

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D.C., January 28, 1966.

Mr. LAWSON B. KNOTT, Jr.,
Administrator, General Services Administration,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. KNOTT: As a part of President Johnson's program to beautify the Potomac River and enliven its shores, the Department of the Interior has been encouraging the State and local governments of the Potomac Basin to move rapidly to preserve these areas of the river shoreline that are still unspoiled and to take those steps necessary to beautify and clean up those parts that are not.

The City of Alexandria has recently completed a study of its waterfront section and has proposed an imaginative plan for the area. I understand that the city government is now prepared to proceed toward the implementation of that plan and that Mayor Mann has inquired of your office concerning plans for terminating the present warehouse activities operated by General Services Administration along the Alexandria waterfront.

Mayor Mann has informed me that the Federal Records Center is located in an area designated in the waterfront plan to be an important riverside park. We have given our support to the waterfront plan in general, and would like to assist the city in any appropriate way we can.

We are therefore writing you at Mayor Mann's request to explain our interest in achieving for Alexandria a waterfront development adequate for both the city's needs and the objectives of the Administration for the Potomac River. We would like to offer our cooperation in any planning effort or studies prompted by Mayor Mann's inquiry. At your convenience, we will be glad to meet and discuss these objectives with representatives of the General Services Administration.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely yours,

STEWART L. UDALL,
Secretary of the Interior.

[From the Washington Post, July 4, 1969]

ALEXANDRIA REZONES WATERFRONT FOR HOUSES

The Alexandria City Council yesterday approved an emergency rezoning request to permit construction of 86 town houses in a move to help restore the City's rundown Potomac waterfront.

The Council agreed to grant the rezoning of most of a two-block waterfront area bounded by North Union, Lee, Oronoco and Queen Streets to allow construction of the \$4 million town house complex. The proposed 3-story colonial style town houses will cost from \$50,000 to \$60,000 each. The property is owned by the Steuart Petroleum Co.

The area had been zoned for heavy industry and has in it an abandoned fertilizer plant that will be demolished.

City officials praised the rezoning proposal, submitted by Lawrence N. Brandt, because it would help implement the City's long range plan for the waterfront.

Brandt sought the rezoning on an emergency basis in order to begin construction at once.

The City's waterfront plan, approved last year, calls for rezoning to transform gradually industrial areas on the waterfront into residential and dock facilities.

The town house proposal was endorsed by the Old Town Civic Association, which previously had opposed proposals to construct high rise apartment buildings on the property.

City Manager Albert M. Hair, Jr., said he believed the rezoning will aid the City in its effort to buy the Federal Records Center building near the rezoned area from Federal authorities, and demolish it.

The Federal Government is moving out of the Records Center, once a World War I torpedo plant. Hair said he felt the rezoning action would show Federal authorities Alexandria is serious in its proposal to improve the waterfront.