

Parts of a Whole:

How Governor Northam secured Arlington with even more opportunities

Arlington County is a better, safer, and more prosperous place to reside because of Governor Northam's actions and choices to put the safety and well-being of Virginians and Arlington residents first. Governor Northam has worked with Jeff Bezos and other important figures of Amazon to ensure that when Arlington became a new sight for Amazon's headquarters, the ideals and plans of Arlington residents would be put first. Governor Northam has put the needs and safety of Arlington residents before the profit of bigger companies. Governor Northam also supports bringing in money through tourism and gives his support when he sees Arlington citizens could benefit from the decision. Governor Northam puts the safety of the majority over the security of the few in order to provide the best chance of recovery from the Coronavirus outbreak.

Governor Northam called upon over 100 business owners and community leaders to come together and learn about the new impact of Amazon's opening in Crystal City. Amazon's Global head of Economic Development, Holly Sullivan hosted the arrangement of Arlington's citizens to answer questions on why Arlington was chosen and what Amazon plans to bring in order to ensure Arlington doesn't lose its sense of community. Sullivan answered stating "We wanted to locate where our employees feel welcome. We feel that in Arlington," (O'Donnell) and even went on to state the community aspect was a big reason that Arlington was chosen over the many other cities.

In December of 2019, Amazon made an announcement on their progress summarizing their actions until that moment to prepare their plan to move, and ways to ensure more jobs for Arlington. Amazon representative writers stated that they have "started hiring for HQ2 in April, and today we have more than 400 employees working from our leased office space," (Day One Staff). This is a big moment for Arlington because the incoming business means more opportunities for local business owners to earn more income from new Amazon employees.

Governor Northam announced the decision stating it as "a big win for Virginia- I'm proud Amazon recognizes the tremendous assets the Commonwealth has to offer," (Yarmosky). Governor Northam commented on the Commonwealth's efforts to attain the investment stating that "Virginia put together a proposal for Amazon that we believe represents a new model of economic development," in order to explain the situation and his team's efforts. Governor Northam even went on to assure citizens that Amazon would be making generous short-term investments in Arlington's transportation and public education systems, as well as

longer commitments to the Virginian employees. Governor Northam shows a strong desire to help Arlington residents and Virginians.

Governor Northam recently signed a tax bill for Arlington to ensure that representatives didn't have to continue returning every year to fight for the bill. The bill gives Arlington tourism taxing authority which means bigger businesses in the tourism industry like chain hotels will be taxed in direct support of the community. The General Assembly of Virginia has imposed a two-three-year clause on the tourism tax to require Arlington authorities to frequent Richmond to renew the tax. Arlington brings in roughly "\$1 million annually in revenue, which is used by Arlington Economic Development to promote the county as a destination for leisure and business travelers," (Sun Gazette). Governor Northam's support and signature on the legislature is giving Arlington more power and control over its money and revenue.

Governor Northam turned his attention to the recent Coronavirus outbreak and remarked on actions that will be taken by all schools in the state. Governor Northam stated that "School closures are necessary to minimize the speed at which COVID-19 spreads, and to protect the capacity of our healthcare systems," (ARLnow.com). This decision shows Governor Northam's dedication to putting the health and safety of minorities over the wants of the majority. Governor Northam continued by stating "we do not make these decisions lightly," (ARLnow.com) in order to show his understanding and sympathy for those affected financially because of the shutdown and quarantine. Although many are outraged due to the closing of many churches and other religious sanctuaries, Governor Northam didn't order any religious buildings to close. Instead Governor Northam encouraged people to practice their religion at a safe distance from others. Governor Northam is accepting of all ideas because he understands the importance of acceptance and support.

Governor Northam has shown that he is a supportive and courageous member of the Arlington society even through rough times in which we are forced into separation. Governor Northam has shown his dedication to Arlington by securing one of the most profitable deals with Amazon. Governor Northam even makes sure that the wants and needs of the Arlington community and citizens are put before those of the company. He makes sure the time and income of Arlington citizens are put first by working to support the legislature bills about Arlington's taxing power. Governor Northam ensures that the health and safety for the majority are put before the financial security through these hard times by closing businesses and schools. Governor Northam is a Virginia citizen who has worked hard to ensure that Arlington is a better, safer, and happier place for everyone.

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