



November 4, 2022

Mayor Levar Stoney  
900 E. Broad Street, Suite 201  
Richmond, VA 23219

**Re: ARPA Fund Distribution**

Dear Mayor Stoney and Members of City Council:

On November 14, Richmond City Council will hold a public meeting and vote on Ord. 2022-284 to accept the second round of federal funding of \$77.4 million from the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA). The Partnership for Smarter Growth is pleased to see much needed funding going toward affordable housing, park infrastructure, and a Climate Risk Assessment, among other funding. This funding is very needed and will help improve the quality of life of residents for years to come.

We support the \$10 million in funding allotted to affordable housing and community centers, parks, and addressing climate challenges, however funding for affordable housing in particular is desperately needed and we wish more had been allocated for this purpose.

We are also disappointed that the City has greatly reduced its own local funding going to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF). While the one-time ARPA funding is helpful it will not be a good substitute for continued local funding. With evictions again on the rise throughout the City, we need regular funding for affordable housing – not just a one time federal allocation, and we need far more than \$10 million per year to meet the needs of our lowest income residents.

Thank you for investing in the needs of the City. We hope to see affordable housing get more prioritization from consistent, local funding sources in the future in addition to the \$10 million from ARPA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Guzulaitis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" being more prominent.

Amy Guzulaitis  
Lead PSG Coordinator