



A STRONGER VOICE FOR EVERY TENANT,
A BETTER ARLINGTON FOR EVERYONE.

LET'S MOBILIZE THE PIKE!!

WHY?

Columbia Pike is the center of Arlington's economic and ethnically diverse community. The area along Columbia Pike is home to young professionals, various civic associations comprised of homeowners, as well as immigrants from 128 countries. There are also over 6,000 units of affordable housing on the Pike.

As the County Board has recognized, these affordable units could be lost to real estate re-development. In 2009, then-Chairman Barbara Favola, said:

The next generation of development in this County will take place along Columbia Pike. We need to approach this challenge by reinforcing our commitment to maintaining Columbia Pike's character and diversity. This means developing planning and economic tools to support a range of affordable housing options on the Pike. The loss of affordable housing along the Pike is almost certain if measures are not undertaken soon. People from all nationalities and walks of life live on or near Columbia Pike. We value their contributions to this community. (Emphasis added.)

WHAT IS "MOBILIZING THE PIKE"?

It is an **action plan** aimed at educating the community at large about the details involved in

- Preserving affordable housing
- Development without gentrification

so that Arlington is a better place for everyone.

HOW DO WE MOBILIZE THE PIKE?

We mobilize by *becoming informed about and participating in* the County's study of the Pike and in its efforts to preserve the affordable housing there. We mobilize by working together to advocate for preservation of affordable housing and a livable environment for all. We encourage our friends and neighbors to do the same.

The Plenary Group of the Columbia Pike Land Use and Housing Initiative was formed by the County Board in 2008. It is composed of citizens representing neighborhoods, developers, and housing and

tenant advocacy groups. The Group reviews recommendations of the county staff about the Pike and identifies issues. It has been meeting since 2009 to consider various aspects of the Columbia Pike Initiative. *The next meetings will focus on housing.* Unlike past meetings in which participation was limited to members of the Plenary Group, the meetings on housing will welcome input from everyone in the community.

The dates for these meetings have not been set, but as soon as they are, they will be on BRAVO's website (www.bravotenants.org) and on the County's website (www.arlingtonva.us and search for "Columbia Pike Land Use and Housing Study").

The second way we mobilize the Pike is *by attending the meetings organized by BRAVO of Columbia Pike tenants.* BRAVO is a non-profit organization that assists Arlington tenants in their day-to day housing problems and involves them in advocating for affordable housing. BRAVO is the structure in place to prevent significant displacement as a result of redevelopment.

The Columbia Pike Tenants met several times last year at the Arlington Presbyterian Church on Columbia Pike and at the Greenbrier Baptist Church in the western end of the Pike. County Board members and County staff attended the meetings to discuss what was being done and what still needed to be done to preserve affordable housing. A group of these tenants addressed last September's meeting of the County Board concerning housing along the Pike. With all tenants working together, affordable housing can be preserved. By working as a group, tenants can make a difference.

The next meeting has not been set, but is expected to be in late June. At the meeting, BRAVO will present more information on the effort to preserve housing along the Pike as well as discuss the obstacles to be overcome. As soon as it is scheduled, the date and location will be posted on BRAVO's website (www.bravotenants.org).