

*City of Alexandria, Virginia*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 4, 2007

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER *J*

SUBJECT: FY 2008 BUDGET ADOPTION

**ISSUE:** Consideration of the Proposed Annual Operating Budget for FY 2008 (including Schools) and the Proposed Capital Improvements Program for FY 2008-2013 (including the Schools CIP).

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council consider adopting the FY 2008 General Fund Revenue and Expenditure Operating Budget in the amount of \$519,494,732, designations of fund balance of \$26,713,484, and FY 2008-2013 Capital Improvement Program of \$388,750,427 (City share). This budget is based on the City Manager's FY 2008 Proposed Budget of \$508,897,598 with the following amendments derived from the "possible consensus" option developed at the May 1, 2007 preliminary add/delete work session.

This memorandum is organized into five sections as follows:

- I. Expenditure Budget Changes
- II. Revenue Budget Changes
- III. Fund Balance Designations
- IV. Contingent Reserves
- V. Transfer from the Non-Departmental Account
- VI. Capital Improvement Program (CIP)
- VII. Summary of FY 2008 General Fund Budget

**I. Expenditure Budget Changes:**

Technical Expenditure Adjustments to Proposed Budget (Budget Memo #32)		
\$	30,087	Animal Welfare League contract inflationary increase
\$	(26,917)	Commonwealth's Attorney impact of increase in State revenue
\$	(12,791)	Other Public Safety decrease in required supplement for Adult Probation and Parole
\$	(26,742)	Health Department withdrawn supplemental request
\$	(11,000)	Court Service Unit increase in State revenues
\$	123,800	DHS increase in Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) funding – Budget Memo #57
\$	(15,000)	Cash Capital decrease
<b>\$</b>	<b>61,437</b>	<b>Total Technical Expenditure Adjustments</b>

**Expenditure Budget Changes, continued:**

<b>Changes to Proposed City General Fund Operating Budget Expenditures</b>	
\$ 2,770,000	1.5% Cost-of-living Adjustment (COLA) for City Employees (after eliminating the Q-step) – Budget Memo #'s 19, 20, 21, 34 and 61
\$ 877,000	DHS Programs (add to Contingent Reserves) – Budget Memo # 13
\$ 780,000	Red Light Cameras – Budget Memo # 24
\$ 80,000	100 Year-old Buildings Study – Budget Memo # 47
\$ 75,000	Inventory of Alexandria Global Warming Emissions
\$ 65,000	Sheriff (Deputy Sheriff Position) – Budget Memo # 54
\$ 240,000	Sheriff Deputy Position Reclassification – Budget Memo # 54
\$ 49,000	Environmental Action Plan Efforts
\$ 900,000	Transportation Improvements – Budget Memo # 53
\$ (40,000)	Decrease in Funds to Contingent Reserves
<b>\$ 5,796,000</b>	<b>Net City Expenditure Increases and Reductions</b>

<b>Change in Proposed Transfer to Alexandria City Public Schools Operating Budget</b>	
\$ 2,650,000	Increase in the General Fund transfer to the Alexandria Schools Operating Budget for a total transfer of \$158,300,000 (FY 2008 Proposed Operating Budget, p. 9-3 and Budget Memos # 12, 16, 29, and 71)
\$ 2,089,697	1.5% Cost-of-living Adjustment (COLA) for School Employees
<b>\$ 4,739,697</b>	<b>Total Schools Transfer Option</b>

**\$ 10,597,134 Total Expenditure Budget Increases**

**II. Revenue Budget Changes:**

<b>Technical Revenue Re-estimates to Proposed Budget ( Budget Memo #33)</b>	
<u>FY 2008</u>	
\$1.9 million	Increase in Real Property Tax Revenue estimate
\$1.7 million	Increase in estimate of Intergovernmental Revenues
\$0.3 million	Increase in Transient Lodging Tax Revenue estimate
\$0.2 million	Increase in estimate of interest income on General Fund investments
(\$0.2) million	Decrease in estimate of Bank Franchise Fee Tax Revenue
(\$0.2) million	Decrease in estimate of Restaurant Food Tax Revenue
(\$0.2) million	Decrease in estimate of Sale of Impound Lot Vehicles Revenue
<b>\$3.5 million</b>	<b>Sub-total FY 2008 Technical Revenue Re-estimates</b>
<u>FY 2007</u>	
\$0.4 million	Increase in estimate of Intergovernmental Revenues
(\$0.1) million	Decrease in Transient Lodging Tax Revenue estimate
(\$0.1) million	Decrease in estimate of interest income on General Fund investments
(\$0.2) million	Decrease in estimate of Bank Franchise Fee Tax Revenue
<b>\$0.0 million</b>	<b>Sub-total FY 2007 Technical Revenue Re-estimates</b>

**\$ 3,500,000 Total Technical Revenue Re-estimates**

<b>Changes in Proposed Tax and Fee Rates and New Revenues</b>	
\$ 5,069,718	Increase in Real Estate Tax Revenues due to 1.5 cent tax rate increase effective for both payments in FY 2008
\$ 180,000	Increase Administrative fees for Delinquent Personal Property Tax Collection
\$ 200,000	Eliminate Tax Exemption for Federal Employees that Use Hotels and Pay Directly
\$ 900,000	Start New State Vehicle Registration Fee - Budget Memo # 53
\$ 750,000	Red Light Camera Revenues - Budget Memo # 24
\$ (2,584)	Miscellaneous Reduction to Balance the Budget

**\$ 7,097,134 Total Increase in Tax and Fee Rates and New Revenues**

**\$ 10,597,134 Total Revenue Increases**

III. *Fund Balance Designations*

<b>Changes in Proposed Fund Balance Designations</b>	
<b>Designated</b>	
\$ 400,000	National Harbor-related
\$ -	Other Post-Employment Benefits
\$ 850,000	FY 2009 CIP Artificial Turf Field – Budget Memo #'s 52 and 68
\$ 500,000	CSA Designation of Fund Balance
\$ 300,000	FY 2009 CIP Trash Cans/Lights
\$ 25,000	King Street Garden
\$ 100,000	City Trees
\$ 2,175,000	Designated Total
<b>Undesignated</b>	
\$ 342,504	Contribution to <u>Undesignated</u> Fund Balance in FY 2008
\$ 342,504	Undesignated Total
<b>\$ 2,517,504</b>	<b>Changes in Fund Balance (as of the end of FY 2007)</b>

IV. *Contingent Reserves*

<b>Changes and Reservations of Proposed Council Contingent Reserves</b>	
\$ 375,000	Contingent Reserves in the Proposed Budget
\$ 837,000	Net Amount Added by Council Member Adds in Section I
\$ (90,000)	Gang Prevention Coordinator (Budget Memo # 22)
\$ (877,000)	DHS Set Aside (Budget Memo #13)
\$ (130,000)	Net Reduction in Undesignated Contingent Reserves
<b>\$ 245,000</b>	<b>Remaining Contingent Reserves</b>

V. *Transfer from the Non-Departmental Account*

<b>Transfer of Fringe Benefits from the Non-Departmental Account to Departments</b>	
\$ -0-*	Health Insurance budget reallocation, which reflects an updated and lower estimate of the City's cost of providing health insurance to its employees made after the departmental budget estimates were established for use in the City Manager's proposed budget.

\* Net Cost

VI. *Capital Improvement Program Budget Changes*

<b>Changes in the Cash Capital Transfer to the CIP</b>	
\$ 900,000	Transfer for Transit Improvements to be Funded by Vehicle Registration Fee Increase from Section I. (Budget Memo #53)
\$ (15,000)	Technical Expenditure Adjustments from Section I. (Budget Memo #32)
<b>\$ 885,000</b>	<b>Total FY 2008 Cash Capital Transfer to the CIP</b>

**VII. Summary of the FY 2008 General Fund Budget**

<b>Summary of Growth in FY 2008 Budget</b>	
<b>\$ 508,897,598</b>	FY 2008 Proposed General Fund Operating Revenues and Expenditures
<b>\$ 10,597,134</b>	Total Change in City General Fund Operating Budget Expenditures over Proposed
<b>\$ 519,494,732</b>	Resulting FY 2008 General Fund Operating Budget
<b>\$ 2,517,504</b>	Change in Fund Balance (at the end of FY 2007)
<b>\$ 9,765,564</b>	Resulting Cash Capital Funding of the FY 2008-FY 2013 CIP

**VIII. Comparisons to the FY 2007 Amended and FY 2008 Proposed Budgets**

	<b>City</b>	<b>Schools</b>	<b>Total</b>
FY 2007 Amended General Fund Budget	\$347.8	\$149.9	\$497.7
FY 2008 Target and Proposed General Fund Budget	\$353.4	\$155.5	\$508.9
FY 2008 Possible Consensus General Fund Budget	\$359.3	\$160.2	\$519.5
Amount Over FY 2008 Target	\$5.9	\$4.7	\$10.6
Percent Over FY 2008 Target	1.67%	3.02%	2.08%
Amount Over FY 2007 Amended	\$11.5	\$10.3	\$21.8
Percent Over FY 2007 Amended	3.31%	6.87%	4.38%

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**FY 2008 BUDGET AND CIP ADOPTION MOTIONS**  
**ADOPTED MAY 7, 2007 (Released 5/8/07)**

Recommendation: That City Council approve the following three motions:

A. I move the adoption of a FY 2008 General Fund operating budget overall expenditure levels of \$519,494,732 and revenue levels of \$519,494,732, which represent a 4.38% increase over the FY 2007 operating budget and reflect:

1 a City government General Fund operating budget of \$359,255,035, which incorporates \$61,437 in technical City expenditure adjustments and \$5,796,000 in net City expenditure increases from the FY 2008 Proposed Budget as specified in docket item #2 section I, and represents a 3.3% increase over the adjusted FY 2007 City government operating budget,

**Technical Expenditure Re-estimates to Proposed Budget**

\$	30,087	Animal Welfare League contract inflationary increase
\$	(26,917)	Commonwealth's Attorney impact of increase in State revenue
\$	(12,791)	Other Public Safety decrease in required supplement for Adult Probation and Parole
\$	(26,742)	Health Department withdrawn supplemental request
\$	(11,000)	Court Service Unit increase in State revenues
\$	123,800	DHS increase in Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) funding – Budget Memo #57
\$	(15,000)	Cash Capital decrease
\$	<b>61,437</b>	<b>Total Technical Expenditure Adjustments</b>

**Changes to Proposed City General Fund Operating Budget Expenditures**

\$	2,770,000	1.5% Cost-of-living Adjustment (COLA) for City Employees (after eliminating the Q-step) – Budget Memo #'s 19, 20, 21, 34 and 61
\$	877,000	DHS Programs (add to Contingent Reserves) – Budget Memo # 13
\$	780,000	Red Light Cameras – Budget Memo # 24
\$	80,000	100 Year-old Buildings Study – Budget Memo # 47
\$	75,000	Inventory of Alexandria Global Warming Emissions
\$	65,000	Sheriff (Deputy Sheriff Position) – Budget Memo # 54
\$	240,000	Sheriff Deputy Position Reclassification – Budget Memo # 54
\$	49,000	Environmental Action Plan Efforts
\$	900,000	Transportation Improvements – Budget Memo # 53
\$	(40,000)	Decrease in Funds to Contingent Reserves
\$	<b>5,796,000</b>	<b>Net City Expenditure Increases and Reductions</b>

2 a transfer to the Schools of \$160,239,697 from the General Fund to the School Operating Fund, which reflects a 6.9% increase over the FY 2007 General Fund transfer, as well as incorporates a \$4,739,697 addition to the FY 2008 Proposed General Fund as specified in docket item #2 section I,

**Change in Proposed Transfer to Alexandria City Public Schools Operating Budget**

\$	2,650,000	Increase in the General Fund transfer to the Alexandria Schools Operating Budget (FY 2008 Proposed Operating Budget, p. 9-3 and Budget Memos # 12, 16, 29, and 71)
\$	2,089,697	1.5% Cost-of-living Adjustment (COLA) for School Employees
\$	<b>4,739,697</b>	<b>Total Schools Transfer</b>

3 a COLA of 1.5% for City and Schools employees, including the City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk, Clerk of the Court, Commonwealth Attorney, and for City Council Aides, and the Mayor's Aides; and approval of merit step increases for all eligible employees,

48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62

4 an increase in FY 2008 revenues of \$10,597,134, which includes \$3,500,000 in added revenues due to re-estimates; \$5,069,718 due to a real estate rate increase of 1.5 cents to 83.0 cents per \$100 per assessed value; and \$2,027,416 in other tax and fee adjustments, as specified in docket item #2 section II,

51 **Technical Revenue Re-estimates to the Proposed Budget (Budget Memo #33)**

52 \$1,900,000 Increase in Real Property Tax Revenue estimate  
 53 \$1,700,000 Increase in estimate of Intergovernmental Revenues  
 54 \$300,000 Increase in Transient Lodging Tax Revenue estimate  
 55 \$200,000 Increase in estimate of interest income on General Fund investments  
 56 (\$200,000) Decrease in estimate of Bank Franchise Fee Revenue  
 57 (\$200,000) Decrease in estimate of Restaurant Food Tax Revenue  
 58 (\$200,000) Decrease in estimate of Sale of Impound Lot Vehicles Revenue  
 59 **\$3,500,000 Sub-total FY 2008 Technical Revenue Re-estimates**

61 **Changes in Proposed Tax and Fee Rates and New Revenues**

62 63 \$ 5,069,718 Increase in Real Estate Tax Revenues due to 1.5 cent tax rate increase effective for both payments  
 64 in FY 2008  
 65 \$ 180,000 Increase Administrative fees for Delinquent Personal Property Tax Collection  
 66 \$ 200,000 Eliminate Tax Exemption for Federal Employees that Use Hotels and Pay Directly  
 67 \$ 900,000 Start New State Vehicle Registration Fee - Budget Memo # 53  
 68 \$ 750,000 Red Light Camera Revenues - Budget Memo # 24  
 69 \$ (2,584) Reduction to Balance the Budget in Non-tax Revenue  
 70 **\$ 7,097,134 Total Increase in Tax and Fee Rates and New Revenues**  
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5 a change in reservations of proposed Council Contingent Reserves as specified in docket item #2 section IV, and

74 **Changes and Reservations of Proposed Council Contingent Reserves**

76 \$ 375,000 Contingent Reserves in the Proposed Budget  
 77 \$ 837,000 Net Amount Added by Council Member Adds  
 78 \$ (90,000) Gang Prevention Coordinator (Budget Memo # 22)  
 79 \$ (877,000) DHS Set Aside (Budget Memo #13)  
 80 **\$ (130,000) Net Reduction in Undesignated Contingent Reserves**  
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6 a FY 2008 transfer to the Capital Projects Fund of \$9,765,564, which reflects \$885,000 in net additions to the FY 2008 Proposed CIP, as specified in docket item #2 section VI.

(See Item B below for details)

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B. I move the adoption of the FY 2008 to FY 2013 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) totalling \$389,050,427 which, when compared to the FY 2008 to FY 2013 Proposed CIP, reflects an addition of \$5,685,000 over six years and establishes planned funding levels for each of the six years of the capital plan. This motion reflects the addition of \$900,000 per year for transportation capital improvements and a \$15,000 technical downward re-estimate for FY 2008 only. The adopted totals in the CIP will be \$66,125,350 in FY 2008 and \$900,000 more than the proposed budget in fiscal years 2009 through 2013.

89 **Changes in Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP)**

90 \$ 5,400,000 Transfer for Transportation Capital Improvements to be Funded by Vehicle Registration Fee  
 Increase (\$900,000 per year) (Budget Memo #53)  
 91 \$ (15,000) Technical Expenditure Adjustments (Budget Memo #32)  
 92 **\$ 5,385,000 Total Changes in Proposed CIP**  
 93

		<u>Adopted</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
94			
95	FY 2008	\$66,125,350	\$64,940,350
96	FY 2009	\$101,053,243	\$100,153,243
97	FY 2010	\$100,230,672	\$99,330,672
98	FY 2011	\$49,171,320	\$48,271,320
99	FY 2012	\$35,370,311	\$34,470,311
100	FY 2013	\$37,099,532	\$36,199,531

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C.	I move changes in the Proposed General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance Designations, resulting in the addition of \$2,175,000, as specified in docket item #2 section III.
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**Changes in Proposed Fund Balance Designations**

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**Designated**

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\$ 400,000 National Harbor-related

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\$ - Other Post-Employment Benefits

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\$ 850,000 FY 2007 CIP Artificial Turf Field – Budget Memo #'s 52 and 68 (revised from docket item)

110

\$ 500,000 CSA Designation of Fund Balance

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\$ 300,000 FY 2008 CIP Trash Cans/Lights (revised from docket item)

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\$ 25,000 King Street Garden

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\$ 100,000 City Trees

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\$ 2,175,000 Designated Total

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**Undesignated**

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\$ 342,504 Estimated Contribution to Undesignated Fund Balance in FY 2008

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\$ 342,504 Undesignated Total

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\$ 2,517,504 **Estimated Changes in Fund Balance (as of the end of FY 2007)**

120

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5-7-07



<carriebeach@mac.com>

05/07/2007 09:39 AM

Please respond to  
<carriebeach@mac.com>

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

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: School Funding



Time: [Mon May 07, 2007 09:39:50] IP Address: [206.113.148.2]

Response requested:

**First Name:** Carrie  
**Last Name:** Beach  
**Street Address:** 305 E Windsor Ave  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:** 7035490212  
**Email Address:** carriebeach@mac.com  
**Subject:** School Funding

**Comments:** Dear Mayor and Members of City Council:  
The decisions before you are not easy ones as competition for scare City resources is fierce. But let me ask that you please consider NOT severely reducing the quality of education offered in our public schools by giving the superintendent a budget that just isn't workable. The Superintendent has already pared the budget down to a very responsible and bare bones level. All that's left to reduce now is teachers. And each teacher you un-fund will result in the following:  
---higher student teacher ratios and lower test performance, and lets face it, more class management in place of learning and enrichment  
---a more difficult working environment for the teachers, further reducing the attractiveness of our schools for good teachers who want to teach not act as a classroom policeman  
---more pronounced divisions in our City down racial and economic lines as more privileged students leave the public system for the private sytem. The impact of this will be felt both in the schools themselves here and now along academic and social lines, but also far into the future as our students become adults and face profoundly different prospects and a built in sense of ethnic and economic divisiveness. Please

consider the social fabric we're weaving now for the future. Please consider funding the Superintendent's budget to the highest degree possible.

Thank you for all your work on behalf of our City.

Sincerely,  
Carrie Beach



"Chet and Sabra Avery"  
<cs.avery@comcast.net>

05/07/2007 01:05 PM

To "William Euille" <alexvamayor@aol.com>, "Rob Krupicka"  
<krobk@aol.com>, "Paul Smedberg" <smedbergpc@aol.com>,  
<Michele.Evans@alexandriava.gov>,  
cc "Pam DeCandio" <pdecandio@burkeandherbert.com>, "Marlin  
Lord" <mglaiia@aol.com>

bcc

Subject Please Support The KingStreet Garden Park Budget Item

As a member of the King Street Garden Park Board and the King Street Task Force, I am writing to request your support for the \$25,000 budget request contained on CouncilmanGaines Add-Delete List for the KingStreet Garden Park. Ludwig Gaines has shown outstanding leadership on the King Street Task Force and as a member of the King Street Garden Park Board as he recognizes how important the King Street Garden Park is in making the King Street Metro Area the attractive portal it should be for visitors and residents of Alexandria. Both the KSTF and KsGP are committed to making this critical area a welcoming place and center for celebrations for visitors and for residents of our City and will use this budget request well to accomplish this objective.

I look forward to receiving a positive response and favorable action from you on this request.

Thank you for all you do.

Warm Regards,  
Chet Avery

Chet and Sabra Avery  
16 East Linden Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22301  
703 549-4617

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5-7-07

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5-7-07



<tombu@verizon.net>

05/07/2007 01:56 PM

Please respond to  
<tombu@verizon.net>

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

cc

bcc

Subject: COA Contact Us: FY 2008 Tax Rate



Time: [Mon May 07, 2007 13:56:53] IP Address: [71.163.224.172]

Response requested:

**First Name:** Tom  
**Last Name:** Burke  
**Street Address:** 2909 S. Dinwiddie St.  
**City:** Arlington  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22206  
**Phone:** 703-379-8279  
**Email Address:** tombu@verizon.net  
**Subject:** FY 2008 Tax Rate

Dear Mr. Mayor and members of City Council:

Please register this appeal to keep the tax rate at 81.5 cents/hundred. All residents have suffered for several years with rising assessments and insufficiently declining tax rates.

To that end, I encourage you to accept the City Manager's original recommendation for no COLA for City workers, and impose the same restriction on the school budget.

**Comments:** It is unfortunate that you always seem to couch these tough choices as personnel pay issues, guilting yourselves and residents. A large percentage of employees don't live in the City, the school student population keeps declining (as schools keep asking for more money above City target), and employees can still get step and merit raises.

Please summon the courage to deny COLAs across the board, and give residents a well-deserved break. I take little comfort in knowing that an 83.5 cent rate will "...keep my tax payment flat." We need a break.

Tom Burke  
Alexandria section of Fairlington



<ecb404@hotmail.com>

05/07/2007 02:17 PM

Please respond to  
<ecb404@hotmail.com>

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5-7-07

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

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Taxes, City responsiveness, general disaffection



Time: [Mon May 07, 2007 14:17:23] IP Address: [206.106.246.11]

Response requested:

**First Name:** Edward  
**Last Name:** Blau  
**Street Address:** 404 Underhill Place  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22305  
**Phone:** D: 202-226-2883  
**Email Address:** ecb404@hotmail.com

**Subject:** Taxes, City responsiveness, general disaffection

Just remember when you all vote to raise my taxes tonight that you're taking yet more money from me to support a non-responsive system. Last week (on Wednesday) I e-mailed you all about lack of responses based on two e-mails I had sent to City offices (one about a City tree in need of trimming and removing, from the week of April 16 or April 23, I don't remember exactly - but before last week - and the other from last Monday to the "Wireless Alexandria" link at the City website. A number of you were good enough to reply to that, saying I'd get responses to my original inquiries - but neither City office has responded.

**Comments:** A simple automatically-generated "We've received your message and will respond within X number of days" would have let me know, or at least think, that my messages had been received. That's the usual corporate runaround when you contact a private business these days. I would have thought with the way my taxes have increased over the previous 4-5 years, the City could at least match that level of non-service.

By the way, in the previous couple of weeks I have twice e-mailed the School Board collectively via the City website, and NONE of them have ever replied. The appointed School Board should never have been abolished, the elected one stinks. To the credit of the School Superintendent (of whom I am NOT a big fan), her office did reply quickly and thoughtfully to a question I sent there.

I have rarely felt so disaffected from my hometown. I not only don't want a tax increase (my home assessment stayed the same, so an increase in the rate is an increase in my taxes), I want a tax CUT.

Edward C. Blau

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5-7-07



<ersalexandria@msn.com>

05/07/2007 03:52 PM

Please respond to  
<ersalexandria@msn.com>

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

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Please do not raise our taxes



Time: [Mon May 07, 2007 15:52:18] IP Address: [63.242.160.144]

Response requested:

**First Name:** Bud  
**Last Name:** Miller  
**Street Address:** 115-D South Saint Asaph  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703 684-5312  
**Email Address:** ersalexandria@msn.com  
**Subject:** Please do not raise our taxes  
Mr. Mayor & City Council Members,

I urge you to recall the many statements of concern regarding the tax burden on Alexandrians that were made during the last campaign. Only you can ensure that the actions of our elected officials follow the words and promises made as candidates.

**Comments:** Please don't forget the 61.5% of Alexandrians who identified local real estate taxes as a Very Serious Problem.

Please do not raise our taxes.

Sincerely,

Bud Miller

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5-7-07



<mwhetzer@comcast.net>

05/07/2007 09:18 PM

Please respond to  
<mwhetzer@comcast.net>

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

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: General Fund Operating Budget

**Time: [Mon May 07, 2007 21:18:20] IP Address: [76.21.171.243]**

**Response requested:**

**First Name:** Marianne  
**Last Name:** Hetzer  
**Street Address:** 604 N Mansfield St  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22304  
**Phone:** 703-823-3367  
**Email Address:** mwhetzer@comcast.net  
**Subject:** General Fund Operating Budget

Thank you.

Thank you for responding so favorably to the ACPS community including the Superintendent, central office staff, EAA, PTA, faculty and school-based staff, parents and students.

The 1.5 percent COLA and the additional \$2.65 million for school programs is reasonable and appropriate. Eliminating \$1.4 million is not going to be easy, but it is not catastrophic.

**Comments:**

The most favorable outcome of this budget process, in my opinion, is the fact that, as a city, we are now aware of why it costs what it does to provide public education to the particular students served by ACPS. This was my main objective: to focus our attention on the specific needs of Alexandria students, rather than simply compare our expenses to those of our neighbors.

I remain proud to be a citizen of Alexandria, proud to be an ACPS alumna, and proud to be an ACPS parent and volunteer leader. Thank you for providing the resources to enable ACPS to be a shining facet of one of the best communities for youth in the United States.

Sincerely,

Marianne Hetzer  
President, Alexandria PTA Council