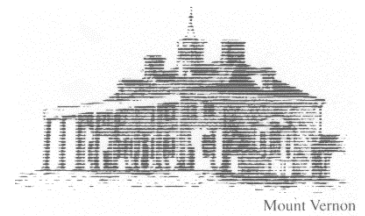




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Recognizing the 20th Anniversary of the Lorton Prison Property Purchase Supervisor Dan Storck, Joint with Chairman Jeff McKay

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For the better part of a century, the grounds of Lorton Prison, one of the most beautiful parcels of land in Fairfax County, was restricted and, to an extent, hidden from public view. The prison facility closed in 2001 and the following year, on July 15, 2002, it was part of a 2,440-acre land purchase by Fairfax County from the federal government. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the federal government entered into a legally binding Memorandum of Agreement with Fairfax County and other interested parties to preserve the historically significant buildings and structures on the Campus in a manner that favors adaptive reuse. Today, the property is referred to as "Laurel Hill," in commemoration of the 18th century structure on the site, which served as the home of revolutionary war patriot William Lindsay.

The transfer was made possible through the Lorton Technical Corrections Act which was passed by Congress in October 1998, and required the County to develop a Reuse Plan that would maximize use of land for open space, parkland or recreation prior to the county acquiring the property. The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signatories include the General Services Administration, Fairfax County, the Fairfax County Park Authority, Fairfax County Public Schools, the South County Federation (formerly the Federation of Lorton Communities), the Lorton Heritage Society, the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

In February 1999, the Board appointed a citizen task force to develop a reuse plan. The task force, in collaboration with the county's planning staff, began their work by reviewing the Comprehensive Plan language for the site which had been adopted by the Board of Supervisors the previous year. During the spring of 1999, the citizen task force completed a modified plan for the former prison site. It was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in July 1999 as the official Reuse Plan for the property.

The former expansive prison site is now home to the Workhouse Arts Center and Campus, the Laurel Hill Golf Course, 3 new schools, multiple new housing communities, including the adaptively reused mixed use Liberty site, multiple parks,

bike and hiking trails, frisbee golf, an equestrian center, picnic areas, the new Lorton Police Station and Animal Shelter, and open space. However, amidst all the changes that have taken place, the colonial-style courtyards and arcades built by Lorton inmates from handmade bricks commemorate a rich and diverse history that inspires us as we continue to re-envision this former prison site.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, we ask, with unanimous consent, that the Board of Supervisors recognize the 20th Anniversary of the Lorton Prison Property Purchase and direct the Office of Public Affairs to prepare a news release and proclamation to be presented outside of the Board room.