

March 11, 2026

Dear Members of the Arlington County Board,

We at Fairfax Gymnastics Academy are writing to express our deep disappointment regarding the proposal to cut the gymnastics program at the Barcroft Sports & Fitness Center. Closing this program would be devastating to the Arlington community, and we urge you to reconsider this decision.

As a privately owned local academy, Fairfax Gymnastics Academy has physical space limitations that prevent us from accommodating the many athletes who would be displaced by this proposal. This decision would effectively end access to quality, affordable gymnastics for those currently enrolled in the Arlington Aerials and Arlington Tigers programs. Many families may not be able to afford the higher fees of private clubs, nor would they be able accommodate the increased travel time to alternative facilities.

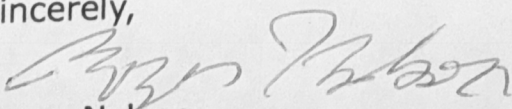
Furthermore, the coaches at Arlington Aerials and Tigers have been dedicated to their athletes for over 30 years. This decision would not only cut off essential training for the gymnasts but also put an end to the careers of coaches who have committed decades of service to the program. No severance package or future action could ever compensate the dedicated staff for their commitment to the Arlington community.

The Barcroft Sports & Fitness Center already possesses the necessary equipment to sustain and grow the program; however, such growth is only possible with continued support from the county. Arlington Aerials currently trains Level 9 and Level 10 gymnasts—the highest levels in the USA Gymnastics Development Program. By closing the program at Barcroft, the county would be putting these athletes' aspirations to compete at the collegiate level at risk.

Arlington is also home to the only Adaptive Gymnastics Program in the area. This program provides equal gymnastics access for individuals with disabilities.

We strongly urge you to maintain the gymnastics program at Barcroft and continue supporting these dedicated athletes and coaches.

Sincerely,


Roger Nelson

Fairfax Gymnastics Academy