



**The Fairfax County Democratic Committee
Recommends to Reinstate the Penny
for Affordable Housing in Fairfax County**

Whereas,

Fairfax County has a senior and affordable housing shortage of 15,000 units;

When Gerry Connolly became Board of Supervisors chairman in 2003, he made affordable housing our priority and dedicated one penny from the tax rate — which raised nearly \$100 million between FY 2006 and FY 2009 — to affordable housing;

The belt-tightening associated with the Great Recession forced the county to cut the Penny for Affordable Housing implanted under then-Chairman Connolly from a penny to half a penny;

In 2016, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors requested the development of a strategic plan for housing that would reflect the needs of the community, identify ways to meet future demand, and support economic growth;

Not since 2005, when then-Chairman Gerry Connolly convened the Affordable Housing Preservation Action Committee, has there been such a comprehensive analysis of the state of affordable housing in Fairfax County;

Phase I of the Communitywide Housing Strategic Plan identified the need for approximately 15,000 additional homes, affordable to households earning up to 60 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) over the next 15 years, based on projected job and population growth in the county.

Phase 2 of that above mentioned strategic plan for housing was the Affordable Housing Resource Panel (AHRP), which consisted of 30 members (including future board members, current school board members, housing advocates, and FCDC members), and recommended in 2019 that the Board of Supervisors commit the equivalent of an additional penny on the real estate tax rate to support the county's housing needs starting in FY2021;

Current Chairman Jeff McKay stated in February 2020 that “the restoration of that penny is necessary when we look around at our affordable housing needs,” but in FY2020, FY2021, and FY2022 the restoration of a penny for affordable housing was not included;

The Fairfax County Housing Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA) Fiscal Year 2022 Operating and Capital Budgets are in the negative by millions of dollars;

Due to the increase in real estate assessments in 2021 by a county average of 5%, the county has an increase in revenue, and due to the proposed decrease in the real estate assessment tax rate by one penny, an increase of one-half penny would be minimal and actually would still be a decrease from the \$1.15 real estate assessment tax rate by \$.05;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Fairfax County Democratic Committee recommends that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors reinstate the one penny to affordable housing, as enacted by the Board of Supervisors and Gerry Connolly in 2006, to help bridge the gap of needed affordable and senior housing in Fairfax County.

PASSED and APPROVED on this 23rd day of March 2021.