

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Garvey Connects Community Leaders with Community Initiatives

**Arlington, VA** - With more than 160 registered guests, Leadership Arlington and Leadership Center for Excellence held the third annual Meet the Chair event with co-host George Mason University and supporting partner Arlington Chamber of Commerce at George Mason University's Arlington Campus on Thursday, January 21, 2016. The event provided an opportunity for Arlington residents and community citizens to learn about the initiatives of 2016 Arlington County Board Chair Libby Garvey. Scott McCaffrey of the *Sun Gazette* moderated the event.

With the addition of new Board members and Garvey's promoted responsibility as Chair, it is certain that 2016 is a year of change for Arlington County. Garvey spoke of her three main initiatives for the year: improving customer service, making it easier for citizens to engage in civic decision-making and bringing flexibility and efficiency into planning and zoning.



"Arlington is a fantastic place to live, but we are facing challenges and changes to be the county we want to be," stated Garvey. She cited that Arlington County has many good initiatives going; though, there is room for improvement and opportunity to do them better.



Specifically regarding civic engagement, Garvey applauded those that participate in the civic community. However, it is a small percent of people overall. She added that there are many people in Arlington with good ideas but limited time due to busy jobs, so the County Board needs to work toward identifying ways to make civic engagement accessible at times that work for citizens. For example, video-streaming and recording meetings could be a solution forward.

Garvey iterated that the County Board is working on a strategic plan this year to get clear on priorities, and they hope to have it complete by the end of year. The important questions she asks when making decisions are, "For what good, for whom and at what cost?"

The evening ended with a town-hall style question and answer period. Over a dozen attendees were able to ask questions and hear directly from the new County Board Chair. They asked engaging questions, including one about transportation, stating, "It's difficult to get from South Arlington to North Arlington," and inquiring what the County Board is proposing to solve the issue. Garvey confirmed that the County Board currently is reviewing possible solutions, and the public needs to hear more about it. At the event's conclusion, attendees left with a better understanding of their community and Garvey's plans to make Arlington thrive in the coming year.



Please visit our [Facebook page](#) for photos from the event.

Thank you to Community Champion Sponsor, AHC, Inc., Agent of Change Sponsors, The Bozzuto Group and Comcast, and Influencer Sponsors, Arlington Community Foundation and State Farm Insurance, Michael Garcia, Agent.

#### About Leadership Arlington

The mission of Leadership Arlington is to enlighten, inspire and connect leaders to strengthen the community. The vision of Leadership Arlington is a prepared, inspired and inclusive Arlington leadership who together embrace responsibility for the common good. For more information, visit [www.leadershiparlington.org](http://www.leadershiparlington.org) or call 703-528-2522.

#### About Leadership Center for Excellence

The mission of Leadership Center for Excellence is to accelerate individual, organizational and community impact through innovative consulting and leadership development. For more information, visit [www.leadercenter.org](http://www.leadercenter.org).