

**Park and Recreation Commission
and
Environmental Policy Commission**

December 18, 2012

Mayor William Euille
Vice Mayor Kerry J. Donley
Councilman Frank H. Fannon, IV
Councilwoman Redella S. Pepper
Councilman Paul C. Smedberg
Councilwoman Alicia R. Hughes
Councilman David Speck

Re: Wales Alley Extended

Dear Mayor Euille and City Council Members:

We are writing on behalf of the Park and Recreation Commission and the Environmental Policy Commission in regard to restoring Wales Alley in Old Town Alexandria to the public realm. We respectfully ask you, the Mayor and Members of City Council, to take action to open the portion of Wales Alley which lies east of The Strand to allow unrestricted public access. Our public waterfront property is too important, too limited, to allow exclusive private use to continue on this public alley.

We would point out that the National Park Service, in their formal comments on behalf of the U.S. Department of Interior regarding the Alexandria Waterfront Plan, expressed concern that Wales Alley between The Strand and the Potomac River had been permitted to fall into private use. In part, Peter May, the Associate Regional Director, wrote in his January 20, 2012 letter to Planning Director Faroll Hamer: *"I would be remiss if I did not note our disappointment by the City of Alexandria's lack of enforcement of the agreed upon uses of Wales Alley at the waterfront, an area that was deeded in 1981 for pedestrian and non-motorized traffic, except for motorized vehicles used by the City. Instead of a publically accessible space, the area has been allowed to be fenced and used for private parking and boat storage."*

We ask that you take the steps required in order to put this public property back into compliance with the provisions of the 1981 deed requirements as soon as is possible. The fact that our commissions are joining in unified support of this request underscores broad support for you to act in order to once again make this important parcel of land part of the public realm, to serve a range of public purposes.

With kind regard,



Judy R. Guse-Noritake, Chair
Park and Recreation Commission



Josh Sawislak, Chair
Environmental Policy Commission

Cc: Park and Recreation Commission
Environmental Policy Commission
Nate Macek, Chair, Waterfront Commission
Rashad Young, City Manager
Peter May, Associate Regional Director, National Park Service