



## Alexandria Waterfront Alliance

### Our Priorities:

- 1. Preserve Open Space in Waterfront Parks.** The City should re-examine alternate pump station locations including those that have already been studied; particularly 1 Prince St. This location provides a unique opportunity to relocate any necessary infrastructure while preserving open space, waterfront views, and tree canopy. It also enables the permanent pedestrianizing and activation of Strand St. and could host a new civic building in the heart of our waterfront, such as a visitor center or archaeology museum. Waterfront Park is the City's most central, visited, and active of all our parks and introducing stormwater infrastructure here is fundamentally inconsistent with its primary recreation and civic uses, which will diminish its value for generations to come.
- 2. Maximize Park, Bulkhead and Streetscape Improvements.** The City should prioritize limited resources toward enhancing parks, the bulkhead, the promenade, and streetscape; consistent with the approved 2014 Olin Waterfront Park plan.
- 3. Flood Mitigation Efforts Should be Passive to the Maximum Extent Possible.** The starting point for all flood mitigation efforts should be sustainable, gravity-based projects to minimize disruption to businesses and residents, reduce infrastructure scale and costs, and preserve our parks. Elevate all parks above the 6' bulkhead and streets/sidewalks above 4' wherever feasible to reduce the volume of water requiring evacuation. Utilize wet or dry floodproofing for buildings whose first floor is below 6' elevation. Consider public grants to assist property owners with buildings below these levels. Occasional minor flooding is acceptable in exchange for reduced construction disruption and an improved waterfront park free of a massive pump station.
- 4. Eliminate the New Union Street Pipe and Minimize the Pump Station.** By combining the passive mitigation techniques with the replacement of the east/west city drainage infrastructure that flows directly into the Potomac, the City can eliminate the need for the planned Union St. drainage pipe. This approach maximizes gravity drainage and minimizes residual water in the bathtub. Any necessary pump station should be as small as possible and architecturally compatible with the historic district, with minimal impact on our parks.
- 5. Incorporate Mobile and Innovative Flood Mitigation Tools.** Cities around the world use temporary flood barriers and mobile pumps to manage urban flooding. These tools can achieve the same mitigation goals while reducing disruption and preserving capital resources.
- 6. Support Affected Business.** Even with minimized disruption, this project will significantly impact nearby businesses. The City should work directly with affected businesses and property owners to reduce and offset these impacts. Strategies could include phased construction, seasonal or nighttime work, and temporary business support such as pop-up relocations. Additionally, rerouting the King St. trolley down the Strand as envisioned in the 2014 Olin Plan would help activate the area and compensate for the loss of surface parking.