

## **Robert Griffiths Public Hearing Testimony to City Council 9/13/2025**

Good Morning, my name is Robert Griffiths

I am proud to be a citizen of the City of Alexandria.

My views on the proposed flood mitigation pump station are as follows:

A Pump Station – Yes

A 30+’ feet tall Pump Station in Waterfront Park – No

There are viable alternatives for the location of this pump station outside of Waterfront Park. These include: 1 Prince Street & 110 South Union St.

City staff’s rationale for not further evaluating these alternatives is that they would cost more.

This is only true if the city places no value on Waterfront Park.

As the city adds more needed housing, especially of the higher density multi-family type, this puts a premium on our limited amount of existing open space.

Citizens need a place where they can just go to sit and relax and enjoy the natural beauty of the Waterfront.

I encourage the mayor and the members of the city council to visit Waterfront Park and see the joy on the faces of individuals of all ages, races and ethnicities sitting, enjoying, and playing under the shade of the mature trees there.

Once city staff realized that the pump station would need to be about 30’ tall, they should have immediately eliminated Waterfront Park as a location for this pump station.

It is just not right for city staff to try to renegotiate an agreement with the National Park Service designed to protect Waterfront Park forever.

What does this say about the city's commitments to abide by other forever easements they have made?

The city needs to be watchful stewards of the city's parkland as well as of the city's budget.

Adaptive reuse of 1 Prince Street or 110 South Union St would both meet the city's flood mitigation needs and its citizen's needs to preserve open space and maintain the natural beauty of the city's Waterfront.

This would be a Win-Win situation.

Look to how Dominion Energy cleverly disguised the power substation at the corner of S. Union and Wolfe Streets. People walk by it and do not even realize it is there.

This substation's unobtrusive design demonstrates that essential infrastructure can be built to blend into its surroundings.

A 30 foot tall pump station in Waterfront Park would be a blemish on the city's Waterfront, impossible to ignore for the next 75 years.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you.