

RESOLUTION NO. 564

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria and the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority entered into a binding legal agreement on the 26th day of June, 1974; and

WHEREAS this Agreement stipulated that, contingent upon the construction of a 174-unit development of public housing for the elderly in Alexandria on a block bounded by Royal, Wythe, Fairfax and Pendleton Streets, the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority would initiate action to demolish 74 dwelling units in the Cameron Valley public housing project, the addresses of which 74 dwelling units were specifically listed in the June 26, 1974 Agreement; and

WHEREAS, this Agreement stipulated that the 10 units to be demolished on Maiden Lane, Yale Drive and Belvoir Street were to be replaced by 10 new townhouse units, to be located elsewhere in the Cameron Valley Project; and

WHEREAS, this Agreement stipulated that the aforementioned 74 units in Cameron Valley were to be demolished not later than 6 months after the first unit in the aforementioned public housing highrise for the elderly was occupied; and

Whereas, this Agreement stipulated that following such demolition, except for the construction of the 10 units on Maiden Lane, Yale Drive and Belvoir Street referred to above, neither the density (number of bedrooms) nor the number of dwelling units located within the boundaries of the Cameron Valley project shall be increased; and

WHEREAS, in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants contained in the June 26, 1974 Housing Agreement, the City of Alexandria and the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority approved and executed the necessary documents, which resulted in the approval by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development of a 170-unit public housing highrise for the elderly; and

WHEREAS, the groundbreaking for the elderly public housing highrise occurred on December 9, 1976, and then, some 7 days later, on December 16, 1976, the Director of the Washington, D.C., Area Office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development wrote to the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority and stated that the request to demolish the Cameron Valley units was now being disapproved by HUD, and that the Alexandria Housing Authority should develop a plan to rehabilitate these units; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria and the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority had agreed to the construction of the elderly highrise only if certain public housing units in Cameron Valley, as outlined above, were to be demolished, the net result of which arrangements would still have resulted in an increase of 64 additional public housing units in the City of Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria entered into the Housing Agreement of June 1974 in good faith, and in the same spirit that is illustrated by the fact that Alexandria has always led the way in the suburban Washington Metropolitan area in providing housing for low and moderate income families through a variety of publicly assisted rental and sales housing programs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria's policy supported the concept of providing a "fair share" of publicly assisted housing long before such concepts were formalized in 1972 by the Council of Governments's Fair Share Policy; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria believes it to be unfair for HUD to arbitrarily and unilaterally negate a legal agreement executed between the City and the Alexandria Housing Authority, after construction of the elderly highrise was already underway, and after HUD had indicated over two years ago that HUD was receptive to both the construction of the elderly highrise and the demolition of units in Cameron Valley;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA that this matter be brought, by appeal, to the attention of the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and that the City Council requests a meeting on this matter be scheduled between the Secretary, the members of Alexandria's Congressional delegation, the City Council, and the Housing Authority, at the earliest convenience of all of these parties.

Adopted June 28, 1977

Mrs. Helen Holleman, Clerk of the
City of Alexandria, Virginia