



November 1, 2021

Chair Brown and Members of the Planning and Public Safety Committee,

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Fayette Alliance with respect to our support for PLN-ZOTA-21-00005: Amendment to Article 6 and Article 7: Notification for Public Hearings.

Founded in 2006, Fayette Alliance is a non-profit dedicated to achieving sustainable, equitable growth in Lexington-Fayette County through land use advocacy, education, and research. We believe that preserving our unique and productive Bluegrass farmland, advancing smart growth, innovative development and improving our infrastructure are all essential to Lexington's continued success.

We know the question is not *if* Lexington grows, it's *how*. We will continue to grow in myriad ways, welcoming new neighbors and new businesses alike to our existing communities. As always, we advocate for growing our community in a responsible and sustainable way, with a long term look at our community's future. Updating our policies to ensure we work towards equity as we grow, at all levels of city engagement, will be critical.

This proposed amendment calls for changes in our Zoning Ordinance to broaden the number of community members who receive notification about zone changes and matters which will go before a Public Hearing at the Planning Commission level from solely property owners of record, to all occupants of a property. Widening the range of those who can have a seat at the decision-making table of our planning processes is key to achieving equitable community policy, and ensuring more diverse voices can be heard on important issues. Planning & zoning policies are the building blocks of our community; they shape the way we all live, work, and play. In order to enable them to be more reflective and responsive to the needs of our diverse community, we should always be striving to educate more community members on the impacts and importance of these policies on their everyday lives. Accessibility to information about an issue at the city level is

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Brittany M. Roethemeier, J.D.

often the first barrier for many who might be interested in a particular issue, but don't have the resources or knowledge to easily get involved.

Over 10,000 community members weighed in on the 2018 Comprehensive Plan, Imagine Lexington; the biggest community engagement in our comprehensive planning process to date.<sup>1</sup> As a result, our Comprehensive Plan reflects the Goals & Objectives of our community members. As a piece of implementation of that Plan, this update to our Zoning Ordinance works to inform and include a larger portion of the Lexington community in our planning and zoning processes. We should always be looking to increase that number, and hear from more and different communities about issues that impact their daily lives.

Through Imagine Lexington, the community spoke about what kind of place we want Lexington to be, and bringing more voices to the table; those who rent, lease, or own a house, business, community space, and everything in between, must be included to ensure our future success. Growing our community sustainably means growing our community equitably, and this proposal is a step in the right direction.

For these reasons, we appreciate your consideration of our support for PLN-ZOTA-21-00005: Amendment to Article 6 and Article 7: Notification for Public Hearings.

Thank you for your commitment to the Lexington community.

With gratitude,



Brittany M. Roethemeier, J.D.  
Executive Director  
Fayette Alliance

Cc: Jim Duncan, Director of Planning  
Kevin Atkins, Chief Development Officer  
Walt Gaffield, President, Fayette County  
Neighborhood Council

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<sup>1</sup> *Imagine Lexington*, <https://www.imaginelexington.com/your-plan>.