

Homelessness and poverty do exist in Northern Virginia

More than 90,000 people are living in poverty in our region.

Homelessness accounts for 30% of those who are hungry.

Food for Others

In our capital area, many families are unable to provide for basic needs such as food and shelter. Unfortunately, many times, some cannot afford that. Since 1995, Food for Others has been helping these families.

Food for Others is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization. Local merchants, the USDA, food bank, crop harvests provide the food; volunteers provide the hands; charitable donations and fundraising events provide essential funds.

At least 98 cents of every dollar raised is used for program expenses.

Our programs are supported by Fairfax County, Virginia Community Services Block Grant funds, and a grant from Arlington County. We also receive contributions from churches, businesses,



The mission of Food for Others is to obtain and distribute free food to the hungry of Northern Virginia and support food programs of other community-based organizations. We provide a channel for people to help their neighbors by actively volunteering their services.



2938 Prosperity Avenue | Fairfax, Virginia 22031

Phone: (703) 207-9173 | Fax: (703) 207-9204
info@foodforothers.org | www.foodforothers.org

A financial statement is available upon written request from the Virginia Office of Consumer Affairs.



Food for Others

FEEDING FAMILIES, NOURISHING LIVES.

Don Wallace - Director
Cell: 703-338-1073

FOOD FOR OTHERS

Feeding the Hungry of North VA
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Food for Others
designation number

SERVICES

Volunteers gather, sort and distribute food in Northern Virginia. **We distribute food in**

Food is provided at our warehouse to families referred to us by social service providers. We may return monthly for United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) commodities, providing they meet eligibility guidelines.

Voluntary Food distributions occur weeknights at high poverty neighborhoods in Arlington, Falls Church and Fairfax.

Donations are provided to more than 40 community-based organizations during the year. In this role, Food for Others acts as a food bank. Organizations include churches, soup kitchens, homeless shelters and day centers.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Pick up food at grocery stores or farmers' markets
- Distribute food
- Harvest fresh produce
- Help in our warehouse or office
- Help with a food drive
- Contribute to holiday dinners
- Participate in special events
- Send us your donation



If you want to help, please call our office at (703) 207-9173, or visit our website at www.foodforothers.org, where you can also find information on special events!

THANKS From a Client

"Kristy" came to us after being laid off from her job as a medical technician. Her husband had been a manager at a local car dealership for almost 18 years until he was stricken with a blood disease that put him in a wheelchair and made it impossible for him to work while he recovered. When Kristy was laid off from her job, she began to look for help for her family, which included two small children, ages 4 and 18 months. County and social service agencies could not see her for almost two weeks. During this time she was faced with the choice of paying her mortgage on her townhouse or purchasing food for her family. Kristy heard about Food for Others through a friend and was able to come that day and receive emergency and USDA food to help her out during her job search.

Food for Others volunteers hear many similar stories.

FOOD FOR OTHERS IS

600 volunteers helping to feed **1,800 families weekly** by distributing **1,800,000 pounds of food yearly** through our warehouse and **14 food distribution sites** and by serving another **40 community organizations**.

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10-15-05

Good morning. I'm Don Wallace, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of Food for Others, the largest provider of emergency food services in Northern Virginia.

Our mission is to obtain and distribute free food to the hungry of Northern Virginia, and to support food programs of other community based organizations.

We have a staff of seven and about 600 regularly committed volunteers that served more than 1,000 families a month last fiscal year.

Food for Others celebrates its 10th anniversary this month. We have given free food to low-income Alexandria families continuously during the past 10 years. The number of such families has never been very large until the last 15 months. In fact, the number was so small that we never kept any records.

However, there has been a sharp increase in our Alexandria clients during the past 15 months. Last fiscal year we provided food to 958 Alexandria families representing 7.1% of our total emergency clients. For the first 3 months of this fiscal year we have served 261 Alexandria families or 8.9% of our emergencies.

It is interesting that the number of our Alexandria clients is increasing while the numbers from other Northern Virginia communities are decreasing. City of Alexandria vehicles frequently bring clients to our warehouse to pick up emergency food.

Alexandria families come to our warehouse in Merrifield when referred to us by social service workers such as those with the Alexandria Community Services Board. We provide families experiencing a food crisis with a week's supply of groceries and inform them about our other services such as the USDA Commodity Program that is available to low-income families on a monthly basis without a social worker referral.

Because the number of Alexandria clients has become significant, Food for Others is interested in being part of the Alexandria budget process for the purpose of obtaining monetary assistance from the City of Alexandria as it does from Arlington and Fairfax Counties.

We look forward to working with Alexandria on its Fiscal Year 2007 Operating Budget. We appreciate this opportunity to discuss with you the increasing number of Alexandria families seeking emergency food services from Food for Others.

Notes for Don: We don't know why the numbers are increasing. It may be that Alexandria has become more aware of our services and the fact that some families have told us they want to come here because of the quantity and quality of the food they receive. In addition, some of the families are brought here in City of Alexandria vehicles so coming to Food for Others is not only convenient but a free service.



FOOD *for* **OTHERS**

1995 to 2005

10th Anniversary Celebration Dinner

September 30, 2005

**American Legion Hall
Fairfax, Virginia**

**Food for Others
2938 Prosperity Ave.
Fairfax, VA 22031
703-207-9173
www.foodforothers.org**

Food for Others Founding Board Members

N. Edwin Demoney, President
Walter R. Hall II, Vice-
President
Warren P. Hottle, Vice-
President
Carol LeClair, Treasurer
Robert V. Warrick, Secretary
Eugene Cave
C.D. Crocker

Sue Federico
Richard Getman
Roger Hoxie
Faith McCormick
Lauro S. Romero
Wilfred J. Vaudreuil
Tim Wiley
Rev. Ron Winters
Anne Suter Zimmer

Board Members through the Years

Roosevelt Hardwick
Gwyn Rowland
Gay Fantozzi
M. Floyd O'Dell
John Panas
Richard Kuiper
Ray Tavenner
Terry T. Donald
Sami Satouri
Randall Stefano
John Baldus

Pam Koch
Julie Landis
Richard Fruchterman
Walter Mortensen
William R. Jones
Donald E. Wallace
James Pottmyer
Nancy Malthouse
Carmine C. Carullo
Richard Guadagno

Food for Others - A Brief History

On Saturday morning July 8, 1995, a group of 21 people gathered in a conference room in the Fairfax County Pennino/Human Services Building out of concern for those in need in the community. These people had been volunteering their time to Lazarus at the Gate, a nonprofit organization that a week earlier had abruptly closed its doors and no longer provided free food to low income people and people in crisis in the Northern Virginia area. With the assistance of the Fairfax County Human Services staff, they brainstormed ideas about how to continue to help the hungry. The Fairfax County staff pledged to assist the effort in any way possible. Though they didn't know it at the time, the seeds of Food for Others had been planted.

The Fairfax County Department of Community Action had been leasing a warehouse for Lazarus at the Gate at 2938 Prosperity Avenue. The county committed to run the food program on an interim basis, and the warehouse became known as the Merrifield Food Site. The Fairfax County contract manager for Lazarus at the Gate was assigned to the site to provide structure for volunteers to continue the food program on a day-to-day basis until a permanent solution was found. There were two warehouse workers at the time. The interim period lasted six months.

At a 'Community Forum' held on August 3, 1995, an even larger number of people indicated a desire to continue providing food to the needy through a community-based nonprofit organization headed by a volunteer leadership group. They wanted the new name of the group to be Food for Others. Legal work, creating a board of directors, financial planning and operation issues required much attention and many long meetings. Thanks to the hard work of many talented individuals, Food for Others was incorporated in Virginia and endorsed by the Fairfax County Board in October, 1995. The transition period ended when Food for Others, Inc. began operating officially on December 11, 1995.

We were guided by a 16 member Board of Directors with Edwin Demoney as its first president. Food for Others immediately began serving the needs of hundreds of people at 14 food sites in Fairfax, Falls Church and Arlington, helping families referred to Food for Others, and providing food to food pantries and soup kitchens. Although 10 years later these operations remain the core activities of Food for Others, they have been improved over the years to better provide assistance to families in the community.

Food for Others started with heavy emphasis on neighborhood food distribution. Clients coming to the warehouse for assistance on a referral basis were initially only a small part of the operation. That's changed. The referral program is designed to provide food to families facing an emergency. Social service providers refer a family in need to Food for Others for a week's supply of groceries, giving the family time to find help elsewhere if the need continues. About 105 families a month came to Food or Others in the first year of operation. In subsequent years the number of referrals for emergency assistance steadily grew in response to slowdowns in the local and national economies. At the same time, more people in the community were becoming aware of Food for Others. Its reputation grew among clients and referring agents, which also resulted in even more requests for help. After September 11, 2001, the number of families receiving help from Food for Others dramatically jumped up once again. With good leadership,

excellent volunteers, an outpouring of support from the community and cooperative relationships with nonprofit and government partners, Food for Others was able to provide an immediate response. Although time has passed, we continue to aid large numbers of emergency clients.

Functioning as a “food bank” for other community organizations was part of the mission of Food for Others in 1995 and that has continued for ten years. These partner organizations provide to those in need in the communities or groups they serve. Our “Special Groups” have to demonstrate through documentation and observation that they fit the same criteria required to determine 501(c)(3) status and that they use sufficient safe food handling measures. Food is distributed by the volunteers of these organizations, enabling everyone to reach more people in need. We also deliver USDA commodities to elderly residents living in federally assisted rental units. All USDA commodities are provided free of charge and Food for Others is pleased to be able to provide this labor intensive service to the community.

	FY 1997	FY2000	FY2005
Emergencies	1,128 families	1,748 families	2,218 families
USDA		1,394 families	10,546 families
Neighborhood Sites	175 families (average)	233 families (average)	260 families (average)
Special Groups	870 families	1,582 families	1,624 families
Food Donated	1,108,564 pounds	1,539,603 pounds	2,077,429 pounds
Volunteer Hours	More than 22,000	23,016 hours	22,777 hours

To distribute food, we need a consistent source of food. This was a major concern for Food for Others in 1995 and has continued to be a major part of our responsibilities. We depend on the donated food picked up daily from local retail stores by our staff and volunteers. The Capital Area Food Bank has been an excellent partner over the years in providing an ongoing source for food, including USDA commodities. Food drives by the community have provided hundreds of thousands of pounds of food. Gleaning (going into the fields of willing farmers and harvesting the produce that they then donate) was an early activity at Food for Others, and it has grown to be one of the signature efforts of the organization. We are particularly proud of our award-winning gleaning activities at the USDA farms at Beltsville, Maryland. Sandwiches made by volunteers have been the only prepared food used on a consistent basis by Food for Others. Hunters for the Hungry and the potato drops of the Society of St. Andrew continue to provide wonderful food. In FY 2005, **53,133 individuals** were helped by Food for Others. This is truly neighbor caring for neighbor.

As the first ten years of Food for Others are celebrated, we remember all those families and individuals who have approached Food for Others in their time of need as well as our volunteers who have given of themselves to help them. Ed Demony spoke for all of us when he said just before Food for Others opened its doors in December, 1995, “This is a grand undertaking, and we feel we are just scratching the surface.” This has proven to be true.

To read Sue Federico’s complete history of Food for Others, please check our website at www.foodforothers.org.

Volunteers Work to Have Thanksgiving Meals Ready

For Thousands Who Need Assistance, Dinner Is on the Way

Food for Others feeds area's hungry families

Food for Others to take over

HARVEST FOR HUNGRY

Agency Gives Poor Place at the Table

'Turkey Giveaway' Underway in Va.

Ton of Love exceeds 20,000 can goal
Students give generously in time of greatest need

Summertime Is No Vacation for Area Nonprofit Group
Charities Facing Drop in Resources, Increase in Needs for Thanksgiving

Students Help Out the Needy

Paul VI Students Gather a 'Ton of Love'

USDA workers glean for good

Scouts Harvest for the Hungry at BARC

Mmm, Mmm, Great!

Soup Can Yields Gems

Food Bank Handout Held Cache

By Eric Lipton and Patricia Davis
Washington Post Staff Writers

It was worry about money that drove her to the Fairfax food bank, pride that made her volunteer a couple of hours unloading trucks in exchange for some canned goods, and hunger that caused her to reach for the cream of asparagus soup a few days later.

But no matter how hard Jeanna Dodd tried Thursday night, she couldn't get the Campbell's can open. Suddenly, the lid popped off, and out spilled the contents: jewels, gold, silver, rings, a bracelet, a Rolex watch.

"I had just said, I hope I can pay the rent," said Dodd, 24, who is temporarily unemployed and shares a Centreville town house with roommates. "This is like an answer from God. We are just floored."

The can was a tiny safe designed to trick burglars, and it apparently also was good enough to fool someone into giving it away.

Dodd is the first to admit that the story sounds incredible. She spent all of yesterday trying to sort it out, calling Food for Others in Merrifield to see if anyone had reported something missing and asking a McLean appraiser to look over the jewelry.

See JEWELS, A15, Col. 1

"It was somebody's treasure, somebody's memories," said Martin Fuller, of Fuller & Associates in McLean, a certified gem appraiser who estimated that the goods have a total retail value of about \$7,000. "I've been in this business for 26 years, and this is one of the most heart-warming stories I've ever seen. It's an absolute treasure."

Fuller said that the five rings, bracelet and necklace probably were bought somewhere in the Far East, perhaps Thailand, most likely in the 1960s or 1970s. The Rolex watch is more recent, dating to the early 1980s. Dodd asked that the jewelry, which she showed to a reporter, not be described in detail so that only its true owner will be able to prove a claim.

Dodd, who moved to Northern Virginia from her parents' home in Texas in August, has been out of work for three weeks after quitting a job at a property management firm. She already has found a new job but does not start for another week and was having a hard time paying her share of the \$950 monthly rent and other bills.

She plans to sell the goods and split the proceeds with one of her three roommates, Cindy Broh, 24, who works at a coffee shop and a pizza restaurant and attends classes at George Mason University.

"The money is already spent before we even get it," said Broh, who is being given a share because she was helping Dodd make their Tuna Helper and soup dinner when they started struggling with the can opener.

But Dodd, whose father is an Army chaplain and mother is a church secretary, said she won't sell the cache until she gives its proper owner a chance to step forward.

"It wasn't ours to start with," Dodd said, sitting in her town house living room, which has plastic patio chairs at a dining table, crates of albums on the floor and a tie-dyed tapestry hanging from the ceiling. "I woke up this morning and thought, 'Someone could be sick over this.' Ethically, if someone claims it, we need to give it back."

After donating her labor at the food bank Feb. 20, Dodd picked out about 10 cans of soup, some linguine, milk, juice and eggs and headed in her Subaru to her Centreville apartment.

Ed Demoney, president of Food for Others, said there is no way his group, which hands out 100,000 pounds of food a month, can tell where the can came from because it takes donations from many sources, including grocery stores, Boy Scout troops, church food drives and individuals.

"It is a fairly odd situation," said



BY ARIS ECONOMOPOULOS—THE WASHINGTON POST

Jeanna Dodd with the soup can she brought home that turned out to be filled with about \$7,000 in jewelry.

food bank volunteer Sue Federico, who answered the phone yesterday when Dodd called to ask if anyone had reported the missing jewelry. "We have never had anything like this come up."

Dodd and her roommate have three theories about how they ended up with the jewelry-filled can: The owner knowingly donated it to the food bank, hoping to give an unexpected gift to a needy family; someone died and a relative cleaning out the kitchen unknowingly donated the can; or the owner mistakenly gave it up and now is desperately trying to find out who has it.

Staff members at the food bank have been looking through their stock for other cans of cream of asparagus. Yesterday evening, they found one and quickly opened it up.

Said Demoney: "There was just soup."

Campbell's Can Yields Riches Without a Soupcon of Warning

Thank You From Over the Years

Many months ago, I wrote to thank any and all persons involved in the food program. I write, not only for myself, but for many persons who have told me how wonderful it is. Some of the people have said, without it, they would have a very hard time making it from week to week. I feel it is not only the food that is important, but the fact that someone cares. I wish to thank you who created the program. Someone will bless you. From, Jill

My children and I came by your Prosperity Avenue location on Monday and received a wonderful array of food for our family. From our trip in the car home during which we ate most of a loaf of bread, through each meal from then on we've been rejoicing. You've treated us to such a delicious variety of ingredients to chose from to make tasty meals. Now my husband doesn't feel he has to skip meals to reserve enough food for the rest of us, so he is eating better, and therefore fueling his mind so that he can perform at work better as a result. This help has been available at the perfect time to get us through a lean time. The other bit of good news in all of this is that my husband got a new job recently, a financial recover is in our not-too-distant future. Meanwhile, thanks so much for your timely help and God bless you in your service to the community. Sincerely, Carol

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for helping us with a "food line." I live in Springfield Gardens apts. I just moved in recently. You help us out 3 days a week. It is really wonderful. I am on SSI (disability) and your generosity helps me out so much. Thank you, Mary

Client stories

September 12, 2005

In September we had a visit from a client that we hadn't seen in a while. This single mother of two school age children lives in Burke and works for Fairfax County. With rising gas prices, she was no longer able to make ends meet. After eating nothing but rice and canned vegetables for two weeks, she had to seek help for her children. "Every penny I make goes into my gas tank," she told us. "I have just been trying to stand on my own two feet, but it's getting so that I can't afford the gas it takes me to get to work." She noted in fact, that it took her several days to have spare gas to get to Food for Others to fill the referral. "I have a good job, a county job," she told us. She said over and over again how concerned she is about others but she also wonders how long she can hold on.

Spring 2005

Lisa was a coal miner in Illinois for ten years. She spent her time in underground and strip mines. She also worked in a very large factory and a hospital. Lisa had open heart surgery last summer and is no longer working. Now she benefits from food delivered to one of our street corner sites and helps FFO volunteers distribute it to her neighbors.

Winter 2005

Jim, a Food for Others client, came to us in January shortly after undergoing brain surgery. After being released from the hospital, he was unable to work on doctors orders. He was so grateful and thrilled to hear he could come back for food every month through his long, healing process.

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10-15-05

304 East Spring Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22301
October 14, 2005

Mayor Bill Euille and
Members of the City Council
City of Alexandria
City Hall
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Mayor Euille and City Council members:

As you work on next year's city budget, please consider the following:

First, I urge you to retain the one cent set-aside for open space acquisition. As land prices continue to escalate and development intensifies, we also need to be aggressive about using this funding.

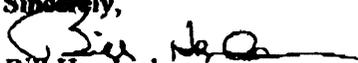
Second, although a number of worthy but expensive capital projects are in the works, we can't let these big projects squeeze out money for smaller projects that could have widespread benefits. Funding is needed, for example, to implement the Mount Vernon and Arlandria plans. Pedestrian lighting on Mount Vernon Avenue would increase evening business activity as well as the safety and comfort of people visiting the Avenue.

Third, I support increased funding for traffic calming and for efforts to boost walking and bicycling. It's important to evaluate traffic-calming projects to ensure that they are effective and to make changes when they are not. In addition, because of its strong pedestrian focus, the innovative Greening Commerce Street Initiative is worthy of your support.

Finally, in addition to increasing funding for gateway beautification activities, I ask that the city provide funding to significantly expand the very small Adopt-a-Garden program in the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Activities. This should include building active partnerships between the city and civic groups.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Bill Hendrickson

Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Members of Council:

I am speaking in support of funding for our schools. I am a fiscal conservative. I do not believe in pretending we can have things without paying for them. I am also not elected, so I am free to say what might offend others. My message is simple.

Failure Costs

For decades, our nation has failed to develop a real health care policy. This failure has led to higher costs for city employees for health insurance and for the Virginia Retirement System. This national failure falls disproportionately on local governments.

Failure Costs

For decades, our nation has pretended that we can globalize capital and globalize goods without globalizing labor. The move towards multinational corporations and free trade has left our immigration policy in shambles, and left local governments to deal with a poor and transient population who quite frankly deserve better; who deserve the opportunities that the global economy is promising. This national failure falls disproportionately on local governments.

Failure Costs

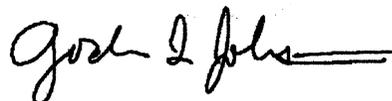
For decades, our nation has turned its back on sensible energy policies and ignored the consequences of squandering our natural resources. We knew after the oil shortages of the 70's that it was only a matter of time. We knew that the rise of world economies, primarily in Asia, combined with increasing world population, would lead to huge demands for natural resources. We failed to invest in technologies to support a sustainable future. This failure has led to higher costs for the fuel and building materials that sustain our city. This national failure falls disproportionately on local governments.

Failure Costs

But the greatest failure we could possibly make, the one that would tear apart our neighborhoods and destroy the very things that make Alexandria a great place to live, would be to fail to support our children and our schools. This failure would lead those who can to leave. In my neighborhood of Del Ray I have seen a great turnaround since my daughter entered Mt. Vernon six years ago. Parents are choosing to stay instead of moving to Fairfax or Loudin. But more importantly, failure to invest in our schools would lead those who can't leave to lose hope. And hopelessness leads to apathy, substance abuse, gangs, and violence.

Failure Costs

Thank you for your attention.



Gordon I. Johnston

PTAC Testimony

City Council Public Hearing on Budget Forecast
Saturday October 15th, 2005

On behalf of PTA Council, I would like to take this opportunity to comment on a few recent articles in the press.

Fewer students, more money (Gazette):

In the last 10 years, our nation's philosophy of education has changed from access to education to demonstrated *achievement* for every student. These standards vary greatly from state to state, and Virginia sets its bar comparatively high. The number of students expected to achieve rises each year until Spring 2014 when 100% of students will be expected to pass the annual tests. Achieving these goals requires new spending including specialized teachers, additional staff training, test specific materials and innovative programs.

According to Standard & Poor's analysis of national data, educating an ESL student currently costs 1.3 times an average student, Special Education students cost 2 times more and low income students cost 1.35 times more. A significant number of Alexandria students are classified in two, or even all three of these high risk, high cost categories in a high cost of living area. These costs continue to rise as the standards rise.

Furthermore, the graphic depicting total enrollment greatly exaggerates the decline over the past few years. ACPS enrollment has been relatively flat. A 50 student fluctuation typical for any given year is spread over 13 grades and 16 schools. One or two students per class has no affect on staffing levels.

Cost of NCLB (Washington Post):

The recent VA Department of Education study measured the unfunded mandated costs for failing AYP schools such as transportation for school choice and additional tutoring, rather than the proactive costs associated with achieving the Standards of Learning. The average cost of \$53 per student was calculated based on reports from 6 of the 128 school districts in Virginia. It depends greatly on which type of districts were included in this study, rural versus urban, their demographics, and their respective state and federal funding levels. Alexandria receives 20% of the funding authorized by Virginia's Standard of Quality while some school districts receive 80% from state funds. And SOQ's reflect a minimum funding obligation which many believe are inadequate to support the state's own accountability system. For example, the SOQ allows 1 teacher for 35 students, limited PE, Art and Music opportunities and is based on teacher salaries that are too low for Northern Virginia. Clearly, Alexandria is paying significantly more than \$53 per student to meet the challenges of NCLB.

Laptops (Various local newspapers):

Opinions represent only one side of the story. PTA Council's November 9th meeting at George Washington Middle school will include an ACPS presentation of the laptop integration plan. The public is invited to see a demonstration of the laptops, how they are being used in and out of class, along with a discussion of the justifications for the technology plan. Please join us to make an informed decision for yourself.

Citizen help

Our schools need help from all Alexandria citizens, not just parents. We need citizen support to obtain waivers to NCLB and push for realistic, appropriate goals for each student. We need advocates for adequate federal and state funding to comply with mandates and to relieve some of the fiscal burden on city property owners. We need volunteers in our schools so we can limit the number of paid tutors and still serve students with the greatest need. Lastly, we need support for the ACPS budget so that every child will succeed.

9
10-15-05

Honorable Mayor Euille, distinguished Council Members, and Citizens of Alexandria –

Good Morning. My name is Charniele Herring, and I am the Chairperson for the Commission for Women. On behalf of the Commission for Women, thank you for the opportunity to speak to a very important issue in our community and one that directly effects our Youth and Survivors of Sexual Assault.

First, as members of the community, you are all familiar with and have been supportive of the Office on Women's Sexual Assault Response and Awareness – SARA – Program which as been serving our community since 1975. SARA's services include a 24-hour Hotline, police and hospital accompaniment, court advocacy, self-defense courses, individual therapy and support groups.

In addition, the SARA Program provides presentations in our community on preventing sexual assault and domestic violence through fostering healthy relationships.

Due to the loss of a grant from the Department of Health, the SARA Program will lose its Community Outreach and Prevention Specialist if the City cannot fund a portion of this position. Currently, the SARA Program has five staff people. Only ONE and a HALF (1 ½) of these positions are funded by the City of Alexandria. All of the remaining positions are funded by federal and state grants.

Upon hearing of the loss of funding for this position, the SARA staff has searched diligently for other funding. Another grant application was submitted and, thankfully, has been accepted. However, there is a remaining need in order to keep this position, another \$17,000 is needed. There are no other funding sources available.

The SARA Outreach and Prevention Specialist, is the only SARA employee who works consistently with the youth of Alexandria in schools conducting presentations on sexual violence and issues that surround this topic including healthy relationships, sexual harassment, risk reduction, and self-esteem. Often, as a result of the Specialists' talks a student discloses that she or he has been the victim of sexual assault. For many, acknowledgment is the first step to healing. Learning that you are not alone and that the abuse is not your fault can break the silence and free an individual to seek help from the SARA Program, a teacher, a counselor or another trusted adult.

It is crucial that the students in Alexandria continue receiving this vital information not only to offer SARA services to those youth who have been sexually abused but also to PREVENT future assault and abuse through encouraging healthy interactions and working to change attitudes and beliefs about relationships early in lives of our students. In this calendar year alone Patricia Lopez, SARA's Outreach Specialist, has made 75 presentations in the Alexandria schools reaching 1,459 students. In addition, she has facilitated 39 "Chat Room" sessions with 244 students at Francis C. Hammond Middle School and George Washington Middle School.

The Chat Room is an after-school recreation program where students come to talk and learn about healthy relationships. This program has grown from a few students in the beginning to an overcrowded room of students engaging in discussion. Additionally, the Specialist handles part of SARA's case load.

While this is merely the beginning of the list of what this staff person provides to our community, the crux of the matter is this: the SARA Program, the Office on Women, the City of Alexandria, and all of our city residents affected by sexual assault cannot afford to lose this position which is part of a small, 5-person program.

After a thorough search for any alternative sources of funding, we respectfully request this \$17,000 supplemental. While we believe that this is not an unreasonable request, we know that every penny of our budget counts. *Please make our pennies in Alexandria count for the Youth of our City and Survivors of sexual assault and their loved ones.* We ask for your thoughtful consideration and your support.

Thank you very much for your attention.

ALEXANDRIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
City Council Public Hearing
City Budget
October 15, 2005

①

This time last year, the Chamber addressed Council regarding the concern in the business community about the degree of increase in the overall real estate tax bill.

This year, real estate VALUES are expected to continue to increase. We expect that this increase in assessed value will allow our real estate tax RATE to go down.

In past years, the City's budget has been developed based on projected increases in EXPENDITURES. Increases in the cost of labor, benefits and debt service have been built in to the budget first, while affordability has been considered last.

The Chamber encourages the Council to develop a budget that is properly prioritized based on available REVENUE, rather than increases in expenses.

This approach could be implemented using normal assessed values, but limiting the real estate tax RATE so that the average homeowner's real estate tax BILL does not increase by more than a percentage that does not unduly burden Alexandria homeowners. Last year's percentage increase in the average homeowner's real estate tax bill was 12%. We expect this year's increase to be much lower.

Regarding the City's Operating budget, the Chamber encourages *fiscal responsibility*.

2

We encourage the City to continue to explore any possible means to achieve cost savings through increasing efficiency of existing systems and processes. For example, we encourage you to continue to explore the possibility of combining services and facilities that are currently provided separately by both city employees and school employees to increase efficiency and reduce costs.

3

The Chamber supports the tax relief available to low income homeowners. The Chamber notes that it may be necessary to increase the amount of relief somewhat to shield these same homeowners from this year's increase.

4

The Chamber encourages the development of a workforce housing PLAN, to secure an adequate supply of workforce housing for middle income homeowners. Such a plan would make it possible for office workers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, nurses and others, who are so vital to our City's workforce, to be able to call our City home.

5

We strongly support continuing the City's policy of balancing the use of cash capital and debt financing to finance needed capital improvements. It is imperative for the city to maintain its AAA bond rating.

6

Over the past few City budgets, Council has approved several significant capital improvement projects. While all these approved projects are needed, the debt repayment and interest costs will put more pressure on real estate taxes in the near future.

As we move forward, we encourage the City to carefully consider the timing of any NEW future capital projects, beyond those already approved.

7
The Chamber has always believed that the best way to relieve the burden on residential real estate tax, the best way to generate additional revenue for our City, is to grow a healthy business community.

Almost half of the tax and non-tax revenue in our City's budget comes in because business takes place in Alexandria.

The revenue from Alexandria business helps provide for *public safety*, helps support needed programs for *youth and families*, helps support *public education* and helps *maintain our public infrastructure*.

And, the revenue from Alexandria business is revenue that does *not* have to come from real estate tax on our homes.

The Chamber supports initiatives that encourage commercial activity because a healthy business community benefits all of Alexandria.

8
We all know that Business shaped Alexandria's past, and provides financial resources today, but a healthy business community will be needed to carry out our City Council's strategic vision for Alexandria's future.

The TYPE of community envisioned in the strategic plan *depends* on having Alexandria restaurants, shops and local businesses.

The REVENUE to support the community envisioned in the strategic plan *depends* on Alexandria Business.

8 cont'
In other words, developing the exciting, vibrant Alexandria envisioned for our future *depends on Alexandria Business.*

Currently, Alexandria businesses face growing competition from new and trendy business districts in neighboring jurisdictions. When customers go to those areas for shopping and dining, the business tax dollars go with them... to help lower the real estate tax bills of homeowners in Arlington or Fairfax.

Alexandria businesses CAN compete with newer business districts and thrive, while maintaining our City's historic charm. What Alexandria businesses need are programs and initiatives that promote the ease of doing business in Alexandria, and promote a pleasant experience for customers and clients.

For this reason, it is of utmost importance that you give high priority to programs and initiatives that foster a healthy business community.

9

Business License tax represents a significant part of the City's revenue, and affects every business in the City. The Chamber is pleased that the City instituted a simplified procedure for business licenses for new businesses.

This creative solution removes a financial roadblock to job creation, and replaces it with a smooth system to encourage new businesses in Alexandria, allowing us to better compete with neighboring jurisdictions for business tax dollars.

10

Although this simplification is a significant step forward where new businesses are concerned, business license tax rates still vary between local jurisdictions. The Chamber encourages the City to review the overall structure of its Business License tax RATES and classifications, to ensure fairness and comparability with other localities.

11

The Chamber supports measures to improve transit, transportation, and traffic in our city. These measures are an important part of promoting a *livable* city. We encourage the City to continue to promote the use of the DASH system throughout Alexandria.

Last year, the Council approved a temporary bus route to move workers from the PTO area throughout Old Town. It is our understanding that this route has become one of the most popular bus routes in the City. The Chamber encourages the Council to build on this successful model to encourage office

workers to move through the City and spend their money at Alexandria businesses.

12

The Chamber supports a public safety budget that promotes the goal of maintaining a safe City. A safe City is good for business, but more importantly, a safe city is vital for the protection of our homes and families.

13

***Excellence in public education* enriches our entire City, not only in educating our citizens, but also in providing a strong work force. The Chamber is pleased that our Schools have volunteered to participate in the Governor's efficiency audit. The Chamber supports a School budget that supports excellence in educational programs.**

The Chamber will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary
We look forward to working with City staff as we go through this year's budget process, 11/2006,

Our members will be glad to assist in any way we can, to make it a successful budget season.

**School Board Budget Advisory Committee Statement
Before
Alexandria City Council
Saturday, October 15 Public Hearing**

Mr. Mayor, Madame Vice Mayor, Council Members, I am Wolf Ramm, chair of the School Board's Budget Advisory Committee. I speak in support of the Superintendent's fiscal 2007 budget projections

As you know, the Superintendent projects an increase of 8.5 percent in the Alexandria Schools operating budget. Her projection is designed to only sustain the level and quality of the education services that the School System provides. **It does not fund significant new initiatives or programs.** Most of the projected increase is driven by state and national developments, such as higher required contributions to the Virginia Retirement System, new special education mandates, increases in health insurance and energy costs, and the need to keep pace with the compensation packages being offered by districts with whom we compete for professional staff.

The Superintendent's forecast is, of course, subject to large uncertainties. Before the school budget is finalized there is much that the school system will learn about state aid, enrollment, energy and health costs, and community sentiment. Nevertheless, the BAC believes that it provides a reasonable and appropriate baseline for thinking about school system spending targets.

In thinking about the Schools' budget, we also urge you to take into account the broader context of the school system's needs and city resources. I would note in particular that:

- In fiscal 2005, Alexandria ranked third among nine surrounding districts in spending per pupil.
- However, student needs tend to be higher in Alexandria. Among the nine districts Alexandria ranks first in free or reduced-price lunch eligibility, third in English as a second language needs, and fourth in special education services.
- Moreover, the School System operates in a high cost environment. Relatively old and not ideally located schools make for high operating costs. And the high cost of living make it significantly harder to attract and retain professional staff.

I would also note that Alexandria is fortunate to be better positioned to address these needs than most jurisdictions. In particular:

- The city devotes a smaller share of its budget to education than 95 percent of the jurisdictions in Virginia. For example, the percentage of the general fund disbursed to schools is 25 percent in Alexandria, 38 percent in Arlington, and 53 percent in Fairfax county.

I will close by acknowledging that the School System's share of the city's budget has increased in recent years. The school community very much appreciates this support from City Council.

Peter Heimberg, MVCS PTA 10/15/2005 – comments to city council

Good morning. Last year the Mount Vernon Community School was allowed to adopt a modified calendar for the present school year. It is hoped that this new system will provide the opportunity for our diverse student population to have timely remediation and enrichment through intersession courses and at the same time help mitigate summer slide. Mount Vernon has just completed its first intersession with more than 95% of the student body participating. The dedicated coordinator, staff and PTA are all working very hard to insure that this program gets all the necessary attention it needs to be successful.

More than half of the students at Mount Vernon are native Spanish speakers, many of which speak only Spanish at home. Modified calendar provides the more constant development required of the large number of students who need to attain literacy in English. We did not meet AYP in 2004/2005 in this benchmark and the modified calendar should help us better meet the needs of this group and others.

While programs such as No-child rely on standardized test scores for determining a schools success, such tests are only one measure of a students capability. Furthermore, reliance on the pass/fail rate induces our educators to focus only on the students who are either failing or are in danger of failing. While these students desperately need the attention, it is crucial that those students who are performing well and above average be allowed to attain their full academic potential. Within ACPS, programs, such as TAG, are available to part of this group. Modified calendar could help here too, providing up to five weeks per year (in the form of intersessions) in which the students not requiring remediation may attend concentrated, topical classes in areas ranging from entomology and astronomy to African arts and tae kwon do. Instructors for these sessions are largely drawn from the community and do not have the burden of the standardized test looming over them. This is learning for the sake of learning.

The immensely popular dual language program at Mount Vernon offers students the opportunity to learn math and science in Spanish enabling them to become bilingual and biliterate. Over sixty English speakers are learning science and math in Spanish and last year this program finally expanded to reach its full target audience, spanning grade levels K-5. While the results on the ground seem very promising, the real success and varied benefits from this program will be measured in the years to come when the students now leaving Mount Vernon make their way into middle and high school and even college. So, too, will the effects of modified calendar be manifest over the medium and long terms. We urge the council, therefore, to continue to fund the fledgling, experimental modified calendar programs at both Tucker and Mount Vernon Schools.

Those involved are fully committed to making this modified calendar a benefit to our children and continuing this program into the next year is our number one priority.

We realize that programs like these are not free and we acknowledge that pressure from property taxpayers to reduce spending increases throughout the district can be great. But we feel strongly that the needs we have identified are real and that addressing them sooner rather than later will pay educational, sociological, and economic dividends down the road. Thank you for your time and consideration.

**ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING**

October 15, 2005

**TESTIMONY OF
CHRISTINA C. FORBES
CHAIR, ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION ON AGING
ON THE
FY 2007 BUDGET**

Good Morning. Thank you for taking comments from the many interests in our city as you prepare the budget for FY 2007.

It is a great pleasure to provide you with input from the Alexandria Commission on Aging.

The Commission has just gone through a major effort to clarify the key issues before us, set our priorities and renew our commitments to providing guidance to Council and to addressing the needs of our City's seniors.

We are also working with our delegates, including former city manager Vola Lawson, to advocate on behalf of Alexandria's and Virginia's seniors to the White House Conference on Aging.

I want to briefly:

- Paint the national picture on aging**
- Report on the major issues the Commission has identified for the near term**
- Ask for sufficient resources to fund emergency needs supported by the Office on Aging for at-risk seniors.**

1. Aging

a. Three immutable trends are on a collision course:

- i. A growing aging population**
- ii. An increase in our individual longevity**
- iii. An increase in the costs of end of life care**

b. At the same time, we have a federal governmental attitude that we should starve the beast, reduce taxes and let competitive

forces in the private sector generate the resources and benefits of our economy for all people. That ideology is on a collision course with reality.

- i. While neither Council nor Alexandria citizens can really influence the course of the national and state policies, we can walk the talk and talk the walk.**
- ii. It is clear we need to continue to bring to the attention of legislators and the publics we address, the need to care for those who have worked hard all their lives and who built the world we are inheriting.**
- iii. So, I urge you to be ambassadors for increased resources for caring for the elderly and for rethinking how we as a culture fulfill our responsibilities to the aging among us.**
- iv. The Medicare and Medicaid programs cannot be reduced or we the scenes from New Orleans will be re-enacted nationwide, with elders dying on sidewalks.**

2. Near Term Issues

- a. Alexandria is blessed with a great public heart, great government and great services for seniors.**
 - i. At the same time, the elderly senior population is growing faster than the younger segment;**
 - ii. Family structures are more fragmented at all income levels due to smaller family sizes**
 - iii. The cost of living is higher here; and**
 - iv. Virginia is one of the least generous states in the union toward seniors, and our Medicaid recipients are among the most frail in the nation.**
 - v. All of these factors put greater strains on our seniors and thus our City resources**
- b. The Commission would like to thank Council for two significant programs that need ongoing funding and focus**
 - i. The Sr. Taxi and DOT programs**
 - ii. The 1c/ set aside to preserve and create new affordable housing.**
- c. The high priority issue areas -- identified through a needs assessment done last year and a new review of priorities by the Commission this fall -- are:**
 - i. Health care as the number one issue**
 - ii. Next in line: affordable assisted living, affordable housing; transportation; home and community based**

services to allow seniors to remain in their own homes; emergency preparedness, as well as continuing challenges

- iii. The survey also revealed a general lack of knowledge of the senior services that are currently available.
 - d. The Commission will work to focus more closely on these issues and bring recommendations to Council for consideration where appropriate. We will assist the Office on Aging and other agencies – particularly in educating seniors about the City’s resources, developing affordable assisted housing, as well as providing input on a coordinated senior center.
3. **Additional Resources**
- a. **The Adult Fund – the Eleanor Aiger Fund**
 - i. Created some years ago. Funded largely from surplus DHS funds over the years
 - ii. Used as direct grants to seniors in emergencies for truly basic needs -- medication, food shelter, clothing, etc.
 - iii. Recently used to clean the homes of hoarders
 - b. Number of people served and complexity of needs has increased, now up to over \$10,000 a year, and should be around \$25,000 a year
 - c. City now allocates zero funds for this.
 - i. City staff has had to raise the money – usually yard sales
 - 1. Takes time from other clients
 - 2. Doesn’t raise very much
 - ii. These needs will increase as the senior population grows and as medication costs, particularly, increase
 - d. The Commission respectfully requests that \$25,000 be added to the AOOA budget to provide emergency funds for seniors in need. This would be a highly leveraged win-win-win for everyone: our seniors, AOOA staff and the City.
 - e. The Commission is planning to do its part to raise funds. We believe that helping to support the emergency needs of at-risk seniors is an opportunity to galvanize a wide segment of the City to contribute to support this program.

Conclusion

Thank you. I want to simply remind you that these issues can only become more critical, more important, that they affect all of us, whether we are seniors ourselves or whether we are entering the

caretaking of our parents phase of life, and that for those of us in public life, they present a growing challenge of allocation of resources.

As I say to my clients, 'we wouldn't be where we are unless you hadn't built the world we live in. We owe you a lot of gratitude and support.'

9

10-15-05

October 10, 2005

City Council
City of Alexandria
Alexandria, Virginia

RE: Public Hearing on City Budget, October 15, 2005

Dear Members of the Alexandria City Council:

I am writing in support of the work of the Community Services Board in helping my sister, Mary Anne Beauchamp, to live and work in Alexandria to the best of her ability. Mary Anne will be addressing you in person and I only regret that I will be out of town for the hearing.

My sister was born with Down Syndrome in 1952 at a time when such authorities as the Encyclopedia Britannica described her as being a "Mongolian idiot." Our parents, William and Veronica Beauchamp (longtime residents of Alexandria now both deceased), spent the rest of their lives working to understand and improve the situation of retarded citizens. Mary Anne now lives in a group home in Alexandria. She works and pays taxes. But most importantly, she has a home and friends and a place in the community. Anyone who heard her speak at the funeral of her roommate of 20 years, Ethel Miller, knows that she feels deeply and can speak directly and without embarrassment about the things that matter most in life.

In my sister's lifetime, we have all taken great strides in incorporating the mentally retarded into the mainstream and Alexandria can certainly be proud of its record. But this is a continuous and continuing effort. Mary Anne must consider herself lucky to have the support of the Community Services Board—help that she will never outgrow—but we know that there are other families whose needs cannot yet be met.

Please give the Community Services Board the money it needs to serve some of our most vulnerable citizens, the mentally retarded.

Sincerely,



Danielle M. Beauchamp
1203 Tatum Drive
Alexandria, Virginia 22307

**BFAAC TESTIMONY ON FY 2007 BUDGET
OUTLOOK**

**Alexandria, VA City Council Public Hearing
October 15, 2005**

Good morning, Mr. Mayor and Members of Council. I am here to present the views of the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee. BFAAC appreciates the opportunity to present our preliminary views on the FY 2007 budget and we urge you to continue the practice of public involvement in the budget process.

We would like to emphasize two themes today, both of which have been consistent BFAAC themes over the years: 1) the importance of adhering to sound financial policies and procedures; and 2) the importance of maintaining a long-term budget perspective.

With regard to **sound financial policies and procedures**, we note that this hearing is the first step in a revised budget calendar

intended to make the budget process more deliberative and transparent. BFAAC generally supports those objectives. We are pleased that City staff will present to Council an estimate of expenditures needed to maintain current services, as we recommended in our last report.

We urge Council to encourage and monitor the upcoming efficiency audits of individual agencies, which offer great promise for identifying ways to deliver City services more effectively and at reduced cost.

As in years past, we encourage City staff to make greater use of performance measures and we urge Council to use those measures in your budget decision-making.

Also as in years past, we urge the Council to continue to adhere to its current debt policy guidelines. The City will be at or near target borrowing capacity through FY 2009, leaving very little room to

incur additional debt without violating those guidelines. Some major new capital projects may need to be deferred or scaled back to avoid exceeding the guidelines.

With regard to **maintaining a long-term perspective**, BFAAC would like to renew its concern about the dangers of the City's heavy reliance on inherently volatile real property taxes. Despite the constraints imposed by the Commonwealth, the City needs to continue to try to diversify its revenue sources.

Because of their long-term implications, BFAAC has long urged the Council to closely scrutinize personnel expenditures, which account for most of the City's operating budget. New hires in any year will impact the budget for many years to come. Because health care costs are increasing so dramatically with no end in sight, we particularly urge the City to consider cost containment strategies in its employee health benefits; BFAAC is working on a report that

will describe and evaluate some cost-containment options available to you.

Thank you again.

Statement for Public Hearing on the FY 2007 Budget
Karen Epperson, George Mason PTA
October 15, 2005

Mr. Mayor and Members of the City Council, thank you for providing us with the opportunity at this hearing to address our interests and concerns regarding the 2007 school budget. I am here representing the George Mason Elementary School Parent/Teachers' Association.

Let me begin by thanking you for the strong support and consistent attention you have given to our public education system in the past. We know that you share our interest in ensuring that Alexandria City schools provide the highest quality education to all of our students. You yourselves have stated your desire to see ACPS schools be the best in Northern Virginia by 2009. This means that you clearly recognize that a community is measured by the degree to which it cares for its children and how deeply it is dedicated to the continued support and improvement of its education system. We believe that progress is being made toward that goal. However, given the diverse and increasing needs of our city's students, we cannot afford to loose any ground. We are present here today to urge you to support the School Board's budget for 2007.

We also note that city revenue is growing at an increasingly faster rate than the school budget. As a percentage of the total general fund the school budget in Alexandria is only 30% compared with investments of from 37 – 52% of general funds in surrounding Northern Virginia jurisdictions. This is not merely a numbers game; it represents the level of commitment that other districts can make in serving their students. It appears, for instance, that Arlington is getting better results in closing its achievement gap. Though money alone is not the answer to this, the instructional and support resources required to do this do cost extra dollars. And of course, it's not just one year of funding that makes a difference, but rather giving new initiatives time to produce results.

I know it comes as no surprise to you that the quality of our schools is highly dependent on attracting and retaining high quality teachers to the system. We must ensure that our salaries and benefits remain competitive. Keeping class sizes small in order for our teachers and staff to be able to address the needs of individual children is essential to their success. There are many and varied resource considerations that go into the continued improvement of the learning environment that our students encounter each day as they cross the threshold of the schools of this city. Suffice it to say that, from my observations, we are still falling short of meeting those multiple and varied needs and must rededicate ourselves to doing so.

This has been said before, but repetition does not change its truth: our communities are often judged by the quality of their schools. Further, the decisions we make about supporting our students and the schools of this community have a broader impact that goes beyond the borders of our city. Many of our statesmen and women have recognized

that the fate of this country depends largely upon the education of our citizens. The stewardship with which you have been entrusted provides you with the opportunity to ensure that this important public trust is honored.

We are also reminded daily in our schools about the gifts that education can reap for our children. The esteemed educator and leader, Mary McLeod Bethune put it simply "The whole world opened to me when I learned to read."

We respect the fact that our community has many needs that must be addressed. Still, there is no better investment in our city's present and its future than in continued support for better than adequate resources for our children's education.

Thank you very much for listening today.

Del Ray Citizens Association

9
10-15-05

PO Box 2233

ALEXANDRIA VA 22301

ESTABLISHED 1954

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
James K. Hartmann, City Manager

From: Laurie J. MacNamara, President

Date: October 14, 2005

Subject: Request for Public Comments On Budget Priorities

In response to the request by City Council for citizens to provide input for the upcoming budget process, the executive committee of the Del Ray Citizens Association compiled the following list of budget priorities for Del Ray.

We appreciate the City's continued emphasis on neighborhood-oriented investments in Alexandria. As one of the City's most desirable neighborhoods, Del Ray is a thriving area for families to make their homes and for small businesses to prosper. In support of this continued emphasis, we would respectfully request consideration of the following high-priority improvement projects that directly impact the quality of life in Del Ray:

- Consistent with the recently-approved Mt. Vernon Avenue Plan, budgeting for new, pedestrian-oriented elements along Mt. Vernon Avenue. As part of the FY 2007 budget, DRCA requests that the city allocate enough funds to create three demonstration blocks for new lighting, new brick sidewalks, street trees and other streetscape improvements. These demonstration blocks would serve as a model for future development along the rest of the Avenue. Coupled with the completion of the utility "undergrounding," these efforts will enhance the streetscape for residents and businesses alike.
- Also consistent with the Mt. Vernon Avenue Plan, DRCA requests that the City continue to fund the open space fund, so that acquisition of DRCA-endorsed open space priorities (at 1 and 7 E. Del Ray Avenue, 2207 Mt. Vernon Avenue, and 2311 Mt. Vernon Avenue, all ranking at or near the top of the Open Space Steering Committee's recommended property list) stand a greater chance of being realized in the face of development pressures.
- Budgeting for significant improvements to City-owned space at the northern gateway to Del Ray. These improvements should include further landscaping enhancements to the successful Duncan Library expansion, upgrading the Commonwealth Avenue medians, and a rebuild of the sub-standard tennis court at Mt. Vernon. All are all excellent examples of needed improvements to this area highly valued by Del Ray residents and visitors alike.

We look forward to working with you during the budgetary process. Please contact me at 703-946-1532 with any questions that you may have.

9
10-15-05



<lauriedrca@aol.com>

10/14/2005 05:08 PM

Please respond to
<lauriedrca@aol.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,
<council@joycewoodson.net>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,
<council@krupicka.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor,
Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,
rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov, jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov,
tom.raycroft@alexandriava.gov)

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rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov, jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov,
tom.raycroft@alexandriava.gov)**

Time: [Fri Oct 14, 2005 17:08:59] IP Address: [68.83.208.42]

Response requested: []

First Name: Laurie
Last Name: MacNamara
Street Address: 304 E. Spring Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703-946-1532
Email Address: lauriedrca@aol.com

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Comments:

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We look forward to working with you during the budgetary process. Please contact me at 703-946-1532 with any questions that you may have.

Laurie MacNamara
President
Del Ray Citizens Association
lauriedrca@aol.com
delraycitizens@yahoo.com
www.delraycitizen.org



<whendrick@aol.com>

10/14/2005 02:19 PM

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10-15-05

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>, <council@joycewoodson.net>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>

cc

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Time: [Fri Oct 14, 2005 14:19:47] IP Address: [205.188.116.74]

Response requested:

First Name: Bill
Last Name: Hendrickson
Street Address: 304 E. Spring St.
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703-519-9410
Email Address: whendrick@aol.com

Dear Mayor Euille and City Council members:

As you work on next year's city budget, please consider the following:

First, I urge you to retain the one cent set-aside for open space acquisition. As land prices continue to escalate and development intensifies, we also need to be aggressive about using this funding.

Second, although a number of worthy but expensive capital projects are in the works, we can't let these big projects squeeze out money for

smaller projects that could have widespread benefits. Funding is needed, for example, to implement the Mount Vernon and Arlandria plans. Pedestrian lighting on Mount Vernon Avenue would increase evening business activity as well as the safety and comfort of people visiting the Avenue.

Comments: Third, I support increased funding for traffic calming and for efforts to boost walking and bicycling. It's important to evaluate traffic-calming projects to ensure that they are effective and to make changes when they are not. In addition, because of its strong pedestrian focus, the innovative Greening Commerce Street Initiative is worthy of your support.

Finally, in addition to increasing funding for gateway beautification activities, I ask that the city provide funding to significantly expand the very small Adopt-a-Garden program in the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Activities. This should include building active partnerships between the city and civic groups.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bill Hendrickson

9

10-15-05



<candjziegler@hotmail.com>

10/14/2005 02:22 PM

Please respond to
<candjziegler@hotmail.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,
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rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov, jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov,
tom.raycroft@alexandriava.gov)**

Time: [Fri Oct 14, 2005 14:22:12] IP Address: [68.85.235.174]

Response requested: []

First Name: Charles
Last Name: Ziegler
Street Address: 1201 St. Stephens Road
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703 370 0648
Email Address: candjziegler@hotmail.com

I am unable to attend the public budget hearing scheduled for this Saturday, October 15. Therefore, I am taking this opportunity to voice my strong support for inclusion into the city budget adequate funds to maintain and upgrade the various historic structures owned by the City of Alexandria and administered by the Office of Historic Alexandria.

I firmly believe that the citizens of Alexandria expect the City to be a responsible steward of the historic sites and buildings it owns. The history of our City is important to the residents; in fact, it is cited as a major reason that people chose to live

in Alexandria. Principle C of The Strategic Plan of Alexandria (2004-2015) is devoted entirely to the importance of the history of our City.

In addition, businesses locate in Alexandria because it is an attractive, historic city. This attractiveness and historic ambience also directly affects tourism, which is vital to our City's economy.

Comments:

The historic structures and sites owned by the City of Alexandria are in need of regular maintenance and of significant capital improvements. Adequate funds are needed in the Capital Facilities Maintenance Plan for 2007-2011 for the historic sites and structures, or there is a risk of serious deterioration of these valuable properties. In addition, large projects need funding through the capital improvement project.

The allocation of an adequate level of funding should be viewed not merely as an expenditure but as an investment that will pay dividends in increased levels of tourism, enhanced attractiveness to businesses, and an improved municipal ambience for both visitors and residents. I urge you to fully fund the budget requests of the Office of Historic Alexandria.

Yours sincerely,
Charles Ziegler

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10-15-05



"Agee, Mary"
<magee@nvfs.org>
10/14/2005 10:49 AM

To <jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject testimony for Item #9: public hearing

Dear Ms. Henderson: Attached is testimony from Northern Virginia Family Service addressing agenda item #9: Public Hearing to Obtain Citizens Input on the City's Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 Budget and Capital Improvement Program. Thank you. Mary

Mary Agee
President & CEO
Northern Virginia Family Service
10455 White Granite Drive, Suite 100
Oakton, VA 22124
tel (703) 219-2100
fax (703) 385-5261



Alexandria Council Letter.doc



Northern
Virginia
Family
Service

October 14, 2005

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of City Council,

Mary B. Agee, ACSW
President and CEO

On behalf of Northern Virginia Family Service, thank you for your continuing commitment to programs that support early childhood development, housing for all, and access to critical medications for low-income residents. Northern Virginia Family Service delivers a range of services to Alexandria residents through a multitude of programs, most specifically: ***Healthy Families Alexandria (HFA)***, the ***Alexandria Transitional Housing Program*** and the ***Alexandria Medication Access Program***.

Administrative Office
Oakton
10455 White Granite Drive
Suite 100
Oakton, VA 22124
703.385.3267
703.385.5176 FAX

I first want to thank you for your steadfast commitment to ***Healthy Families Alexandria*** and for the addition of \$13,090 to the HFA grant (through the Children's Fund) in FY 2006. HFA has provided quality, comprehensive home visiting services to vulnerable first time parents since 1993 to assure positive outcomes for some of Alexandria's most vulnerable young children and their families. Last year, we served 245 overburdened families. We are, however, unable to meet the demand for program services and each month we can only enroll about a third of the families who are referred to us.

Alexandria
5249 Duke Street
Suite 308
Alexandria, VA 22304
703.370.3223
703.751.5197 FAX

Healthy Families is a cost-effective way to bring families and resources together to ensure that children grow up healthy and ready to learn. We look forward to your continued investment in this proven successful program.

Arlington
3401 Columbia Pike
Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22204
703.892.1153
703.892.0895 FAX

The ***Alexandria Transitional Housing Program*** provides individuals and families a chance to begin with a fresh outlook so they can become self-reliant. They are provided safe housing, access to seminars and programs on budget management and other topics, and support from a case manager. We have demonstrated a 100% success rate of achieving self-sufficiency after two years in this program. Given the potential change in the rental market in Alexandria, NVFS anticipates a huge increase in demand for these services. We would ask for your continued support in assuring families the opportunity to create successful futures.

Herndon
1043 Sterling Road
Unit 201, Building 7
Herndon, VA 20170
703.689.0208
703.481.0279 FAX

NVFS is implementing the ***Alexandria Medication Access Program***, a replication of its very successful medication assistance programs already operational throughout northern Virginia. Utilizing targeted case management and specialized software support, AMAP will assist low-income persons lacking prescription coverage in accessing free, ongoing chronic medication directly from over 150 pharmaceutical companies. To ensure broad access, NVFS is partnering with key Alexandria human service providers, including the Department of Human Services, the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Christ Church, Inova Health System and ALIVE.

Loudoun
2 Pidgeon Hill Drive
Suite 430
Sterling, VA 20165
703.404.2021
703.404.2415 FAX

Manassas
9842 Business Way
Manassas, VA 20110
703.392.4901
703.392.0052 FAX

The part-time AMAP case worker will be housed at the Ladrey Senior High Rise. NVFS hopes to secure funding to increase staffing to two case managers based on projected community need. We anticipate serving 200 individuals in the first year, each of whom will receive approximately \$700 in free medication.

Springfield
6315 Backlick Road
Suite 301
Springfield, VA 22150
703.913.5478
703.913.5479 FAX

Again, thank you for partnering with Northern Virginia Family Service. We look forward to our continuing collaboration with the City of Alexandria to provide residents with these important services.

Woodbridge
2200 Opitz Boulevard
Suite 100
Woodbridge, VA 22191
703.490.3646
703.490.4954 FAX

Sincerely,

Online
www.nvfs.org

Mary Agee
President and CEO



9
10-15-05

TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT:

The attached letter is to be read into the public record
at the public hearing on October 15, 2005 and considered as
part of the budget process.


Jean Marie Antone

704 South Fairfax Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
October 12, 2005

To the Mayor and City Council
City of Alexandria
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members
of the City Council:

The City's budget has increased 47 percent from 2000 to 2005 and is projected to increase to \$566 million for 2006--an astounding 59 percent increase for the past seven years for a city with a population of approximately 138,000.

And yet, a basic service, such as cleaning the streets, both residential and commercial, of Old Town and other areas of the city have suffered from a lack of funding. The Sanitation Department has a total of eight machines for the entire city: three MedVac machines; one water truck; three curb sweepers (one of which is in the shop for repairs); and one large sweeper. This amount of equipment cannot possibly be enough to keep the streets clean--which should be a top priority of the city. In addition, tourist traffic has increased to an all-time high for Alexandria, which means there will be more waste, and an even greater need to keep the city sparkling. Thus, the streets are dirty, filled with litter and debris that remains from week to week. I am paying over \$9,000. in real estate taxes and sweep my own street because the city does not. There appears to be a schedule that is much too infrequent for street cleaning; I rarely see a street or curb sweeper on the residential streets south of King Street or on the other side of Washington Street.

In addition, the old trash cans that have been on the streets for at least 23 years are a disgrace. They are dirty with peeling paint on the outside and old food on the inside. All of them are not scheduled for replacement until 2008.

It, therefore, appears that the Mayor and City Council are focused on spending for flashier projects, such as \$3 million for new signage and \$5 million for a sports complex--in a city where the school population is declining.

October 11, 2005

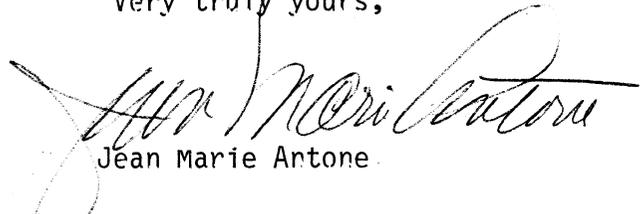
Page 2

If the Mayor and the City Council want to encourage tourism, rather than spending \$3 million for new signs, it would be better to allocate assets towards funding for new machinery to clean the streets and replace the old trash cans now rather than waiting until 2008.

Tourists like to visit historic areas that are clean and in pristine condition, not where trash and litter are the norm and where cigarette butts rather than flowers fill the tree beds.

The taxpayers of this city have a right to a city government that practices fiscal restraint, and in doing so, provides basic services, such as clean streets, particularly in the residential areas of Old Town and other areas of the city, rather than funding projects of questionable fiscal merit.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jean Marie Antone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jean Marie Antone

This letter is to be read into the record at the public hearing on October 15, 2005 and considered as part of the budget process.
