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**STATEMENT OF ARLINGTON COUNTY BOARD CANDIDATE CHARLES MCCULLOUGH
ON USE PERMITS FOR EARLY CHILDCARE**

“The Arlington County Board recently approved the use permit for a new early childcare facility on Lee Highway. The facility will offer care for up to 150 children, create a new park—potentially with shared public use—have ample off-street parking, and proactively address initial concerns raised by a few neighbors. These are the type of low-impact, high-reward characteristics that the county should seek in any commercial developments adjacent to residential settings.

“Approving this North Arlington facility was an appropriate step, but the county needs to do far more to address the urgent need for early childcare facilities for ages 0-5 years. An inclusive Arlington means that all neighborhoods should have access to affordable childcare options, allowing both parents to work without fear of their child’s well being, and every child has the opportunity to develop to their utmost potential in the critical cognitive development years prior to their first day of school.

“If elected, I will advocate that the Arlington County Board incentivize large developers to incorporate spaces appropriate for early childcare facilities into new buildings and that it rezone existing unused commercial spaces to provide more viable options for early childcare facilities near areas convenient to work and commuting. I also believe the board should work with local financial institutions to provide low-cost loan options to existing early childcare operators seeking to expand capacity, pursue private funding from the many foundations assisting communities in developing comprehensive low-cost early childcare solutions, and provide additional business development assistance to new early childcare facilities struggling to navigate the complex regulatory scheme. This multifaceted approach is a long-term solution that will increase the available seats in early childcare facilities throughout Arlington and drive down costs for parents across income levels.

“If Arlington County envisions a future of thriving residential and commercial sectors, it is critical that its youngest citizens are well cared for and educated today.”

You can learn more about Charles’ ideas for school quality and diversity as well as supporting local business through sustainable initiatives at <http://votemccullough.com/issues> .