

Audrey C. Clark, Community Partner Award, April 17, 2015,
upon her retirement from DPW&ES.
Remarks by Ken Fredgren

Mr. Patteson and all, I appreciate being allowed to say a few words about Audrey this afternoon, and on behalf of Reston Accessibility Committee (RAC), present to her our Community Partner Award.

We don't often have the opportunity to give public praise and thanksgiving for someone we admire and respect, so Audrey, I *relish* this opportunity. Your depth of knowledge and competency and your genuineness have been a blessing.

Our connection began at a meeting in Supervisor Cathy Hudgins' conference room in January, 2009, that included Supervisor Hudgins, Goldie Harrison, Reston Citizens Association president, Marion Stillson, Audrey, Donna Pesto, and me. The topic that day was Visitability. But being newly equipped with Audrey's phone number and email address, our connection grew to include parking lot accessibility rights, designs and requirements.

In response to requests from me for clarifications on ADA requirements, the Building Code and anything else concerning accessibility, Audrey convened a meeting in February, 2010, that included Ray Pylant, Ken Saunders, Chris McArtor, Audrey, RAC project manager, Cynthia Willer, and me.

At that meeting we learned about the Dillon Rule, and the limits living in a Dillon Rule state place on local jurisdictions which might otherwise want to improve safety and other accessibility options and the life-style generally of its residents.

On the positive side, we learned that local jurisdictions are empowered by the Commonwealth to enforce compliance with accessible parking signs. Simple though that sounds, it has been a blessing, and we have taken advantage of it – often with Audrey's help. Fairfax County mandates a design that, with perfect economy of language and design, incorporates all the necessary caveats to make a parking citation stand up in court.

In February, 2011, Delegate Ken Plum's bill, HJR648, passed both houses of the legislature. The bill mandated the formation of a study group composed of stakeholders from all around the state to develop options for improving accessibility for persons with disabilities and make recommendations to the Governor. Audrey and I were both invited to participate, along with 24 other stakeholders. Four of the group's recommended code changes were added to

the Building Code in July last year. Considering that all the meetings were in Richmond, I'm sure Audrey's participation was a challenge for her.

We can't predict when a seemingly small action of ours – such as arranging for people to meet, sharing insight, sending an email - will sow the seeds that have an important, lasting and sometimes critical effect on a community. All the more reason to keep trying, keep sharing. Since 2008, RAC has completed **20 accessibility projects** by partnering with owners and property managers throughout the greater Reston community.

In April, 2013, Audrey presented the Building Safety Month Community Partnership Award to RAC at a meeting of the Board of Supervisors. Today, two years later almost to the day, it is my honor to present RAC's Community Partner Award to Audrey.

The citation message is as follows:

Presented To

Audrey C. Clark

Upon her retirement from the Fairfax County
Department of Public Works and Environmental Services

With gratitude
For her unfailing and effective professional commitment
to the societal rights
of persons with disabilities in the built environment.

Presented April 17, 2015