

# **BALLSTON-VIRGINIA SQUARE**

## **P A R T N E R S H I P**

July 1, 2005

**RECEIVED**

2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
 2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600  
 Arlington, VA 22202

**07052005**

Dear Commission Members:

At a regularly scheduled meeting on June 30, 2005, the Board of Directors of the Ballston-Virginia Square Partnership passed a resolution to convey their concerns to you about recommendations to relocate nearly 23,000 employees out of leased space in Northern Virginia. The Partnership believes that the Base Realignment and Closure recommendations, especially as they affect important Department of Defense installations in leased space, will seriously hamper mission capability and budgets for many years.

Of particular importance is the potential of these recommendations to reduce military force effectiveness in time of war:

- Much of the leased space in Northern Virginia is located there because of synergies with other agencies of the Federal Government and, most importantly, the Pentagon.
- The scientific and technical capability of the military is likely to be compromised if the physical distance is increased between defense agencies and other scientific agencies and high-tech firms.
- Time will be lost in accomplishing the mission. A five-minute METRO ride to confer with a top Defense official is likely to become an all-day trip if the leased space in Arlington is abandoned in favor of other locations.
- The Department of Defense stands to lose some of its most valuable “brains,” who have said they will not move, affecting operational readiness.
- The military will find it difficult to replace these losses with personnel that have the appropriate education, experience and security clearances to perform the mission.

The Partnership also believes that the costs of relocating Department of Defense staff have been underestimated:

- In almost every case, new buildings must be built on the relocation sites, necessitating enormous up-front appropriations. Construction costs are high and reaching higher every day.
- “Connecting” Department of Defense personnel with the Pentagon and other installations may require substantial investment in telecommunications cabling and equipment, as well as helicopter and/or bus transportation.

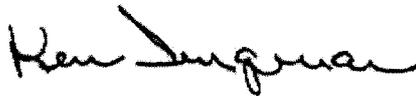
- The cost of public transportation improvements, such as extending a METRO line to Fort Belvoir, is not part of the calculation.
- Environmental costs, such as traffic congestion leading to further air pollution, have not been considered.

Furthermore, the Ballston-Virginia Square Partnership believes the criteria for establishing these recommendations were flawed, especially with regard to the evaluation of leased space. Prior to examining each location, the assumption was made to move the Department of Defense out of all leased space. This objective was never described in the charge to the Infrastructure Executive Council and Steering Group, nor is it part of the law establishing the Base Realignment and Closure Commission process.

To the contrary, the Partnership believes that leased space, with its inherent flexibility, offers “the ability to accommodate contingency, mobilization, surge and future total force requirements... to support operations and training,” which is one of the four criteria defined in the charge.

As you deliberate the impacts of the Base Realignment and Closure recommendations, we urge you to consider these points and the very crucial consequences of enacting these base closure recommendations at this time.

Very truly yours,



Kenneth J. Ingram, Esq.  
President

Cc: Senator John Warner  
Senator George Allen  
Congressman James Moran  
Congressman Tom Davis  
Congressman Frank Wolf  
Governor Mark Warner  
Chairman of the Arlington County Board Jay Fissette