

Timeline of Franconia Govt Center Property

Prior to March 9, 2021

- The ad for the public hearing ran twice in the Legal Notices section of *The Washington Times*; there was no other notice provided to the community from any other source.
- No yellow sign notices were on property or letters sent to residents because such notice is not required for disposition of County-owned property (unlike a Comprehensive Plan amendment or zoning matter).
- There was no notice of the March 9, 2021, public hearing in the "Lusk Report" newsletters sent to residents.

March 9, 2021

Board of Supervisors initially voted to transfer Franconia Govt Center to Redevelopment and Housing Authority to be turned into affordable housing.

http://video.fairfaxcounty.gov/player/clip/2019?view_id=7&redirect=true

This is a link to the **video of the March 9, 2021, public hearing** where the Board of Supervisors originally voted to convey the property to the Redevelopment and Housing Authority. If you look at the agenda on the far right and scroll down, this matter is the second to last hyperlink.

The relevant portion of the video begins at 3:29:21 (out of 8:38:00). The public hearing portion ended around 3:34:41, at which point Supervisor Lusk spoke and made his motion. The entire Board voted unanimously to approve, and the entire matter was concluded by 3:40:23 (entire discussion was approximately 11 minutes).

- **There were zero public comments at the public hearing, probably because residents knew nothing about the public hearing.**
- **At the public hearing, the Board of Supervisors did not consider any alternative use for the property other than affordable housing.**

Mid-March 2021

A resident read this article in the Patch, found out about the transfer, and started to spread the word throughout our civic association. [Affordable Housing Possible At Franconia Governmental Center | Kingstowne, VA Patch](#)

March 25, 2021

A then-member and current Board member of North Franconia Civic Association called:

1. Supervisor Rodney Lusk's office and left message for Supervisor Lusk.

2. Chairman McKay's office, left message with male receptionist to have "Lindsey" return call and also left voice mail for "Lindsey." (NOTE: That resident never received a call back from Chairman McKay's office.)

March 26, 2021

The same resident received a call from Matthew Renninger, Supervisor Lusk's then chief-of-staff.

- During the conversation, Matt tried to assure the resident that there would be plenty of opportunity for public comments in the future and that it was just the beginning of the process.
- The resident shared that residents wanted other uses considered and any public comments in the future would only be allowed about affordable, not any other uses for the site.

Spring & Early Summer 2021

Numerous residents called and emailed to express their disapproval of the plans for the site and particularly that they received no notice about the March 9, 2021, public hearing.

June 16, 2021

North Franconia Civic Association held Zoom call with Matthew Renninger, Supervisor Lusk's then chief-of-staff, regarding the site.

- Residents continued to express their great disapproval for the County's plan and the lack of notice regarding the public hearing, and residents also shared their desire for a different use of the site.
- The Zoom call satisfied no one, and residents requested a meeting with Supervisor Lusk.

August 4, 2021

The North Franconia Civic Association held an in-person meeting at the Franconia Govt Center with Supervisor Lusk and Franconia District Planning Commissioner Dan Lagana.

- The crowd was very animated and delivered the overwhelming message that residents did not approve of the plan to use the site for affordable housing, that they wanted a different use for the property, and that they were particularly unhappy that they never got to share their opinions about the use of the property.
- Residents asked for another public hearing since we didn't have a chance to speak at the March 9, 2021, public hearing.
- Supervisor Lusk repeatedly said that "housing would have to be rejected first" before any other use could be considered because residents missed the March 9, 2021, public hearing.
- Residents were still dissatisfied.

October 27, 2021

After continued complaints from residents, North Franconia Civic Association held an in-person meeting with Supervisor Lusk and Redevelopment and Housing Director Tom Fleetwood at Franconia Elementary School.

- Many residents expressed great interest in using this taxpayer-owned property for something other than housing.
- Residents were always told, however, that the property's use as housing would have to be rejected before any other use could be considered.
- Residents were told no other uses would be considered because we missed the opportunity to comment at the March 9, 2021, public hearing.
- Residents remained dissatisfied but had no recourse other than to wait for any future public hearings.

2022: No actions

November 21, 2023

At Board of Supervisors held TWO DAYS before major public holiday (Thanksgiving), the Board set December 5, 2023, public hearing date to re-validate the March 9, 2021, transfer of the Franconia Govt Center property.

The Board of Supervisors addressed the new public hearing via administrative item #16 at the November 21, 2023, meeting.

Link to video: [November 21, 2023, Board of Supervisors Meeting](#)

Residents were never notified about the December 5, 2023, public hearing - - despite 3 meetings with NFCA in 2021 where residents asked for another public hearing and expressed disapproval of the planned residential use and great dismay as a result of missing the March 9, 2021, public hearing where the Board originally attempted to transfer the property.

November 23, 2023

Lusk Report (newsletter) #103 contains no notice of December 5, 2023, public hearing.

Link to newsletter: <https://conta.cc/3QPLDOn>

November 24, 2023

An alert resident of a different civic association notified a member of the North Franconia Civic Association about the announcement of a December 5, 2023, public hearing in the Legal Notices section of *The Washington Times*. That resident shared information with the NFCA Board members.

November 27 - December 1, 2023

North Franconia Civic Association, Kingstowne (KROC), and 10 other HOAs and civic associations contacted Supervisor Lusk to request a delay of the December 5, 2023, public hearing.

December 1, 2023

Supervisor Lusk agreed to delay of December 5, 2023, public hearing until January 23, 2024.

January 23, 2024

The Board of Supervisors held a public hearing regarding the transfer of the property to the Redevelopment and Housing Authority to be turned into affordable housing. See [Fairfax Co. Defers Decision On Franconia Governmental Center Property | Kingstowne, VA Patch](#)

During the public comment portion of the hearing, numerous speakers expressed that:

- This is taxpayer-owned property, and the taxpayers never got a chance to share how they want this property to be used.
- The site is unsafe for residential use due to its location next to a gas station and near 4 others given that benzene exposure increases the risk of leukemia.
- The Board of Supervisors should consider other uses for the property since no other uses were ever considered.

The Board of Supervisors voted to defer the public hearing until March 5, 2024. *(NOTE: Lusk has since unofficially stated that this date will have to be redetermined.)*