

2
4-12-04

**Tenants' and Workers' Support Committee
Education Project
City council Public Hearing
April 12,2004**

Good afternoon, Honorable Mayor Bill Euille, City Manager Philip Sunderland and members of City Council. My name is Cheryl Bell, I am the mother of 3 youth in the Alexandria Public Schools. The Education Committee of the Tenants' and Workers' Support Committee was formed to work with fathers and mothers of students in the Alexandria Public Schools.

As parents, we have come here again to support a proposal to begin a pilot program with two Educational Outreach workers. To that end, we also support a request for \$100, 000.00 that would make that program possible.

This proposal is the result of a participatory process spanning over the last year. The Educational Outreach and Fair Representation Project has given community base organizations a stake in the education process as a means for increasing student achievement and reducing the minority achievement gap.

The primary function for the educational outreach worker will be to coordinate effective dialogue and feedback between the low-income and minority populations of Alexandria and Alexandria City Public Schools.

We are here representing low-income parents, whose children make up the majority of students in the Alexandria City Public Schools (70% of the school population)

We believe this project can be the beginning of increased parent involvement in Alexandria City Public Schools. This will be an important step in the right direction.

On the behalf of the Education Committee, thank you for your consideration of our proposal. Together, I believe we can raise the academic achievement of our children.

2
4-12-04

To the City Council,

My name is Brian Reid. I am a happy taxpayer in the City of Alexandria, and all the happier a taxpayer because I have seen my local public school improve measurably in the four years I have paid real estate taxes in the city. I write to you today to urge your support for full funding of School Board's budget – as submitted, without the City Manager's proposed cuts.

I am a fortunate taxpayer. My home is worth far more than it did when I purchased it, a reality reflected in my annual assessment, and the corresponding increase in my property taxes has been a burden I have been willing to shoulder. Though there are difficult budget choices that need to be made at the local, state and national level. I would be more than willing to forgo tax relief to ensure that my local schools are not deprived of the resources needed to make them great.

This is, in part, a selfish plea. I would like my daughter, who won't enroll in Mt. Vernon Community School's kindergarten for two more years, to have access to the best possible school system. The School Board shares my aspiration, proposing more than \$4 million in new initiatives that are designed to cut right to the heart of improved education: better technology, more specialists, innovative scheduling.

Thank you for your consideration,



Brian Reid
18 East Howell Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301
703.837.0998
breid@nasw.org

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE Arts

2
4/12/04

April 6, 2004

To: The Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council

Cc: Members, Alexandria Commission for the Arts

From: Leon Scioscia, Chair 

Re: Recommendations of Grant Awards for FY 2005

Attached is a list of applicants seeking City of Alexandria grants to support the arts in our city. We received 32 applications requesting awards of \$251,431. I am very happy and delighted to report to you that we have a very exciting, diverse and expanding arts environment within our community and one that also stresses that importance of the arts through active educational programs.

Our process is benefited from the many volunteer efforts of individuals who serve on the five discipline panels and provide the initial review of each and every grant application that comes to the Commission. These panels also make the first funding recommendations that are considered during the initial deliberations at the grant meeting. I can not stress how important these "expert" volunteers are to the process. Without their time, effort and dedication, the Commission would not be able to accomplish the process of evaluating these grants fairly and systematically.

The Commission acted upon each grant during our March 16, 2004 meeting. The panel's recommendations were presented, subsequent discussion was held and compromises were reached. Therefore the Commission requests the 32 applications be granted a total of \$214,937 in support from the City. This includes \$5000 which is due to the Commission from the Virginia Commission for the Arts, if these budgeted dollars are indeed received from the State of Virginia.

I am pleased to say that the Alexandria Commission for the Arts has evolved its scope and presence this year in the city, and is positioning itself to become even more of a vital force in the community in the future. We are involved in: our 20th Anniversary Gala; the Year of the Arts; the Old Town Arts Festival; Alexandria ARTventure, and of course, our 501(c)3 exploratory work. But, we must not lose focus on what we are here to do and that is to help provide assistance, in many diverse and inventive ways, to the wonderful array of arts groups and individuals that make Alexandria the magnificent place it is to live – and dream.

On behalf of my Commission colleagues, I thank you for your continual support and interest in the state of the arts in Alexandria. Please call me at 202-416-8004 if I can be of further help.

1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 (703) 838-6348 fax (703) 838-6344



ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS

Update February 23, 2004

Grant Program 2004-2005

ORGANIZATION	TYPE	DISCIPLINE	REQUEST	ELIGIBLE	CONFIRMED	AWARD
Alexandria Choral Society	Op	Music	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	13000	13000
Alexandria Harmonizers	Op	Music	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	13000	13000
Alexandria Performing Arts Association	Op	Music	\$5,000.00	\$6,238.00	4500	4500
Alexandria Singers	Op	Music	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	13000	13000
Alexandria Symphony Orchestra	Op	Music	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	13000	13000
Art League	Op	Visual Arts	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	13000	13000
Choreographers Collaboration Project	Proj	Dance	\$2,665.00	\$2,665.00	2665	2665
Del Ray Artisans	Op	Visual Arts	\$7,700.00	\$7,700.00	7700	7700
Eclipse Chamber Orchestra	Proj	Music	\$17,073.00	\$36,936.00	10000	9536
EcoVoice	Op	Music	\$2,300.00	\$2,270.00	2000	2000
Fairfax Choral Society	Proj	Music	\$10,000.00	\$21,457.00	4000	3536
First Night Alexandria	Op	Interdisciplinary	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	13000	13000
Friends of the Torpedo Factory Art Ctr	Op	Visual Arts	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	12000	12000
Jane Franklin Dance Company	Proj	Dance	\$3,000.00	\$3,025.00	3000	3000
Kathy Harty Gray Dance Theatre	Op	Dance	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	8000	8000
MetroStage	Proj	Theatre	\$18,000.00	\$36,033.00	12000	12000
Mount Vernon Chamber Orchestra	Proj	Music	\$13,150.00	\$63,300.00	13000	13000
National Rehabilitation & Rediscovery Foundation	Proj	Dance	\$4,000.00	\$5,400.00	3500	3500
Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association	Op	Interdisciplinary	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	13000	13000
Northern Virginia Youth Orchestra	Proj	Music	\$5,000.00	\$8,824.00	4000	4000
Port City Playhouse	Op	Theatre	\$3,650.00	\$5,310.00	3650	3650
Retired Senior Volunteer Program	Proj	Visual Arts	\$600.00	\$925.00	600	600
Springwater Fiber Workshop	Op	Visual Arts	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	13000	13000
Tapestry Theatre	Op	Theatre	\$5,000.00	\$4,000.00	3500	3500
Tenants' & Workers' Support Committee	Proj	Visual Arts	\$4,000.00	\$4,100.00	3000	3000
The Virginia Grand Military Band, Inc.	Proj	Music	\$11,543.00	\$11,543.00	1000	1000
Virginia Opera	Proj	Music	\$10,000.00	\$11,700.00	10000	10000
SUB-TOTAL			\$247,681.00	\$356,426.00	\$212,115.00	\$211,187.00

Alexandria Choral Society	T/A	Music	\$750.00	\$750.00	750	750
Alexandria Harmonizers	T/A	Music	\$750.00	\$750.00	750	750
Alexandria Singers	T/A	Music	\$750.00	\$750.00	750	750
Art League	T/A	Visual Arts	\$750.00	\$750.00	750	750
Kathy Harty Gray Dance Theatre	T/A	Dance	\$750.00	\$750.00	750	750
SUB-TOTAL			\$3,750.00	\$3,750.00	\$3,750.00	\$3,750.00
AMOUNT REQUESTED			\$251,431.00	\$360,176.00	\$215,865.00	\$214,937.00
AMOUNT AVAILABLE *			\$214,937.00	\$214,937.00	\$214,937.00	\$214,937.00
SHORTAGE / OVERAGE			(\$36,494.00)	(\$145,239.00)	(\$928.00)	\$0.00

*Includes \$5000 FROM VCA

Statement for Public Hearing on Alexandria's City FY05 Budget

April 12, 2004

Ronnie Campbell, President PTA Council

Good afternoon Honorable Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Pepper, City Council Members, and City Manager Sunderland. My name is Ronnie Campbell. I am the PTA Council President. I am here before you today to speak to you concerning the Proposed FY05 budget. Thank you for this opportunity not just for myself but for the many others you will be hearing from throughout the evening.

The population we are here to represent may be small in comparison to the majority but the individuals are a very important minority. I am, of course, referring to the children of our great city. Our children and our schools need your full support.

We understand that the City's proposal does not fully support the School Board's Budget. While we are thankful for receiving 99.3 percent funding from the City Manager we are curious why he felt \$960,000 needed to be cut. One of my responsibilities is to keep the schools and their leaders, the PTA Presidents, informed of such details. This, as you can imagine, raised many questions and concerns. I Admit I was searching for answers myself. I contacted Mayor Euille and requested a meeting, which he graciously granted me. He explained the process in depth which was quite helpful. If I may I would like to take this time to thank him for squeezing me into his busy schedule.

The School Board worked tirelessly before approving this budget. Very few items were added while many were deleted before it was accepted. Only a few new initiatives were included and those after much thought and deliberation. If we are truly trying to achieve excellent schools we need to provide excellent programs. Programs that encourage our children to Reach for the Stars. We need to continue to support the initiatives we have in place such as the Lap Top Initiative and help it to grow with our children so they can continue to excel. This is one program we feel can help bridge the digital divide.

The Modified School Calendar may be the answer for a select group of students and families. It may help at risk children from regressing during the summer break. It allows many families from other countries the extended holiday break without missing valuable school days. Also it allows children to receive remedial support throughout the year with the Intersession classes. Special Needs students who also tend to regress during the summer months will be given the support they need. This type of program is only put in place if and when it is highly suggested and supported by the families and staff.

As some of you know I have three children in our public schools so this is a very personal subject. I honestly believe we can achieve excellent schools with children reaching their

highest potential. What we need is your support to reach those goals. They can be achieved through creative and challenging programs and the support of great teachers and staff. Not everyone believes in the Public School system. I assure you that most of the people you will hear from tonight do. Alexandria is a great city with a very diverse population. We welcome that diversity in our public schools and hope to send children out into the world prepared to succeed. Please listen carefully to everyone taking the time to speak before you this evening. Although we have unofficially been told that full funding will probably not be a problem we need to express how important this is. Thank you again for your time and continued support.

Alexandria Child Care Directors Association*"Making a difference in the lives of children and their families"*

5001 Seminary Road, Suite 109

Alexandria, Virginia 22311

Tel: (703) 931-1051 • Fax: (703) 931-2472

April 12, 2004

To the Honorable Mayor Bill Euille, Vice Mayor Pepper and distinguished City Council Members, Good Afternoon.

My name is Deborah Tillman and I have been asked to speak on behalf of the Early Childhood Education Director's Association of Alexandria of which I am a member and am currently serving as Chair. Our association was formed in 1988 and represents all nationally accredited childcare centers in the City. Our mission is to promote quality early childhood education while focusing on the needs of at-risk children and families. For the past ten years, I have served as Owner and Executive Director of Happy Home Child Learning Center.

Our two major requests are quite familiar to all of you. We spoke before City Council several times in the past to address the following concerns: The Directors ask the City Council to increase the Maximum Reimbursable rate paid to child care centers to reflect actual market rates for child care. Secondly, to increase the eligibility scale from 200% Federal Poverty Limit to 300% Federal Poverty Limit.

The state maximum reimbursable rate for a pre-school child in Alexandria is \$145.00 per week. The typical cost for full-time childcare at a nationally accredited center is \$165.00 per week, a gap of \$20.00 each week or loss of \$1040 per child per year to the center. In Fairfax, the reimbursable rate is \$161 per week and in Arlington it is \$167.00 per week. We are asking for additional funding of \$200,000 from the City to supplement the maximum reimbursable rate for childcare up to the market rate to ensure equal access to quality care for families.

Our second request is to adjust the eligibility scale to 300% Federal Poverty Limit. We originally asked for 225% of FPL. However, due to the high cost of living in the city of Alexandria, data shows us that 225% allows for fewer eligible at-risk children enrolled in quality childcare centers. Raising the scale to 300% FPL is a more realistic scale.

In the spring of 2002, our association was granted \$80,000 set-aside from the city's budget to increase the number of at-risk children enrolled in our childcare centers. However, respectfully, the 80,000 set aside was not enough nor was it equitably proportionate with the \$250,000 the in-home childcare providers received. The cost of operating an accredited center is substantial. Staff/Child ratios are lower. Teachers are paid more due to the fact that they must have BA degrees and/or Child Development Associate credentials. Not to mention the rising cost of health insurance that all of our teachers receive.

Childcare centers are not baby-sitting services, and children do not begin “learning” at age five when they arrive at the front doors of our elementary schools. Curriculum and early literacy materials need to be developed and incorporated into the daily schedule, parents need workshops and resource centers made available to them. In addition, supplies and equipment need to meet the high standards associated with accreditation. This does not happen by osmosis. We need money to help these at-risk children. As Senator Houck from Spotsylvania puts it, “I for one, do not believe that we should accept one penny less for education”.

As our association continues to advocate for these issues at the State level in hopes that their budget impasse will soon be over, we would like this City Council to know that there remains the very present and serious issue of insufficient reimbursement rates, which in combination with a low eligibility scale, threatens to undermine the commitment to quality early childhood education of the past twenty years.

Thank you.

April 12, 2004

My name is Anna Skubel. I am a fifth grade student at Douglas MacArthur Elementary School. I am here to talk about why our school thinks it is very important to preserve the school budget that was carefully prepared by the City of Alexandria School Board.

The school budget should stay as proposed because the school children would be extremely affected if it gets smaller. As you probably know, the Alexandria Schools need more math specialists. Math is a subject that everyone uses every day. Children use math to count the pieces of fruit in their lunch or to even count their allowance money! I benefit from my math specialist, Mrs. Race, because of the way she explains the math concepts in simple words. It really shows that she knows everything about math! A math specialist has the time to concentrate on everything about her subject. She then shares this with her students. All students will benefit from additional math specialists in our growing schools.

JEANNETTE CUMMINS EISENHOUR**Testimony Before the Alexandria City Council on the FY 2005 Budget**

Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Jeannie Cummins Eisenhour. I am a member of The Arc and a citizen who cares about our community's citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For three years, I have requested local dollars to fill the funding gap for job supports our special education graduates need, and I thank the Council for stepping up to the plate. I have also told you advocates are pushing the state to meet its responsibility to fund home and community-based services for people with disabilities. This year, after marching to Richmond in the aftermath of Isabel, draping our legislators' offices in paper chains, and making countless visits and phone calls to request new Medicaid Mental Retardation waiver slots for over 1200 Virginians on the urgent care waiting list, I am here to tell you we are making headway. The House and Senate have put plans in motion to add a significant number of new waiver slots, and we are hopeful that, if they can work together, these will be in the FY 05 budget.

This is great news for localities, for aging parents who are afraid to die because their adult children may not get the daily help they need to live safely in the community, and individuals who want the same opportunities to live, work and play as we all do. However, I am concerned that Alexandria will lose an opportunity to leverage these funds to serve our citizens who are waiting for residential, therapeutic day, job and respite services.

According to Virginia's Comprehensive State Plan for Mental Retardation Services, Alexandria had only one person on our urgent waiting list for Medicaid waiver services as of August 2003. We share this single-person status with Dickenson County, one of the smallest counties in Virginia. It is hard to believe a city with our population density could have only one individual in urgent need. Even more troublesome, the formula for

distributing new waiver slots is based on the size of a jurisdiction's urgent needs list. Right now, Alexandria would only receive one slot.

Now, we also have seven individuals waiting for community services, at least six of whom do not meet the waiver's strict clinical and financial eligibility criteria. However, they also have pressing needs for the same residential, day, job, and respite services - some at the same frequency and intensity, and others at lower levels. If these individuals are left behind, their lives can be in as much jeopardy as an individual who qualifies for the Medicaid Waiver. I have seen "higher functioning" people with mental retardation who, without proper supports, get evicted, be hospitalized, go to jail, and lose their jobs because they are unable to manage their own financial, medical, behavioral, or daily living needs.

What can we do to build our capacity to serve all who urgently need these basic services? First, we must thoroughly review the Medicaid waiver eligibility of those currently in the CSB system, those on the waiting list, and those who may be in the community but remain as yet unidentified. That way, we may be able to obtain more new waiver slots. If so, we could potentially stretch valuable City dollars further, especially for those with critical needs who do not qualify for waiver funding. Then, we can focus on making up the funding difference for these individuals so they have adequate, appropriate residential, day, job and respite supports they need to remain safe and healthy, and become fully participating citizens of our community. As the political and economic landscape in Richmond continues to shift, there is no telling what the future holds for new Medicaid Waiver funding. We cannot afford to let the present opportunity pass: the lives of at least seven people with intellectual disabilities and their families are depending on these efforts. Let's do what we can to get the biggest bang for our buck today.

Alexandria City Council Special Public Hearing Meeting on the Proposed Budget
Statement by Gordon I. Johnston, Mt. Vernon Community School PTA
April 12, 2004

Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Alexandria City Council Members. On behalf of the Mt. Vernon Community School PTA, thank you for this opportunity for the community to offer comments regarding the proposed budget. We thank you for your generous support of the Alexandria City Public Schools. Your support has resulted in support that has resulted in lower class sizes, differentiated resources, and significant progress towards accreditation at all of our schools. We are justly proud of our students and the progress they demonstrated in advancing eleven schools to full accreditation.

We understand that this is a difficult budget year, particularly in light of uncertainty and continued fiscal challenges at the State level and the importance of mitigating the tax impact of rising real estate property values, coupled with significant capital improvement project budget needs. We are pleased to see that the City Manager has proposed full support for the school's Capital Improvement budget, including the T.C. Williams project, and we encourage you to approve this recommendation.

About 92% of the school operating budget is not discretionary. The coming year requires significant increases in these expenses, including dramatic increases in the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) contribution, salary Step and cost of living increases, increases for health insurance, science textbook expenses, the requirements of the No Child Left Behind legislation, and the Triennial census. In addition, our schools have seen continuing growth in special needs for our children, such as the doubling in the number of English as a second language (ESL) students over the last five years.

The elected school board, the school superintendent, and their staff put a lot of thought and effort into the board-approved budget. The school board listened closely to the public and paid close attention to the needs of the children of Alexandria. They identified reductions in staffing and central office expenses of \$998,000, in part reflecting an expected reduction in enrollment next year. The School Board approved budget includes funding for new initiatives such as the high school laptop initiative, the modified school calendar at Tucker, elementary math specialists, devoting a project manager to oversee the T.C. Williams construction, adjusting the differentiated resources formula, and expanding the Kindergarten preparation program. While only some will immediately benefit the children at Mt. Vernon, all of our children will ultimately benefit from them. In particular, we see some of these as directly related to operating expenses associated with the T.C. Williams project.

The City Manager has proposed a budget that reduces the board-approved operating budget by \$960,184. We have to admit that as members of the public we find this confusing. We have heard some opinions that this is not a reduction but reflects a more accurate estimate of the costs for the Virginia Retirement System. Other opinions suggest that this shifts the risk and uncertainty from the general city fund to the school operating budget.

Regardless, we urge you to work with the elected school board to resolve and reduce the impact of the uncertain State requirements on the operating budget for our schools, and to fully support the important programs and initiatives that the School Board has approved in its operating budget.

Eric Fries

Honorable City Council,

Hello. My name is Eric Fries. I am a 5th grader at Douglas MacArthur Elementary School. Douglas MacArthur has given me a great education every year that I have been there, but *you* are the ones who *really* give me my education. You pass budgets every year so the school can pay for all of the teachers and educational materials. But recently, I learned that you might cut the proposed budget by almost \$1,000,000.

That is why I am here—to ask you to not cut the budget. The schools need every penny you can give them. With all the new classes (our school is expanding, a new class is created every year), more teachers are needed and more materials need to be bought. All MacArthur students and all Alexandria students deserve the best education that you can give them.

I will be going to George Washington Middle School next year, and my two brothers will be staying at MacArthur. For me, for my brothers, and for all the students in Alexandria, please don't cut the budget. Thank you.

2
4-12-04

Good Evening,

I am Andrew Romaine, a fifth grader at Douglas MacArthur Elementary School,. Thank you for letting me speak tonight. I have been at MacArthur for almost 6 years, and it is a really good school. It has been fully accredited for the past four years. There are lots of outstanding teachers and great extra-curricular activities. I have been to many of the other Alexandria City Public Schools, and they also have nice facilities and provide really good educations. Also, my mom is a graduate of T.C. Williams. I would like to ask you to approve our budget, so kids in the future will be as fortunate as I have been to have such fantastic schools.

With some of the money you give to us, MacArthur would like to get a new math specialist like Mrs. Race. I have had Mrs. Race for a long time, and she is a GREAT teacher. She definitely knows what she is doing, and everyone likes her a lot. She has taught us a lot about decimals, fractions, percents, measurements, and even some pre-algebra.

I know that you have many other good and important uses for the city's money, but MacArthur will not waste money. We have many good uses for it, like: The Good Morning MacArthur show, the art and music program, the SCA, field trips, assemblies, books, computers, fun events, and much, much more.

I wish that other kids would have the same opportunities I have had, and so I ask you to approve our budget because there is nothing more important than education. Thank you.

**Tenants' and Workers' Support Community
Education Project
City Council Public Hearing
April 12, 2004**

Good afternoon Honorable Mayor Bill Euille, City Manager Philip Sunderland and members of the City Council. My name is Ivonne Byrd, and I am a mother of a Cora Kelly student. We, as parents, are here to support the Idea of having a bilingual Parents' Liaison Position for Cora Kelly School. Currently Cora Kelly's parent coordinator, Ruth Norton, handles after school 4 H and Boys' and Girls' Clubs, teaches full-time, and fulfills to the best of her ability her parent-outreach duties. This job is too big to be done effectively by one person on a volunteer basis.

We want to be involved in the education of our children and support the school in helping our children attain academic success. However, we need the support of the education system in this process.

In October of last year, we attended a School Board Public hearing. We made a presentation at that time, and have received little response. More to the point, our request appears nowhere in the proposed school budget. For that reason, we as parents began a petition to show that people do support this request. We are here today to present you with that petition and to urge you, in your meetings with the Alexandria City Public Schools, to support and fund the formation of a Parent/Community Liaison at Cora Kelly.

Thank you for your attention, and we look forward to your support.

Petition

March, 2004

The following signatures support hiring a bilingual (English – Spanish) Parents Liaison position for Cora Kelly for Math, Science and Technology School.

Los abajo firmantes apoyamos que se cree la posición para una persona bilingüe (Inglés y Español) que sirva de enlace entre la Escuela y la Comunidad.

Name/ Nombre	Address / Dirección	Phone
Meibai MARTINEZ	42 EAST REED AVE ALEX. VA. 22305	(703) 566-3311
CARMEN Reyes	112 EAST REED AVE Alexandria VA 22305	(703) 567-0034
Zonia Cabalero	246 EVANS LANE Alexandria VA 22305	(703) 507-9828
Bethy Pineda	46 E REED AVE alexandria VA	703-549-5707
Evelyn Argueta	44 E Reed ave Alex VA	703-566-6047
MAGNOLIA Lopez	36 E REED AVE alexandria	571-218-09-07
Alma Velasquez	108 E Reed Ave Alexandria	703) 566-0211
NANCY Gutierrez	601 FOUR MILE R. D APT #330	703 549 3128
Flore O'Brien	3808 Russell Rd A11	
Venturo Roman	3200 Commonwealth Ave ^{apt 102} Alexandria VA ²²³⁰⁵	703-548-7653
Era M. Gutierrez	3200 Commonwealth #105	703 549-4879
Ana G Velasquez	3200 commonwealth 105	703 549-4879.
Aracely Argueta	3200 Commonwealth Ave #208	(703) 200 2064
Francisca Madinez	3200 Commonwealth Ave 209	
Rogelia Argueta	3200 COMMONWEALTH	703 548-6962
SANDRA SANCHEZ	3200 Commonwealth	703.739.0178
Flore Villalobos	3200 Commonwealth AVE	(703) 838-6248

Petition

March, 2004

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Name/ Nombre	Address / Dirección	Phone
gundo yamilid Reyes	3111 mosby st Alex VA 22305	703-684-8861
Mari Paz		703/5661841
Mario Puyra	3200 Commonwealth.	703 2990836
Salvador Infante	-	-
A M I M	3200 Commonwealth Ave #302	(703) 838-0510
Silvia Ulukia	3200 Commonwealth	(703) 535-3293
Ana Maria Argueta	2200 Commonwealth 208	703 519 0150
Vilma Leon		703-739-1043
Jesús Martínez	3200 Commonwealth ²⁰⁹ #17	571-3387345
Isidro A G	604 North Venice DR #11	alex 22304
Jose Castillo	3900 Executive Ave C22	
Celia Lopez	3515 Mt Ave	
* Santos Martinez	3634 Edison St #207	(703) 519-4281
Fatima Gomez	3515 Mt Vernon Ave #304	(703) 684-0692
Sandra Hernandez	3515 Mt Vernon Ave #304	703 684 0692
Zorana andrade	3515 Mt Vernon Ave #304	703 838.9681

Petition

March, 2004

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Name/ Nombre	Address / Dirección	Phone
Romero Lec	34. E. Reed Ave. Alex. VA	(703) 549-7192
Maurice Small	21 E. Reed Ave Alex VA	(703) 548-7249
Bela Graham	21. E. Reed Ave. Alex VA	703-548-7249
Bridget Graham	3714 Edison St Alex. VA	703-681-3740
Maria Ventura	19 E Reed Ave	703) 823-7675
Sidney Gooch	57 Dale Street	703-549-0365
Robert Bier	206 Lavern St Va.	703-8919
Tamika Barbour	1100 Quaker Hill Drive Unit 313	703-855-5250
FELIPA ALVAREZ		
Charlenda Robertson	812 N. Alfred Street	(703) 836-1858
Joyce D. Rawlings	327 Wesmond Drive Alex. Va 22	703 548-9229
Kate Collett	331 W. Reed Ave St	703 548-1805
Alfonso Dejenro	516 W REED AVE	703 282 5994
John Ross	3701 Edison St	703-823-5361
Dawud Rawlings	327 Wesmond Drive	7/548-9229
*Sheba Reese	3514 Wilson Ave	7/548-4435
Aura Delgado	53 W. Reed Ave	7/489-1507

Petition

March, 2004

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Name/ Nombre	Address / Dirección	Phone
Romero Lee	34. E. Reed Ave. Alex. VA	(703) 549-7192
Maurice Smalls	21 E. Reed Ave Alex VA	(703) 548-7249
Bela Graham	21. E. Reed Ave. Alex VA	703-548-7249
Bridget Graham	3714 Edison St Alex. VA	703-681-3746
Maria Ventura	19 E Reed Ave	(703) 838-7675
Sidney Gooch	57 Dale Street	703-549-0365
Robert Blair	206 Lavern St Va.	703-8919
Tamika Barbour	1100 Quaker Hill Drive ^{unit 313}	703-855-5250
FELIPA ALVAREZ		
Charlenda Robertson	812 N. Alfred Street	(703) 836-1858
Joyce D. Rawlings	327 Wesmond Drive ^{Alex. Va} 22	703 548-9229
Katie Cottrell	331 as St	703 548-1805
Alfonso Deenno	51 W REED AVE	703 282 9994
John Ross	3701 Edison St	703-823-5361
Dawud Rawlings	327 Wesmond Drive	7/548-9229
*Sheba Reese	3514 Wilson Ave	7/548-4435
Aura Delgado	53 W. Reed Ave	7/489-1507

Petition

March, 2004

The following signatures support hiring a bilingual (English - Spanish) Parents Liaison position for Cora Kelly for Math, Science and Technology School.

Los abajo firmantes apoyamos que se cree la posición para una persona bilingue (Inglés y Español) que sirva de enlace entre la Escuela y la Comunidad.

Name/ Nombre	Address / Dirección	Phone
Yvonne Byrd	241 Lynhaven Dr.	703.566.3504
Johnny G. Turb	255 Lynhaven Dr	703-683-2494
Brian J. Thompson	256 Lynhaven	703 836 3884
Julio Mandujano	251 Lynhaven DR	-
JAAVIABJELARIZ	252 LYNHAVEN DR	703 519 0385
STEPHANIE R. HANNAH	222 LYNHAVEN DRIVE	(703) 299-8919
CARLA J. PEARSAU	222 LYNHAVEN DRIVE	(703) 299-8919
CARL PEARSAU	222 LYNHAVEN DRIVE	(703) 299-8919
Corey Adams	148 Lynhaven Drive	(571) 235-0692
Amos Sims	3027 MANNING ST	(703) 683-3900
Allon Sims	301 Evans Ln.	(703) 684-0019
Cindy W fuentes	136 Lynhaven dr	703 546 2118
Carmen Guzman	122 Lynhaven DR.	703 548-1027
EDU A B O M		
Debbie Fair	3525 Wilson Ave	703/837-1244
Barb Muanda	3540 Wilson Ave	(703) 836-2460
Gloria R.	7752 Condor Ct	703 799-3731

Petition

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Name/ Nombre	Address / Dirección	Phone
Ana Berriz	3912 B Bruce St p/o 102	703 7399662
Melber Bonella	3912 B Bruce St p/o 102	703 7399662
NICOLAS ARVALO	3912 B. BRUCE ST. APT. 202.	703-836-6957
Francisco Perez	309 3912 B BRUCE ST Apt 302	703-299-3172
JORGE MUÑOZ	3914-A-BRUCE ST- ^{Alex, VA-101}	703-836-2287
CARLOS MUNOZ	3914-A-BRUCE ST- ^{Alex, VA}	703-836-2287
ROSA I. HRAETA	3914-A-BRUCE ST- ^{Alex, VA} 101	703-856-2287
Rosa Gutierrez	3914. A BRUCE ST. 103.	703 739 25-73
Jose Reyes	3914. A BRUCE ST. 103	703-739-25-73
MARINA CRANDALL	3914 B BRUCE ST #301	703-549-5436
Jose Luis Benites	3914 B BRUCE ST #301	703-549-5436
Hector Aguilera	847 MAMA LOMA	703-549-5615
Jose Mauricio		703 619 1464
ARCADIA LAZO	3517 COMMONWEALTH AVE #3	(703) 519-5759
LUIZA MARQUEZ	3602-EDISON	703-5194522
FLORINDA GONZALEZ	3602-EDISON	703-5194522

Petition

March, 2004

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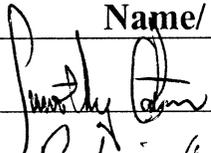
Name/ Nombre	Address / Dirección	Phone
Alejandro Reyes	3916A Bruce st #103.	703 683-9876.
Marlenis Janegas	3916 A BRUCE St #103.	(703) 683-9876
Sandra Escobedo	3916 A BRUCE #103.	" " "
King	3916A BRUCE #303	703 684-9160
Feliciano Gómez	3916B Bruce st #102	703-684-0450
Carlos Navarro	3916B Bruce st #204	703-548-5534
DAGMAR E. PASCALIO	3916 BRUCE ST. #306	703-7068154
Wil R Vega	3918-A Bruce st #301	703)598 0932
Carlos Lopez	3803 Executive av apt B2L	703 5351744
Melania Gomez	3918 BRUCE ST ALEXANDRIA	1703)548-1338
Julio Ariles	3917-A BRUCE ST #301	703)836-3782
JHC	3917-A BRUCE ST #301	703)836-3782
Jose Serrano	3917-B " #302	571-2251113

Petition

March, 2004

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Name/ Nombre	Address / Dirección	Phone
	#6 WEST FOREST ST. ^{AIRX} VA.	7/548-0188
Robin Anderson	10 Canterbury Square	7/751-0257
Noheми Bonilla	33 WEST ROAD AVE	7/684-9405
Selvi SANCHEZ	33 WEST ROAD AVE	513 2371287
PISA N Julian	320 EXECUTIVE	0720-73
	58 REED - ALEXANDRIA VA.	22305
Felix Savadonna	139 Reed Ave.	
Eddie Taylor	127 CANTERBURY	
Rafael Pizarro	207 Westmond Dr	
Jose Carrillo	110 1/2 E Reed Ave	
MARIA ARGOTA	157 Lyn Haven	

**TESTIMONY ON FY 2005 PROPOSED BUDGET
BUDGET AND FISCAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BFAAC)**

Mr. Mayor and Members of Council, BFAAC appreciates this opportunity to present some preliminary views on the City Manager's proposed FY2005 budget. We are still completing our analysis and writing of our report, which we will discuss with you in the April 26th Work Session.

We want to preview tonight some of our thoughts. You will not be surprised to know that we continue, as we have in the past, to emphasize the need to establish and adhere to sound financial policies and procedures and the importance of keeping a long-term perspective.

With those things in mind, let me start with comments on the Capital Improvement Program (or CIP).

The City's investment in capital improvements has generally been on an upward path over the past several years. In this 6-year budget cycle, we are scheduled to complete a number of "big ticket" projects that should serve our City for years to come. We support the CIP as proposed.

We have some overall concerns, however:

- We recently recommended an upward adjustment in one of the City's Debt Policy Guidelines to recalibrate it in relation to other guidelines and to bring the measurement more in line with other double triple A-rated jurisdictions. Even with those proposed adjustments, the City will be at or near target borrowing capacity through FY2008.
- Funding from non-City sources is increasing. Should these sources fail to materialize, as now seems likely at least with respect to the portion of expected funding from VDOT, projects may have to be cut back or delayed.
- Significant unforeseen new capital requirements or cost overruns--for example in construction of T.C. Williams High School, our single largest project--could crowd out other needed capital improvements.
- Finally, given the pressing capital needs of the City, we urge Council not to reduce cash capital contributions to the CIP.

We are working on some recommendations to address Open Space-related funding questions. Our general view is that borrowing against open space revenues would not be appropriate at this time due to the lack of Council-approved guidelines for acquisition of open space and, as mentioned earlier, the fact that there is little, if any, room under the Debt Policy Guidelines for additional

borrowing. Although in our FY2004 report BFAAC observed that the "One Cent for Open Space" initiative was a useful budgetary tool for a beginning to reach that goal, we also noted that it was not realistic to rely solely on the designated fund and that a wide variety of options should be explored. Further, we observed that other demands on the CIP would make it difficult to use the CIP in the near future as a major source of funding for open space acquisition. We will address this subject more fully in our report.

As BFAAC has said on many occasions, we believe it is of paramount importance that the City adhere to its Debt Policy Guidelines. The Guidelines have served the City well, insuring that the City has sufficient future resources to pay off its debts and protect its favorable bond rating. The City should not plan to exceed the debt targets in the Guidelines.

With respect to the operating budget, we note that employee compensation (salaries and benefits) comprises the bulk of the City budget and is increasing. We urge Council to look at personnel costs when considering potential spending reductions, including benefits, new hires, and contracting out. Specifically:

- Alexandria is becoming a regional leader in employee benefits. As benefits costs become more and more expensive, the City should look at health-insurance cost-containment strategies, including employee cost-sharing.
- Because of the significant additional financial commitment the City assumes with each new employee, Council should closely scrutinize the new hires in the City Manager's proposed budget.
- We encourage the City to initiate a series of intensive audits of individual City agencies and programs to identify potential cost savings, including possible savings through the reduction in the number of administrative personnel.
- BFAAC urges the expanded use of performance measures, including qualitative indices.

With regard to revenues and the long-term outlook, decisions made in the context of FY 2005 must be sustainable in future years. We believe that it is essential that the City Council work towards the development of a long-term Strategic Plan as Council assesses the priorities of municipal government while working to meet revenue and expenditure challenges. Through such discipline the City will help enhance our quality of life and realize its mission of delivering excellent services for all who live in, work in, or visit our City.

- Because of the continued dominance and strength of the real property tax base, the City remains well positioned to manage its immediate fiscal

challenges.¹ The uncertainty of the Commonwealth's State Aid and the Federal Aid contributions continue to pose troublesome revenue forecast issues – as does the Commonwealth's inability to produce a budget.

- Furthermore, the continued reliance on the real estate tax base as the rate of growth in values appears to be slowing, coupled with limits on the City's ability to further diversify its revenues sources, require the City to closely examine its ability to provide core services and still meet the demands of aging infrastructure.
- Consistent with last year's projections, City forecasts indicate that growth in real property assessments will probably not continue at the current rapid pace. The more modest rates of increase, however, remain sufficient to support the projected six-year expenditures contained in the City's mid- and high-growth forecast scenarios.
- BFAAC endorses the proposed Affordable Home Ownership Protection Grant Program included in the City Manager's proposed budget. It achieves two important policy goals: promoting affordable housing, and helping homeowners to afford their homes.

¹ The costs of maintaining current services and policies change each year due to forces outside the City's control. The additional cost for maintaining current services in FY2005 amounts to \$27.0 million or 6.8% of the FY 2004 budget.

City of Alexandria Public Hearing on the Budget – April 12, 2004
Remarks of Mary Riley, Vice Chair, Community Services Board

My name is Mary Riley and I'm speaking on behalf of the *Community Services Board* to register our support for the City Manager's FY05 Operating budget. Many of you received scores of letters last year from the community requesting your support of a Safe Haven program for unsheltered homeless persons. We are most appreciative that the Manager's budget includes this funding, as well as funding for vocational and day support services for youth with Mental Retardation who are transitioning from high school into our community and funding to reduce the Department's vacancy factor.

Also, in the context of the budget, we wanted to mention the challenges that face the Board in the upcoming year. We are concerned about the State budget situation, as 16% of our budget comes from the State. Another huge concern, as you know, is the fact that INOVA Alexandria Hospital will be closing its psychiatric unit, and this will have budgetary impacts for us, as well as other City Departments. We are currently working with INOVA to identify ways to lessen the impact of the closing on our consumers. We want to thank Councilmen Krupicka and Smedberg for their help throughout the negotiations with INOVA.

Finally, we want to express our appreciation to the City Manager, and to the Mayor and Council, for your continuing commitment and support for services to Alexandria's most vulnerable citizens. Thank you.

LEE-FENDALL HOUSE MUSEUM

614 Oronoco Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Telephone (703) 548-1789 • Fax (703) 548-0931

www.LeeFendallHouse.org

Mary Frances Varner, President
Edward F. Horn, Vice President
Amanda Lee Spittler, SecretaryDouglas B. Stuart, Treasurer
Kristin L. Miller, Executive Director**Testimony of Lieutenant General Richard H. Groves
Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation • The Lee-Fendall House Museum****Pubic Hearing: City of Alexandria's 2005 Proposed Operating Budget
April 12, 2004**

My name is Richard H. Groves and I am speaking to you this evening as a member of the Board of Directors of the Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation, and a citizen of Alexandria. The Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation is a non-profit educational foundation, which owns and operates Alexandria's only privately held historic house museum – the Lee-Fendall House.

We appear before you today to update you on our efforts to address the critical issue that threatens the long-term viability of our 219-year-old historic structure - the failure of the primary structural beam that supports the main block of the house - and request that you consider appropriating \$50,000 in the form of a "Challenge Grant" to assist us in addressing this formidable and immediate restoration challenge.

As noted in our testimony at the Fall public hearing, the estimated cost to repair the primary structural beam and sill is \$100,000. To place this dollar figure into its proper context, please consider that the Lee-Fendall House Museum's annual operating budget is \$100,000. Further, the cost of this project is exclusive of the numerous other restoration and maintenance needs demanded by our historic structure, which to date, total more than \$500,000. To raise the necessary funds to stabilize the main block of the house, our organization is aggressively pursuing every public and private funding opportunity – to date, we have raised \$18,000 from our community's private citizens and foundations. Therefore, we request the assistance of the City to ensure the preservation and long-term viability of the Lee-Fendall House by providing funding in the amount of \$50,000 in the form of a "Challenge Grant." With the support of the Mayor and the City Council, and a commitment for a portion of the funds needed to underwrite the restoration of the beam and sill, we are confident that we will be successful in achieving broad community support for this important restoration project.

The Lee-Fendall House is a showcase of Alexandria and American history. Since 1974, our museum has served the community as a dynamic historical, educational and cultural resource. It is our City's only historic house museum connecting 10,000 visitors annually with three centuries of our community's family history - it is our City's oldest Lee family home, as well as the home to the prominent Downham family and the nationally recognized labor leader John L. Lewis. Thus, it is a contributing feature to our City's attraction as a tourist destination, which directly impacts City revenue in the form of retail, restaurant and lodging taxes. Most importantly, it is an example of the significance of grass roots historic preservation in Alexandria, first exemplified when a group of community activists formed our foundation, specifically to raise the funds needed to save the house from demolition in the early 1970s, and provide stewardship for this historic resource...a stewardship that has continued for thirty years and, with the support of our community, will continue for many more to come.

Thank you for your time, consideration and commitment to the Lee-Fendall House.



Lee-Fendall House Museum

614 Oronoco Street • Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Telephone 703-548-1789 Fax 703-548-0931

www.LeeFendallHouse.org

Historic Preservation Fact Sheet

Project Title: Restoration of the Primary Support Beam and Sill – Main Block

Project Goal(s): (1) Address immediate threat to the structural integrity of the Lee-Fendall House by stabilizing the main block; and, (2) Implement permanent structural solution to ensure the long-term viability of the Lee-Fendall House by restoring the main block's primary support beam and sill.

Background: Philip Richard Fendall, the builder of the Lee-Fendall House, employed a style of construction typical of substantial 18th century houses, known as braced post and beam framing. This method took advantage of the ready access to large timbers that could be easily cut locally by unskilled labor (usually enslaved) and erected with wood pegs in mortise and tenon joints. The section of wall currently exposed and visible to our visitors shows the vertical posts or studs, which are rough 4x4 timbers, and a diagonal brace that is intended to stiffen the frame. The brick infill, called "nogging," was laid between the posts to make the structure rigid, and provide a base for the plaster wall finish. This type of wall construction forms the perimeter of the main block of the house, as well as the center support wall.

Below the exposed wall is a main structural timber, known as a "summer beam," that spans the basement from north to south and rests on a series of brick columns. This timber is approximately 12" by 12" and was one of the first elements of the house to be installed after the foundation was laid in 1785. The summer beam abuts the timber "sill" that rests on the foundation and forms the base of the rear wall of the house. Over time, wood eating insect infestation and dry rot have caused the timber of both the summer beam and the sill to deteriorate.

Project Status: The recent investigation of cracking plaster and buckled woodwork in this passage led to the discovery of the damage to the summer beam and sill. The work completed to date was intended to stabilize the wall to prevent further damage from the tons of brick and plaster that are pressing down on the beam's weak areas, and ensure a safe environment for those visiting and working in our site. The plans developed by historic preservation consultants will result in the replacement of the compromised sections of timber and a permanent structural solution to ensure the long-term viability of the Lee-Fendall House.

Estimated Cost of Restoration Project: \$100,000

Funding Status: \$18,000 raised as of April 1, 2004

One of the primary tenets of our organization's mission is to maintain the Lee-Fendall House according to the best preservation standards and assure its enjoyment for future generations. The Lee-Fendall House has undertaken an aggressive public relations and fundraising campaign with the goal of raising \$500,000 to address the critical restoration and maintenance issues, which threaten the long-term viability of our 219-year-old historic structure. As part of this plan, we are requesting the financial support of our entire community in this critical capital fundraising campaign. The following summarizes the preservation projects for which we are currently raising funds:

Address building deterioration by stabilizing and repairing primary structural systems

- | | |
|---|--|
| ▪ Stabilize/replace north-south structural foundation beam and east-west sill | \$100,000***
<i>18% Funded</i> |
| ▪ Stabilize solarium foundation | \$ 11,000***
<i>Funded</i> |
| ▪ Stabilize/restore ceiling plaster – dining chamber | \$ 7,000*** |
| ▪ Stabilize/restore interior ceiling plaster – solarium, parlor, chambers | \$ 7,700*** |
| ▪ Repair damaged gutter/roofline | \$ 16,000 |
| ▪ Stabilize structure of privy; Repair/restore roof | |

Address deterioration and failure of interior/exterior wood elements, masonry elements, glass.

Wood elements:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ▪ Restore and repair the wood structural components of main entry porch (Oronoco Street); restore and repair the decorative wood elements | <i>Funded</i> |
| ▪ Repair sill that runs full length of rear of house | \$ 30,000*** |
| ▪ Paint preparation and painting of entire exterior structure | \$ 35,000***
<i>80% Funded</i> |
| ▪ Repair/restore shutters and windowsills as needed | \$ 1,500 |

Masonry elements:

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| ▪ Restore/repair chimney in ell | \$ 22,000*** |
| ▪ Restore/repair chimney at main block | \$ 12,500*** |
| ▪ Repoint solarium, house and privy masonry as needed | \$ 5,500 |

Glass elements:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| ▪ Replace/repair approximately 10 original windowpanes | \$ 4,000 |
|--|-----------------|

Address mechanical, electrical, security, fire systems and accessibility issues

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| ▪ Installation of climate control system | \$ 45,000 |
| ▪ Upgrade of electrical system (ongoing) | TBD |
| ▪ Upgrade of security and fire systems | TBD |
| ▪ Reinstall UV Filtration | \$ 10,000 |
| ▪ ADA compliance/accessibility study and implementation | TBD |

Address cultural landscape issues

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| ▪ Erosion control | TBD |
| ▪ Implement integrated pest management plan | \$ 500 |
| ▪ Drainage in brick garden areas | \$ 2,000 |
| ▪ House drainage system (gutters, downspouts, etc.) | \$ 5,000 |
| ▪ Grounding wires and installation of period appropriate drain elements | \$ 5,000 |
| ▪ Regrade brick parking area | \$ 9,000 |

******Critical and Immediate**

Remarks at City Council Budget Hearing, April 12, 2004, by Bill Hendrickson

Good evening. I ask you today to continue the city's commitment to open space acquisition and increase it if possible. Because of development pressures, there's a great deal of urgency to this. I urge you to examine whether some capital projects could be postponed for a few years so that we can buy more open space now.

I also ask you to make greater policy and financial commitments to both on-street and off-street trails for walking and bicycling. I was surprised recently to learn how little of the 1998 Bicycle Transportation and Multi-Use Trail Master Plan has actually been implemented. The description in the budget of our efforts in this area is grossly inaccurate. Even the \$77,000 in the budget for trails is largely set aside for the city's share of grants, if and when we can obtain those grants. We need to do far more than this. Specifically, I urge you to hire a full-time person to plan and coordinate bicycle, pedestrian, and trail projects. The 1998 plan called for this, and a list of possible duties is spelled out in the plan. We need to actively work to build a culture of walking and bicycling in this city. A full-time pedestrian/bicycle coordinator could play an instrumental role in helping to do this.

It's simply not going to be possible to deal with our traffic problems unless we have a first-class trail system as well as attractive streets that favor pedestrians rather than vehicles. Indeed, the cost of developing a first-class trail system is relatively small, especially when compared with the cost of buying larger sites for open space.

Finally, in an effort to promote more pedestrian-friendly streets, I ask that you begin to provide funding for attractive, pedestrian-oriented lighting in the Mount Vernon Avenue business district. We could approach this very modestly, starting with one block either in the historic core area or at the intersection of Mount Vernon and Monroe Avenues, the key gateway to Del Ray. Thank you for your consideration.

2
4-12-04



Ginny Hines Parry
<ghparry@fortebrio.com
>

04/12/2004 01:29 PM

To: Del Pepper <delpepper@aol.com>, Joyce Woodson
<council@joycewoodson.net>, Paul Smedberg
<SmedbergPC@aol.com>, Andrew Macdonald
<MacdonaldCouncil@msn.com>, Ludwig Gaines
<Councilmangaines@aol.com>, Rob Krupicka
<Rob@krupicka.com>, "William D. Euille"
<wmeuille@wdeuille.com>, "William D. Euille"
<alexvamayor@aol.com>

cc: Jackie Henderson <jackie.henderson@ci.alexandria.va.us>, Roger
Waud <waudr@comcast.net>, kathy burns
<burnskathy@earthlink.net>, Suzanne Scoville
<lacomtesse@verizon.net>

Subject: 4/12/04 Budget Public Hearing Docket: funding for open space

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

I am not able to attend the budget public hearing this afternoon. However, I wanted to share this letter below with you, which has already been signed by several groups. I anticipate that more will be signing on as well.

Ginny Hines Parry, President
Alexandrians for Sensible Growth

April 12, 2004

The Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Councilors,

The undersigned groups call upon the Council to fully implement the Open Space Master Plan (OSMP) approved in 2003 by purchasing all available properties listed in the plan. We believe that a commitment must be made immediately, and implemented as soon as possible, to ensure such open space is preserved for current and future generations of Alexandrians.

City officials have acknowledged for some time that as outlined in the OSMP, a minimum of 100 acres of additional open space is needed just to keep pace with Alexandria's growth. The purchase and development of such parks, playgrounds and open spaces can be financed through a number of mechanisms, as outlined in the OSMP, including a bond referendum, if necessary, to quickly purchase the properties most at risk for commercial or residential development. We note that a number of Council members ran on election platforms unequivocally advocating adherence to the OSMP and open space acquisition generally, as stated in questionnaire responses to both Alexandrians for Sensible Growth and the Mount Vernon Group of the Sierra Club. The time has come for Council to honor those campaign commitments.

We look forward to seeing considerably more than 100 acres of new parks and green space preserved for our children and our children's children. Given the skyrocketing land values in Alexandria, quick action is required to ensure the timely purchase of available properties at the best possible prices. This priority is, simply put, too important to be delayed any longer.

Thank you for your support in this vital issue.

Sincerely,

Ginny Hines Parry, President
Alexandrians for Sensible Growth

Kathy Burns, Vice President
Brookeville-Seminary Valley Civic Association

Suzanne Scoville, President
Quaker Village Homeowners Association

Roger Waud, President
North Old Town Independent Civic Association

Additional Testimony to the April 12th Budget Hearing



TO: Mayor Euille
FROM: Barbara Lehr, Minnie Howard PTSA Co-President
DATE: April 14, 2004
CC: Chairman Wilkoff, Superintendent Perry, and Principal Mitchell

I was surprised to hear the testimony of a Minnie Howard Hispanic student. I did not get the name of the group she mentioned she was representing. She complained of the weight of carrying the laptop computers as well as her textbooks and claimed to use the laptop only once a week. She also mentioned not receiving the Internet at home.

This does not entirely correlate with the comments I have heard at our monthly PTSA meetings nor does it reflect my own daughter's experience. It is true that the textbooks, notebooks, laptop and lunch are heavy and difficult to get into a backpack. However, the comments I have heard since January indicate that it is worth it. It is also true that few students have Internet access from home. The computers function at home for word processing and for completing non- Internet assignments. The Internet does work for the students while in the Minnie Howard building. These factors represent significant access to current technology for all students.

The classroom usage does vary based on subject and teacher. The following is my daughter's experience to give you another perspective of the laptop usage.

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Usage</u>
Human Growth and Development	most days
World Civ/Language Arts	three times a week
Biology	weekly
Geometry	occasionally
Spanish	never
P.E.	used during health units
T.A.	daily
Homework	two to seven days a week

The usage of the laptops has continued to expand throughout the spring season. Next year perhaps fewer backup notebooks will be requested.