

4-4-05



CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF CARING

Katherine L. Morrison, President and CEO

April 4, 2005

In November 2004, The Campagna Center requested an increase of **\$256,286 for Alexandria Head Start and \$269,325 for Campagna Kids** in the City's FY06 budget. This represents **less than 1%** of the increased spending requested by the City Manager, yet his proposed budget provides a \$50,000 increase for Campagna Kids and no increase for Head Start despite the fact that the City has been the grantee for Alexandria Head Start since the 1960s and has never made a financial contribution to the program.

As a homeowner in Alexandria since 1977 I am sensitive to the need to keep the City budget at a level that can be maintained by our taxpayers. However, if taxpayers closely examine these two programs they would realize that these are excellent investments for the City since **parent fees and federal funds** pay for more than half of Campagna Kids costs, and **federal funds, Alexandria City Public Schools and Campagna fundraising** account for 100% of Alexandria Head Start costs. It is therefore in the City's, and the taxpayers', interest to continue these programs that are so heavily subsidized by other than City funds. They cannot continue at their present levels of enrollment and quality without these requested City funds in FY06.

As to the value of Campagna Kids, let me quote to you from a publication called The Afterschool Hours published by the National League of Cities in 2005:

"Increasingly, mayors and city councilmembers recognize the critical link between quality of life, the economic viability of cities, and the availability of high-quality afterschool programs. They want to know that city residents possess the skills needed to succeed in the 21st century workplace, and, ultimately, to contribute to the tax base of their communities. ... Afterschool programs play a critical role in preparing young people to develop a range of skills...that will ensure their success as future workers.

Municipal leaders also view afterschool programs as an important component of their efforts to reduce crime rates...

Similarly, in support of Head Start, a memo from Councilman Krupicka and Alexandria City Public Schools Boardmember Art Schmalz dated March 28, 2005 states that:

“Numerous studies – some of which have amassed nearly 40 years of data – all point to the same basic truth: Children who have had quality pre-school experience perform better in school and life than those who have not... They are better prepared to learn, and they perform better on literacy tests than their peers without pre-school. Pre-school educated children are also more likely to graduate from high school and college, and are less apt to get in trouble or participate in criminal activity...”

Despite that success, the Krupicka/Schmalz memo highlights the issue that led us to request City funding for Head Start:

“According to a 2003 report from the General Accounting Office, the average kindergarten teacher makes \$41,000 a year compared to \$31,000 for a Head Start prekindergarten teacher with at least a bachelor’s degree... If funds aren’t earmarked for preschools, particularly teachers’ salaries, the gains... will not be realized” (David Weikert, 1987 interview with Fortune magazine).”

The Campagna Center is very supportive of the goals identified in the City’s FY06 budget, specifically: *a caring community that is diverse and affordable, and public schools that are among the best in Northern Virginia*. We have contributed toward the achievement of these goals for all of our 60 years. We ask Council to acknowledge the importance of maintaining quality child care programs like Head Start and Campagna Kids that make Alexandria friendly to more than 1000 City families, and to keep Alexandria an affordable place to live for the 128 employees of Head Start and Campagna Kids who are City residents.

Recognizing Council’s desired goal of lowering the real estate tax rate, we have reviewed our original funding requests and have reduced them to reflect only the minimum needed to maintain program quality: \$170,469 for Head Start and \$133,146 for Campagna Kids.

Budget

SPEAKER'S FORM

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DOCKET ITEM NO. 2

**PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND GIVE IT TO THE CITY CLERK
BEFORE YOU SPEAK ON A DOCKET ITEM**

PLEASE ANNOUNCE THE INFORMATION SPECIFIED BELOW PRIOR TO SPEAKING.

1. NAME: Katherine h Morrison

2. ADDRESS: 418 S. Washington Street

TELEPHONE NO. ⁷⁰³ 549-0111 x117 E-MAIL ADDRESS: KMORRISON@CampagnaCenter.org

3. WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT, IF OTHER THAN YOURSELF? The Campagna Center

4. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ITEM?
FOR: _____ AGAINST: _____ OTHER: _____

5. NATURE OF YOUR INTEREST IN ITEM (PROPERTY OWNER, ATTORNEY, LOBBYIST, CIVIC INTEREST, ETC.):

6. ARE YOU RECEIVING COMPENSATION FOR THIS APPEARANCE BEFORE COUNCIL?
YES NO

This form shall be kept as a part of the permanent record in those instances where financial interest or compensation is indicated by the speaker.

A maximum of three minutes will be allowed for your presentation, except that one officer or other designated member speaking on behalf of each *bona fide* neighborhood civic association or unit owners' association desiring to be heard on a docket item shall be allowed five minutes. In order to obtain five minutes, you must identify yourself as a designated speaker, and identify the neighborhood civic association or unit owners' association you represent, at the start of your presentation. If you have a prepared statement, please leave a copy with the Clerk.

Additional time not to exceed 15 minutes may be obtained with the consent of the majority of the council present; provided notice requesting additional time with reasons stated is filed with the City Clerk in writing before 5:00 p.m. of the day preceding the meeting.

The public normally may speak on docket items only at public hearing meetings, and not at regular legislative meetings. Public hearing meetings are usually held on the Saturday following the second Tuesday in each month; regular legislative meetings on the second and fourth Tuesdays in each month. The rule with respect to when a person may speak to a docket item at a legislative meeting can be waived by a majority vote of council members present but such a waiver is not normal practice. When a speaker is recognized, the rules of procedures for speakers at public hearing meetings shall apply. If an item is docketed *for public hearing* at a regular legislative meeting, the public may speak to that item, and the rules of procedures for speakers at public hearing meetings shall apply.

In addition, the public may speak on matters which are not on the docket during the Public Discussion Period at public hearing meetings. The mayor may grant permission to a person, who is unable to participate in public discussion at a public hearing meeting for medical, religious, family emergency or other similarly substantial reasons, to speak at a regular legislative meeting. When such permission is granted, the rules of procedures for public discussion at public hearing meetings shall apply.

Guidelines for the Public Discussion Period

- (a) All speaker request forms for the public discussion period must be submitted by the time the item is called by the city clerk.
- (b) No speaker will be allowed more than three minutes; except that one officer or other designated member speaking on behalf of each *bona fide* neighborhood civic association or unit owners' association desiring to be heard during the public discussion period shall be allowed five minutes. In order to obtain five minutes, you must identify yourself as a designated speaker, and identify the neighborhood civic association or unit owners' association you represent, at the start of your presentation.
- (c) If more speakers are signed up than would be allotted for in 30 minutes, the mayor will organize speaker requests by subject or position, and allocated appropriate times, trying to ensure that speakers on unrelated subjects will also be allowed to speak during the 30 minute public discussion period.
- (d) If speakers seeking to address council on the same subject cannot agree on a particular order or method that they would like the speakers to be called on, the speakers shall be called in the chronological order of their request forms' submission.
- (e) Any speakers not called during the public discussion period will have the option to speak at the conclusion of the meeting, after all docketed items have been heard.