged in the county's Retail Action Plan discussions? How will you ensure that the Clarendon-Courthouse neighborhood is able to continue to attract interesting and diverse outlets?

I have not been involved in the Retail Action Plan discussions to date, but will look forward to learning from the community's recommendations in this process. In general, I believe our best strategies to attract diverse retail are to continue making investments in 1) a diverse consumer base and workforce (in other words, preserving Arlington's generational, economic and demographic diversity) and 2) walkable, transit-oriented communities like Clarendon-Courthouse.

- 5) A large part of our neighborhood's growth is thanks to transit accessibility and pedestrian friendliness. Currently there is a project in the county CIP to build a second elevator at the Courthouse metro station. Our neighborhood has also long advocated for a second, western entrance for this heavily used station. Do

you support these specific proposals? If so, would you support using all available federal, state, regional and local funding sources to accomplish them?

As with Question #3, I'd like to study further the proposal for an additional entrance for the Courthouse metro – in this case, in context of other priorities within the \$1.1b in the CIP designated for investments in multimodal transportation improvements for Arlington – prior to committing my support. Again, I will look forward to learning from Clarendon-Courthouse residents in considering this proposal.

Peter Fallon

**Clarendon Courthouse Civic Association
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Submitted by Peter Fallon**

- 1) Our neighborhood considers it critical that the county staff and board maintain and active listening and responsive relationship with our residents. We are concerned that these relationships are not as strong as they could be based on experiences ranging from continuously neglected potholes to ignored neighborhood input into policy and planning conversations. What will you do to ensure Clarendon-Courthouse residents have a voice in county decision making?

As a nine year veteran of the Arlington County Planning Commission, I have firsthand experience working with community leaders and stakeholders throughout Arlington. I know that engaging residents (often newcomers) in our higher density neighborhoods (including Clarendon-Courthouse) can pose a greater challenge compared to the established neighborhoods. I believe that continued work with the civic associations and condominium boards is essential, along with tenant groups and management companies.

I would expect county staff to work with the community members in a straightforward and collaborative manner. This includes responding to community inquiries, timely sharing of information with the community, and giving thoughtful consideration to the community's feedback.

Greater use of technology (including social media, community list serves, online surveys, etc.) is critical to reaching more residents, especially in the high rise sections of the county. I am fully committed to working with residents throughout Arlington. I am proud of my long record of advocating for the community.

- 2) As residents of a dense, mixed-use neighborhood we both appreciate the benefits of local restaurants and remain concerned about the noise their events and patrons can inflict on nearby residents. The county's recently approved noise ordinance creates geographic areas in which different standards apply. Do you believe that residents living

apartments and townhomes should be able to sleep during the same hours as residents in detached houses?

As a result of changes in state law, the county was required to make changes to the local noise ordinance. I support efforts to provide relief to residents throughout Arlington. This can be managed through the noise ordinance, but also through the county board's granting of use permits for live music and special events. Residents in all parts of Arlington have a right to the peaceful enjoyment of their homes.

- 3) A lively bar and restaurant scene also leads to our neighbors discovering large amounts of cigarette butts and other refuse in our neighborhood Saturday and Sunday mornings. This is particularly true after bar crawls. One proposed solution to this and other neighborhood problems would be to establish a local business improvement district (BID) that would have the resources to keep the area clean. Would you support a vote on a local tax district supporting a BID?

Yes, I would support establishment of a formal BID for Courthouse-Clarendon, or expanding the role of the Clarendon Alliance. I would also require special event promoters to reimburse the County (or BID) for the extra costs associated with cleanup after events. I support stronger efforts to keep special events orderly, and prevent littering and rude behavior in the first place.

- 4) It is important to ensure that our neighborhood's retail is local, sustainable and contributes to an active streetscape. Have you been engaged in the county's Retail Action Plan discussions? How will you ensure that the Clarendon-Courthouse neighborhood is able to continue to attract interesting and diverse outlets?

I have been intimately involved in the development of the retail action plan. Stronger efforts are needed to fill vacant retail space, and additional retail space will be needed to serve our growing community's needs. I support continuation of the Courthouse Farmer's Market/antique market, and other street markets throughout Arlington. Current planning efforts for the redevelopment of the Courthouse area must have adequate public spaces to meet this need.

I have publicly stated support for providing small, locally-owned retailers with assistance in opening up shop in Arlington. This includes reducing administrative delays in the permitting process, Arlington Economic Development needs to direct

resources towards helping small, neighborhood-serving retail. This will further our efforts to be a walkable community. I propose creating a dedicated fund to both attract new retail to Arlington and help it flourish.

- 5) A large part of our neighborhood's growth is thanks to transit accessibility and pedestrian friendliness. Currently there is a project in the county CIP to build a second elevator at the Courthouse metro station. Our neighborhood has also long advocated for a second, western entrance for this heavily used station. Do you support these specific proposals? If so, would you support using all available federal, state, regional and local funding sources to accomplish them?

In addition to my service on the Planning Commission, I served for three years on the Arlington County Transportation Commission. I fully support efforts to improve our transit service, encourage use of bicycles, and walking to move people around Arlington. I support upgrades to Arlington's metro stations, including additional portals/ entrances, additional elevators to handle demand, as well as downtime associated with maintenance and repairs. Overall financing could be achieved via federal, state, regional and local funding sources. This would include local bonds and proceeds from the commercial property tax surcharge for transportation. I would also seek community benefit allocations from developers (through the site plan process) to contribute towards these improvements. County board approved projects for Courthouse, Ballston, Rosslyn, and Crystal City have benefited Metro station upgrades in this manner.

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Christian Dorsey, Candidate for Arlington County Board, June 9, 2015 Democratic Primary

Our neighborhood considers it critical that the county staff and board maintain an active listening and responsive relationship with our residents. We are concerned that these relationships are not as strong as they could be based on experiences ranging from continuously neglected potholes to ignored neighborhood input into policy and planning conversations. What will you do to ensure Clarendon-Courthouse residents have a voice in county decision making?

I share this concern and my desire to create more responsive governance has heavily influenced my decision to run for a seat on the County Board. Philosophically, I believe that an informed citizenry will promote effective public policy, and that public servants who do not engage with constituents will "lose touch," and become poor representatives for the community. Pragmatically, I will pursue the following steps to ensure Arlington is an innovator in the constituent relations and engagement space.

a.) New Technology- Arlington is experimenting with app based technology to have residents report--with geo tagging--issues like potholes and broken streetlights. I have personally found our current platform rather difficult to use and ineffective, so I would want to learn from other communities that have more advanced platforms like Boston and Philadelphia, so we could adopt more mature systems. I also want to take advantage of more sophisticated civic engagement apps to connect people to their communities, an endeavor especially important in areas like Clarendon-Courthouse where multi-family buildings and large concentrations of millennials predominate. Aside from providing a cost-effective and efficient way to fix problems and engage the community, tech-based solutions aid in accountability by providing easily accessed metrics to determine performance.

b.) Old-school Outreach- I believe in meeting people where they are, figuratively and literally. While much of Arlington's growth has occurred along transit corridors, our County is conditioned to be more responsive to single family neighborhoods. I believe that some of this is due to a prevailing attitude that more transient communities don't merit the same attention as other neighborhoods, and since door to door campaigning is prohibited in multi-family buildings, public servants are not as attuned to all communities as they should be. So, I am interested in expanding accessibility to the County Board beyond open-door policies to include actual outreach including attending association meetings of the CCCA and at the apartment/condo level as well.

As residents of a dense, mixed-use neighborhood we both appreciate the benefits of local restaurants and remain concerned about the noise their events and patrons can inflict on nearby residents. The county's recently approved noise ordinance creates geographic areas in which different standards apply. Do you believe that residents living apartments and townhomes should be able to sleep during the same hours as residents in detached houses?

We do have different norms for multi-family and dense neighborhoods than we do for single-family ones. Parking restrictions and noise are just two examples. To be sure, there are benefits that go the other way, but I believe the quiet enjoyment of one's home is a principle that extends to everyone regardless of dwelling unit or location. The 10 decibel difference in permitted noise at night time in non-R districts produces noise that is perceived as "twice as loud." I do believe that those standards should be equalized.

A lively bar and restaurant scene also leads to our neighbors discovering large amounts of cigarette butts and other refuse in our neighborhood Saturday and Sunday mornings. This is particularly true after bar crawls. One proposed solution to this and other neighborhood problems would be to establish a local business improvement district (BID) that would have the resources to keep the area clean. Would you support a vote on a local tax district supporting a BID?

The Clarendon Alliance has a budget that is only large enough to pursue a limited agenda that does not include the kinds of cleanup and remediation services typical of areas with BIDS. In addition to the areas you mentioned, I also notice a difference in the CCCA area when ice and snow are on the ground, and decentralized removal practices produce conditions that vary wildly. I am open to the BID conversation and to a vote on a financing vehicle. I would seek to learn more from residents and businesses to know which model works best for the CCCA neighborhood.

It is important to ensure that our neighborhood's retail is local, sustainable and contributes to an active streetscape. Have you been engaged in the county's Retail Action Plan discussions? How will you ensure that the Clarendon-Courthouse neighborhood is able to continue to attract interesting and diverse outlets?

I have followed the RAP process throughout, and I am hopeful that we will pursue an aggressive retail retention and attraction strategy. Success will hinge on two key areas.

a.) Retail space in new construction is often unaffordable to new, experimental or modestly capitalized businesses. As part of community benefits packages, subsidized retail space and/more generous build out allowances should be negotiated for special exceptions and increased density. The County must also allow more flexibility in retail shell design so that we can be responsive to an ever-changing market.

b.)We must make greater strides in housing affordability. Retail success is driven by consumer demand. Arlington's high housing burdens reduces that demand. Expansion of market rate affordable housing and reducing the cost of home ownership are essential to my plan to revitalize retail.

A large part of our neighborhood's growth is thanks to transit accessibility and pedestrian friendliness. Currently there is a project in the county CIP to build a second elevator at the Courthouse metro station. Our neighborhood has also long advocated for a second, western entrance for this heavily used station. Do you support these specific proposals? If so, would you support using all available federal, state, regional and local funding sources to accomplish them?

A western entrance makes complete sense given development patterns, and would be with consistent with visioning for the Courthouse square area.

Improving access and reliability with redundant elevators makes sense.

Generally, I support these improvements provided the costs are appropriately divided among the funding entities.

James Lander

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Our county board has become increasingly detached from the constituent service requirements as part of their service engagement with residents. As your county board member I'd propose the establishment of an "Arlington Ombudsmen". This position would facilitate communication directly from the county board members to civic association and coordinate resident issues/feedback to ensure community members are consistently informed of the board's calendar and decisions pending that have a direct impact within specific neighborhoods.

- 2) As residents of a dense, mixed-use neighborhood we both appreciate the benefits of local restaurants and remain concerned about the noise their events and patrons can inflict on nearby residents. The county's recently approved noise ordinance creates geographic areas in which different standards apply. Do you believe that residents living apartments and townhomes should be able to sleep during the same hours as residents in detached houses?

Absolutely. It is reasonable that residents in apartments and townhomes of neighborhoods within close proximity to business corridors expect the same standards with regard to acceptable noise levels as their neighbors in detached homes.

- 3) A lively bar and restaurant scene also leads to our neighbors discovering large amounts of cigarette butts and other refuse in our neighborhood Saturday and Sunday mornings. This is particularly true after bar crawls. One proposed solution to this and other neighborhood problems would be to establish a local business improvement district (BID) that would have the resources to keep the area clean. Would you support a vote on a local tax district supporting a BID?

Absolutely. I also support a community engagement process that specifically discusses how we as a county can better schedule maintenance crews to clean streets in business corridors ensuring residents in surrounding neighborhoods aren't subjected to trash and debris leftover from patrons of the business district.

- 4) It is important to ensure that our neighborhood's retail is local, sustainable and contributes to an active streetscape. Have you been engaged in the county's Retail Action Plan discussions? How will you ensure that the Clarendon-Courthouse neighborhood is able to continue to attract interesting and diverse outlets?

To date, I have not been engaged in the county's Retail Action Plan discussions. However, I have prioritized attracting new and retaining small business in Arlington as part of my economic diversification strategy. As your county board member, I will ensure the Clarendon-Courthouse neighborhood continues to attract diverse outlets by leading an efficiency review of the policies, procedures, and processes to identify how the county can become more transparent, consistent, and potentially expedite "green projects". I will also challenge us to be more creative and innovative with both the types of businesses we attract, and our ability to reduce the timeline for processing new businesses in order to connect them with consumers sooner.

- 5) A large part of our neighborhood's growth is thanks to transit accessibility and pedestrian friendliness. Currently there is a project in the county CIP to build a second elevator at the Courthouse metro station. Our neighborhood has also long advocated for a second, western entrance for this heavily used station. Do you support these specific proposals? If so, would you support using all available federal, state, regional and local funding sources to accomplish them?

Yes, I do support these proposals for an additional elevator. I do support the consideration of using all available funding to accomplish these projects.