



YIMBYs of NoVA STATEMENT RE: Judge’s decision to invalidate the EHO Ordinance based on a lawsuit from ten Arlington homeowners

September 27, 2024

YIMBYs of NoVA calls on the Arlington County Board to restore the EHO ordinance

Arlington, VA— The YIMBYs of Northern Virginia is disappointed, but undeterred, after hearing that a judge overturned the Expanded Housing Options (EHO) ordinance in Arlington.

In March of 2023, the Arlington County Board unanimously passed reforms to greatly expand the ability to build smaller, more affordable starter homes that have been absent from most communities since the 1940’s. The passage followed a multi-year public engagement process that brought a diverse group of Arlingtonians to County Board hearings. The Arlington Way has never been more representative of who actually lives in Arlington. The result was an end to exclusionary zoning, and a victory for equity and sustainability in our community.

The lawsuit was an attempt by a handful of wealthy homeowners to undo in court what was achieved by a diverse coalition of residents, and reaffirmed over multiple election cycles. The judge ruled the County needs to “do more studies” of sewage impacts and “better advertise” the proposed reforms. These are tired statements that we’ve all seen from across the country when other cities and states have pushed for fundamental reforms to solve the housing crisis.

Despite the ruling, the YIMBYs of Northern Virginia remain committed to ending Northern Virginia's housing shortage and removing the racist zoning ordinances of the past. We call on the Arlington County Board to move with all deliberate speed to repass the Expanded Housing Options.

###

About Organization: YIMBYs (yes in my backyard) of Northern Virginia works to make housing affordable to all by enabling the development of more and denser housing.