

A RESOLUTION RELATING TO AMAZON REDACTIONS

WHEREAS, Whereas the Town Council acknowledges and supports the spirit and intent of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, the VA FOIA law mandates "*The affairs of government are not intended to be conducted in an atmosphere of secrecy ... All public records... shall be presumed open, unless an exemption is properly invoked... The provisions of this chapter shall be liberally construed to promote an increased awareness by all persons of governmental activities and afford every opportunity to citizens to witness the operations of government. Any exemption from public access to records or meetings shall be narrowly construed and no record shall be withheld... unless specifically made exempt pursuant to this chapter or other specific provision of law.*"; and

WHEREAS, Whereas the VA FOIA law does not mandate exclusions but instead expressly permits the local government, in its discretion, to release information and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Warrenton Town Council hereby

- In applying VA FOIA law to redactions claimed by Amazon for its Site Development Plan, Town staff should give full weight to the above provisions in the FOIA law:
 - Amazon's claims for redactions are vague and broad and inadequately supported;
 - It is in the public interest—and it is consistent with VA FOIA law—to deny Amazon redactions relating to the noise-emitting equipment, a parking lot, landscaping outside the security fence, electrical lines and hook-ups, and stormwater management; and
 - Further, allowing Amazon's redactions would set an extremely problematic precedent for the future, giving all kinds of future applicants free rein to redact a wide range of information based on unsupported and inadequate information

ATTACHMENT: None

Votes:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent from Meeting:

Adopted:

For Information:

Mr. Eric Gagnon, Councilmen, Ward 5

ATTEST: _____
Town Recorder