



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

<p>County Board Agenda Item Meeting of March 17, 2007</p>

DATE: March 8, 2007

SUBJECT: Request to advertise for a public hearing to amend the ordinance on precincts and polling places to relocate the polling place for voting for the Shirlington Precinct to the Park Operations Building and to adjust the boundary between the Abingdon and Shirlington precincts.

C. M. RECOMMENDATION: Authorize the advertisement of a public hearing on April 21, 2007 to consider proposed amendments to the ordinance on precincts and polling places as follows:

1. Move the polling place for the Shirlington Precinct to the Park Operations Building, 2700 South Taylor Street.
2. Adjust the boundary between the Abingdon and Shirlington Precincts.

ISSUE: None.

SUMMARY: The Shirlington Precinct must vacate its current polling place, the Fire Training Academy, 2800 South Taylor Street, because of an accessibility issue.

DISCUSSION: The General Registrar and the Arlington County Electoral Board recommend the following changes to the County ordinance, attached in part, establishing precinct boundaries and polling places. The proposed changes will take effect with the June 12, 2007 primary election if a primary is held or the November 6, 2007 general election if no primary is held, pending final approval from the U.S. Department of Justice. Virginia law requires that polling places and precincts be established by County ordinance.

I. Shirlington Precinct Polling Place Change

In 1995 the Shirlington Precinct (042) was created out of the Abingdon Precinct (022). Since the precinct's inception Shirlington voters have voted at the Fire Training Academy, 2800 South Taylor Street. In 2004 a county-wide accessibility compliance audit conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice as part of their Project Civic Access Program determined that the parking surface at the Fire Training Academy used for accessible parking on Election Day was not compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines. The County entered into an agreement with the Department of Justice that the facility could continue to be used for voting only through December 31, 2006. This

<p>County Manager: _____</p>

<p>County Attorney: _____</p>

<p>Staff: Linda Lindberg, General Registrar</p>

date was established based on the projected completion of several County projects in the vicinity that could be utilized as alternative spaces for voting.

The Park Operations Building opened in late 2006. The General Registrar and Electoral Board recommend the County Board move the polling place for the Shirlington Precinct to the Park Operations Building at 2700 South Taylor Street. Voting will be in the Conference Center.

The new location will be convenient for Shirlington Precinct voters because while it is still in the Trades Center complex where they are used to traveling to vote, it is located closer to the Trades Center entrance and easier for first-time voters to find. Parking, located adjacent to the building, is also convenient, and the Conference Center is of sufficient size to accommodate the anticipated residential growth in the precinct once the residential projects in the area currently under construction are completed.

II. Adjustment of Boundaries Between Abingdon and Shirlington Precincts

When the Shirlington Precinct was originally established, the precinct boundary lines were based along census block lines. This resulted in the precinct boundary being drawn down the center of South Abingdon Street, with residents on the southwest side of the street remaining in Abingdon Precinct while residents on the northeast side of the street were moved to the new Shirlington Precinct. This also meant that Abingdon School, the polling place for the Abingdon Precinct, was now actually located within the boundaries of the Shirlington Precinct. Many voters living on the northeast side of Abingdon Street complained about having to travel much further to vote to a polling place less convenient to their homes.

Following a recent re-examination of boundary options, the Electoral Board and General Registrar recommend the County Board amend the ordinance on precincts and polling places to adjust the boundaries between the Abingdon and Shirlington Precincts along 31st Street South to the access road leading to Abingdon School, to the property line between Ft. Reynolds Park and Abingdon School, to the property line between Abingdon School and the Trades Center, to South Woodstock Street, 29th Street South, and South Wakefield Street to South Walter Reed Drive.

This boundary change will not only place Abingdon School back within the boundaries of the Abingdon Precinct, but also move voters living along the northeast side of South Abingdon Street and several adjacent streets back to Abingdon Precinct, where they will be able to vote in a polling place more convenient to their residences. The change will affect approximately 750 voters.

All voters in the Shirlington Precinct and the voters relocated to the Abingdon Precinct will be mailed new voter cards, listing their new polling locations. Voters will also be sent special notices advising them of the change, with maps and other relevant instructions. These notices will be mailed four to six weeks prior to the next scheduled election.

Attachment 1

ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE BOUNDARIES OF VOTING PRECINCTS AND POLLING PLACE LOCATIONS

BE IT ORDAINED by the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, that:

1. Pursuant to Chapter 3, Article 3 of Title 24.2, Elections, of the Code of Virginia, the boundaries of voter election precincts and polling place locations, are as follows:

022

ABINGDON PRECINCT

Beginning at the intersection of the centerlines of Route 7 (Arlington County boundary line) and Shirley Highway; thence in a northwesterly direction with the Arlington County boundary line to its intersection with the centerline of South Walter Reed Drive; thence in a northeasterly direction with the centerline of South Walter Reed Drive to its intersection with the centerline of South Wakefield Street; thence in a ~~southerly~~ southeasterly direction with the centerline of South Wakefield Street to its intersection with the centerline of ~~28th Road~~ 29th Street South; thence in a ~~southeasterly~~ southwesterly, northwesterly and southwesterly direction with the centerline of ~~28th Road~~ 29th Street South to its intersection with the centerline of South ~~Abingdon~~ Woodstock Street; thence in a ~~southerly~~ southeasterly direction with the centerline of South ~~Abingdon~~ Woodstock Street to its intersection with the property line between Abingdon School and the Arlington Trades Center; thence in a southeasterly direction along the property line between Abingdon School and the Arlington Trades Center to its intersection with the property line between Abingdon School and Ft. Reynolds Park; thence in a southerly direction along the property line between Abingdon School and Ft. Reynolds Park to its intersection with the access road to Abingdon School; thence in a southerly direction along the access road to Abingdon School to its intersection with the centerline of 31st Street South; thence in an easterly and northeasterly direction with the centerline of 31st Street South to its intersection with the centerline of South Quincy Street; thence in a northerly direction with the centerline of South Quincy Street to its intersection with the centerline of 28th Street

South; thence in an easterly direction with the centerline of 28th Street South to its intersection with the centerline of the southbound exit ramp from Shirley Highway; thence in a southerly direction with the centerline of the southbound Shirley Highway exit ramp to its intersection with the centerline of Shirley Highway; thence in a ~~southerly~~ southwesterly direction with the centerline of Shirley Highway to its intersection with the centerline of Route 7 (Arlington County boundary line), the point of beginning.

The polling place is Abingdon Elementary School, 3035 South Abingdon Street.

042

SHIRLINGTON PRECINCT

Beginning at the intersection of the centerlines of South Walter Reed Drive and South Wakefield Street; thence in a ~~southerly~~ southeasterly direction with the centerline of South Wakefield Street to its intersection with the centerline of ~~28th Road~~ 29th Street South; thence in a ~~southeasterly~~ southwesterly, northwesterly and southwesterly direction with the centerline of ~~28th Road~~ 29th Street South to its intersection with the centerline of South ~~Abingdon~~ Woodstock Street; thence in a ~~southerly~~ southeasterly direction with the centerline of South ~~Abingdon~~ Woodstock Street to its intersection with the property line between Abingdon School and the Arlington Trades Center; thence in a southeasterly direction along the property line between Abingdon School and the Arlington Trades Center to its intersection with the property line between Abingdon School and Ft. Reynolds Park; thence in a southerly direction along the property line between Abingdon School and Ft. Reynolds Park to its intersection with the access road to Abingdon School; thence in a southerly direction along the access road to Abingdon School to its intersection with the centerline of 31st Street South; thence in an easterly and northeasterly direction with the centerline of 31st Street South to its intersection with the centerline of South Quincy Street; thence in a northerly direction with the centerline of South Quincy Street to its intersection with the centerline of 28th Street South; thence in an easterly direction with the centerline of 28th Street South to its intersection with the centerline of southbound entrance ramp to Shirley Highway; thence in a southerly direction with the centerline of the southbound Shirley Highway entrance ramp to its intersection with the centerline of

Shirley Highway; thence in an northeasterly direction with the centerline of Shirley Highway to its intersection with the Arlington County Boundary line; thence in a northerly direction with the Arlington County Boundary line to its intersection with the centerline of Four Mile Run; thence in a westerly and southwesterly direction with the centerline of Four Mile Run to its intersection with the centerline of South Walter Reed Drive; thence in a southwesterly direction with the centerline of South Walter Reed Drive to its intersection with the centerline of South Wakefield Street, the point of beginning.

The polling place is the ~~Fire Training Academy, 2800~~ Park Operations Building, 2700 South Taylor Street.

All other precincts and polling places shall remain as previously established by ordinance.

