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Subject: Support for Article 45

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Dear ARB members,

I am writing as a resident and town meeting member in support of Article 45 to increase the percentage of affordable housing units in new private developments from 15% to 25%. As you know, in the last generation the cost of housing in Arlington has increased well beyond the reach of a large number of residents, including essential workers and those with disabilities. At the same time we have fallen behind most neighboring towns and cities in developing a meaningful stock of affordable housing. We have a moral obligation to make meaningful, proactive changes to our zoning to make up for our town's historical exclusionary zoning. Our current 15% affordable unit requirement has resulted in only a small number of privately developed affordable units in Arlington as many new developments have 5 units or less. A 25% requirement will have a significantly more meaningful difference in the number of affordable units built in town.

I strongly encourage the ARB to support warrant Article 45.

Rebecca Persson
TMM Precinct 1