



CR 144 and CR 145 – Roslyn Rise Apartments PILOT

Position: Support

September 22, 2021

On behalf of the Association of Community Services and our over 150 member organizations and community advocates, I strongly urge you to vote in favor of CR 144 and CR 145 to approve Enterprise Community Partner's Roslyn Rise PILOT. ACS has been a long-time advocate for housing in Howard County and is actively working to support efforts that coincide with the needs outlined in the *Housing Opportunities Master Plan*.

The shortage of housing units that are affordable to people with low incomes was estimated to be between 5,500 and 6,000 in Howard County alone. This number has surely increased and will continue to increase as State of Emergency provisions and eviction moratoriums have expired. Supporting these resolutions will move us the right direction with Roslyn Rise Apartments adding 95 units of affordable housing plus a total of 153 units that will make housing accessible to people throughout the income spectrum.

While there are real concerns around the impacts of more housing units on schools, traffic patterns, etc., we stand to lose more if we do not redevelop and revitalize communities with existing affordable housing. Everyone benefits when safe, stable housing at every income level is a reality in all of our communities. Students do better in school when they don't have to move frequently, people are not pushed into living in temporary shelters, healthy living spaces help us to live healthier lives, and people have actual opportunities to live close to where they work. We can expand opportunities for people of all income *and* maintain our great schools, parks, and libraries.

Fortunately for us, we have shown that, here in Howard County, we can balance economic growth with maintaining a high quality of life for all residents. Now is the time to show your commitment to providing opportunities for all of our residents by voting in favor of CR 144 and CR 145.

Thank you,

Joan Driessen
Executive Director