



COA Contact Us: COPs Program

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,

Rahul Rawat to: alicia.hughes, council, delppepper, paulcsmedberg,
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/06/2010 07:45 AM

Please respond to Rahul Rawat

Time: [Sat Mar 06, 2010 07:45:32] Message ID: [19755]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Rahul

Last Name: Rawat

Street Address: 19 E Reed Ave

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22305

Phone: 5713121838

Email Address: rrawat255@gmail.com

Subject: COPs Program

I am writing in strong support of the Community Oriented Policing Program.

I am a resident in Lynhaven and strongly believe our COPs program officer helps to promote a safe neighborhood.

I am concerned that the City's FY

2011 budget might include cuts in the COPs program.

The COPs program

officers know our neighborhoods better than any other police officers. Over time, they get to know the residents, both the good elements and the bad.

In Lynhaven, for instance, our COPs officer knows all of the teenagers on probation. He knows where they live, where they hang out, their parents and their teachers. This kind of involvement helps to steer these kids in the right direction. This kind of attention can only come from a dedicated officer detailed to our neighborhood.

Crime has appeared to be getting

better in our neighborhoods. But the crime statistics don't tell the whole story. Things may be better in Lynhaven, but they're not yet good. There

Comments:

are still drugs on our streets; robberies, assaults and domestic issues continue and are likely to get worse at the temperature warms up. The work of our COPs officers is not yet done; to pull them out now would jeopardize all the hard work they have put in to get us where we are today.

The

Community officers do so much more than just arrest bad guys. They are intimately aware of what's happening. They attend our community meetings and listen to our concerns and tips. They are doing things in the neighborhood to prevent crime that no one else is thinking about.

I

strongly support the COPs program and feel that they make an invaluable contribution to ensuring our neighborhoods and City are safe. I hope that every effort can be made to continue to support the program.

Thank you.

-Rahul and Melissa Rawat



COA Contact Us: Blood from us turnips

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,
James Boulton to: alicia.hughes, council, delppepper, paulcsmedberg,
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/06/2010 06:11 PM

Please respond to James Boulton

Time: [Sat Mar 06, 2010 18:11:49] Message ID: [19770]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: James
Last Name: Boulton
Street Address: 2181 Jamieson Ave.
Unit # 1809
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314-5755
Phone: 703 566-8446
Email Address: bouldjim@comcast.net
Subject: Blood from us turnips
As an observer, and sometime critic of the city council on tax matters

over the past ten years, I have to say, I think you
people have a major

blind spot. In your deliberations on tax rate, you always seem to focus

on ' ... needs ... ' with little or no
attention to ' ... ability to pay

...'
Throughout the 'flush years', as Joyce Woodson used to say,

you saw the ever growing property tax assessments of 10, 15,
even 20+

percent per year as a pot of gold, boasting magnanimously that you were

reducing out tax rate by 1, 2, even 3
percent, while all the while

leaving us with actual tax bills that jumped 10 to 15 % per year, all to be

paid out of 'unrealized'
growth in property values.
Now that the

circumstances are reversed, and the assessment rate are falling year after

Comments: year, guess what, you seem to find

all kinds of arguments to support tax

rate increases that more than off set any potential benefits that we the

tax payers might
realize from declining assessments.
I understand

that there are real and valid needs, but I think you should understand that

many of us are on fixed incomes, or
are seeing our real incomes actually

shrinking as we make our way through this recession. No matter how valid

the needs, if
you raise the tax rates above the assessment decreases,

we are the ones who have to come up with the difference, and I ask
you,

just where do you suggest we turn to find the money to do so

?

Respectfully,

Jim Boulton



COA Contact Us: Unmanageable tax increases

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,
James Boulton to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/06/2010 06:02 PM

Please respond to James Boulton

Time: [Sat Mar 06, 2010 18:01:56] Message ID: [19769]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: James
Last Name: Boulton
Street Address: 2181 Jamieson Ave.
Unit # 1809
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314-5755
Phone: 703 566-8446
Email Address: bouldjim@comcast.net
Subject: Unmanageable tax increases
As a keen observer, and sometime critic of the city council on tax matters
over the past ten years, I have to say, I think you
people have a major
blind spot. In your deliberations on tax rate, you always seem to focus
on '... needs ...' with little or no
attention to '... ability to pay
...'
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even 20+
percent per year as a pot of gold, boasting magnanimously that you were
reducing out tax rate by 1, 2, even 3
percent, while all the while
leaving us with actual tax bills that jumped 10 to 15 % per year, all to be
paid out of 'unrealized'
growth in property values.
Now that the
circumstances are reversed, and the assessment rate are falling year after

Comments: year, guess what, you seem to find
all kinds of arguments to support tax

rate increases that more than off set any potential benefits that we, the

tax payers might
realize from declining assessments.
I understand

that there are real and valid needs, but I think you should understand that

many of us are on fixed incomes, or
are seeing our real incomes actually

shrinking as we make our way through this recession. No matter how valid

the needs, if
you raise the tax rates above the assessment decreases,

we are the ones who have to come up with the difference, and I ask
you,

just where do you suggest we turn to find the money to do so

?

Respectfully,

Jim Boulton



COA Contact Us: Archaeological Commission Recommendation on FY2011 budget

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,
Kathleen Pepper to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/07/2010 04:54 PM

Please respond to Kathleen Pepper

Time: [Sun Mar 07, 2010 16:54:03] Message ID: [19778]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Kathleen

Last Name: Pepper

Street Address: 5320 Thayer Ave

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22314

Phone: 703. 305.0385

Email Address: jcleoblack@gmail.com

Subject: Archaeological Commission Recommendation on FY2011 budget

I am writing to you as Chair of the Alexandria Archaeological Commission to provide the commission's recommendation regarding the FY2011 proposed budget--the retention of the FY2010 archaeology budget rather than approval of the proposed reductions. The Alexandria Archaeology budget within the Office of Historic Alexandria has a proposed decrease of \$7400: \$3500 to eliminate part-time, roster staff that keep the Archaeology Museum in the Torpedo Factory Art Center open on Sundays 4 hours weekly ;and \$3900 non-personnel funding. While we recognize the need to economize, we recommend maintaining the current archaeology budget due to the negative impacts of such a reduction just at a time when many City initiatives call for these archaeological services. Most notably, these reductions will negatively impact on the City's ability to increase tourism visitation, revenue and equitable public access to African history and cultural resources--all important goals in your recent strategic plans.

The

proposed budget erroneously states that "existing full-time staff already work" on Sundays and can keep the museum open on Sundays so reduced funding of \$3500 will not decrease public access to the museum. However, in actuality without the \$3500 funding for Sunday roster staff, the museum will close. The consequences are dramatic. The four hours on Sundays account for 20 to 25 percent of the annual visitation. Closing a historic attraction for a savings of \$3500 does not fit short- or long-range planning goals, such as: 1) increasing attractions on the waterfront to encourage visitors from National Harbor to come and stay longer; 2) using history to increase the unique character of Alexandria in waterfront planning; and 3) attracting people to the Torpedo Factory Art Center. The water taxis and new waterfront signage, including the successful historic timeline, and history shop, have helped to increase visitation to the Archaeology Museum. Having visitors to the Art Center encounter a closed museum during the busiest hours of the week reduces the attraction of the entire south end of the third floor of the Factory and sends the wrong message--that the City is closed to visitors. The Torpedo Factory Art Center study documents the attraction role of the Museum. The City's Archaeology Museum was the first interactive archaeological museum in America and has been hailed as innovative for 30

Comments: years. It is the only place where Alexandria's oldest artifacts--dating back to 13,000 B.C.--can be seen and questions answered which promote the City's role as a leader in community archaeology. The Museum also acts as a resource for visitors related to destinations for eating, shopping, history and biking and distributes literature to promote tourism. The 9 part-time staff, who work on a revolving basis on Sundays, have gained a great deal of information over the years about archaeology and the City. Their expertise, and their ability to work independently and provide security for the entire archaeology facility (computers, files, photographs, artifacts) would be difficult to regain if funding was restored at a later time. Reducing the operating funds for

archaeological activities by \$3900 reduces the ability to promote public activities, educate the public, provide equitable access to the City's black history and conduct research central to important City projects: preservation planning for the waterfront; Fort Ward African American research and archaeological study to manage the park as a historic site and interpret the black experience; plan and implement the 2011 opening of Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial—including developing the web site & cell phone tours to tell the story of the slaves who escaped to Alexandria seeking freedom; plan and conduct activities to promote tourism and community understanding during the 150th anniversary of the Civil War starting in 2011. We recommend that these funds be retained at a critical time in heritage promotion--the beginning of the Civil War anniversary years of which both Fort Ward and Freedmen's Cemetery are central. This is a case where retention of funding to promote archaeology/history will gain both revenue and prestige to the City of Alexandria in a critical heritage tourism year--2011. It will also increase access to people who want to know about their own African American past and Alexandria's diverse heritage.

Thank you for considering our recommendation. The Archaeological Commission will be communicating with you shortly on other key issues, including the Torpedo Factory Art Center Study, as well as the commission's visions for the waterfront and the future role of archaeology in the fabric of the community.



COA Contact Us: If Riders Take Fare Hikes, Pay the City's Fair Share of the Metro Subsidy

Marjorie Salwin to: william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,
alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/07/2010 08:49 PM

Please respond to Marjorie Salwin

Time: [Sun Mar 07, 2010 20:49:31] Message ID: [19784]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Marjorie
Last Name: Salwin
Street Address: 1807 DeWitt Avenue
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone:
Email Address: msalwin@aol.com
Subject: If Riders Take Fare Hikes, Pay the City's Fair Share of the Metro Subsidy
Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Donley, and Members of Council:

I am

writing to ask that you keep all options available to avoid cuts to

Metrorail and Metrobus service during next fiscal year. WMATA is

projecting a
\$189 million budget gap in FY 2011. The WMATA General

Manager proposes to close
part of this budget gap with one of the largest

fare increases in Metro's
history. Unfortunately, fare increases alone

are not enough to close the budget
gap, and an additional \$30 million in

service cuts will be needed even if the
full fare increase is adopted.

Service cuts directly impacting Alexandria
include the elimination of

Yellow Line service after 9 pm weekdays and all day
on weekends, and

reductions in Metrobus service, particularly on the 29 line.
Midday,

evening, and weekend service on all Metrorail lines, including the Blue line, will also be reduced, and eight car trains during rush hour will be eliminated.

Preserving Metro is important to me because I have a back condition and must rely on Metro bus and rail for transportation. I am in favor of paying higher fares because I think it would support Metro safety which is a very real concern.

On June 18, 2009, I was aware that the signal system failed at Braddock Road Metro Station one day after new signals were installed at numerous other stations including Takoma. I was lucky because the signal at Braddock Road failed completely that day, so Metro compensated for it and did not have an accident. A few days later, the signal at Takoma Station on the red line failed intermittently,

Comments: according to Metro officials, causing a confusion in the communications system and a subsequent accident that killed 10 people. Cuts in service cause dangerous overcrowding and hectic conditions and I fear riding Metro if such a situation occurs, because the crowds would become dangerously large and surely contribute to yet another disaster. In fact, many years ago I was personally involved in a Metro rail incident that involved dangerous overcrowding.

With all the wealth and privilege in Alexandria,

I cannot imagine why such political leaders here as Mr. Terry McAuliffe, Senator Mark Warner and other Democrats would not want to have the city of Alexandria pay its fair share of the Metro subsidy so that riders who accept higher fares can be free of worries about Metro accidents or those who rely on Metro like me will not have to suffer. We cannot ride in limousines as I am sure these gentlemen do on a daily basis.

WMATA's

hearings on its FY 2011 budget do not begin until the third week of

March. Because the WMATA budget has so many moving parts, it is important that the Council maintain maximum flexibility until riders have had an opportunity to weigh in at the public hearings being held by the transit authority. If you do not advertise a maximum property tax rate high enough to accommodate the additional WMATA subsidy, then an option I support will be taken off the table before members of the public and the City Council have even had an opportunity to discuss it.

Very truly

yours,

Marjorie Salwin



COA Contact Us: FY 2011 Budget

Maureen Schweers to: william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,
alicia.hughes, council, delpepper,
paulcsmedberg, rose.boyd, jackie.henderson,
elaine.scott

03/08/2010 01:34 AM

Please respond to Maureen Schweers

Time: [Mon Mar 08, 2010 01:33:55] Message ID: [19786]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Maureen

Last Name: Schweers

Street Address: 2311 Commonwealth Ave.

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22301

Phone: 703-838-0676

Email Address: maureen.schweers@gmail.com

Subject: FY 2011 Budget

I am extremely upset that the Library Board and the City Manager have proposed cutting Duncan Library's operating hours. This is an incredibly short-sighted and unreasonable cut, particularly considering that, during an economic downturn, library resources are in greater demand.

For

working families, the reduced hours would make the libraries virtually inaccessible during the week. For children, these shortened hours would mean morning programs and storytimes would be delayed or cut, and evening storytimes would be eliminated. For adults, evening programs -- such as book clubs and author talks -- would likely be eliminated, and the meeting rooms would be inaccessible for community groups and library events, as all these typically begin at or after 7pm.

Comments: Is this worth a savings of just

\$173,000 annually, when the cost is reducing access to all of Alexandria's neighborhood branches?

If you've never visited Duncan Library, I encourage you to do so. It's a true neighborhood library; many patrons live within walking distance, and the staff knows practically every child by name. It is, without a doubt, a central part of the Del Ray community and an valuable City service.

Please keep the library open in the evening.

The impact of the reduced hours is extremely disproportionate to the amount of the budget cut achieved.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the FY 2011 Budget.



COA Contact Us: 2010 REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENT

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley, alicia.hughes,

Sheila Lee to: council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg, rose.boyd,
jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/05/2010 10:38 AM

Please respond to Sheila Lee

Time: [Fri Mar 05, 2010 10:37:53] Message ID: [19734]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice-Mayor and Council Members

First Name: Sheila

Last Name: Lee

Street Address: 32 N. Donelson Street

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22304

Phone: 703-751-5514

Email Address: sal4me@aol.com

Subject: 2010 REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENT

I CALLED YOUR OFFICE AND STATED MY COMPLAINT ABOUT MY 2010 TAX
ASSESSMENT

WITH THE VALUE OF MY LAND PRICE BEING DECLINED. THE ASSESSMENT OF THE
PROPERTIES ON N. DONELSON STREET WAS NOT DONE
FAIRLY. I STATE THIS DUE TO

THE PAST 3 YEARS OF THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE LOWERING THE COST OF HOMES
AND

LAND ON N. DONELSON STREET TO DO A PRICE FIXING AT A HIGHER COST OF THE
NEW HOMES BEING BUILT ON THIS STREET. I HAVE TALKED WITH THE
ASSESSMENT

OFFICE AND THEIR VERBAL ANSWER FOR THIS ACTION IS DIFFERENT EACH TIME
YOU

TALK WITH SOMEONE IN THAT OFFICE. THE LOWER OF MY TAXES IS NOT DOING ME
A

FAVOR WHEN YOU ARE CHEATING ME IN THE VALUE OF MY PROPERTY. THE DEAL
THE

CITY HAS MADE WITH CALVERT CUSTOM HOMES SHOULD NOT BE AT THE COST OF
THE

HOME OWNERS WHO LIVE ON N. DONELSON STREET. HOW CAN HOMES ON N,

DONELSON

ST. WITH LARGER LOTS (THE LAND) BE VALUE LESS THAN THE LOT THE NEW HOMES

Comments:

ARE BUILT ON. WHEN YOU REVIEW THE ALEXANDRIA VIRGINIA REAL ESTATE WEB SITE

AND GO TO 32 N. DONELSON ST. AND COMPARE IT WITH 1 N. DONELSON ST. YOU

CAN SEE WHAT THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE HAS DONE IN THE PAST 3 YEARS WITH THE

LOWERING THE LAND VALUE ON THE THIS STREET. THIS WAS NOT ONLY DONE WITH MY

ADDRESS BUT WITH EACH REMAINING HOUSE ON N. DONELSON ST. NOT OWNED BY

CALVERT CUSTOM HOMES LAKE RIDGE, VIRGINIA. PLEASE GIVE ME A ANSWER TO MY

CONCERNS. THIS IS NOT AN APPEAL ISSUE BECAUSE THE ASSESSMENT WAS NOT DONE

CORRECTLY TO START WITH. I HAVE NO PROBLEMS PAYING MY TAXES AND TO LOWER

MY TAXES MY LOWERING MY PROPERTY VALUE IS NOT SOMETHING I TAKE AS A FAVOR

OR SOMETHING TO BE HAPPY ABOUT.

THANK YOU

SHEILA LEE



COA Contact Us: taxes and budget

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,

Vic Glasberg to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/03/2010 05:58 PM

Please respond to Vic Glasberg

Time: [Wed Mar 03, 2010 17:58:17] Message ID: [19697]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Vic

Last Name: Glasberg

Street Address: 6 E. Alexandria Avenue

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22301

Phone: 703.548.3277

Email Address: vmg@robinhoodesq.com

Subject: taxes and budget

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of Council:

I write to urge you to support

the City Manager's proposed budget for the next fiscal year, if not to
exceed it. As a homeowner and small businessman in the city, I take no
delight in seeing my taxes rise. But I take less delight in the

deterioration, via underfunding, of the public services on which we all
depend. I have always found it bizarre when folks disparage increased
taxes needed to fund services they do not use. We're in this together for
good or ill, no? In 34 years of living here I have never had to call upon

Comments: the fire department -- but I happily see the fire department funded with
my taxes. My kids have completed 13 years of ACPS, but I would want the
schools fully funded. And so forth. Your real challenge, if I may say so,
is focusing on the common weal, not your re-electability in the face of
threatened taxpayers' retaliation at the polls. You know that many of our
public agencies are on the brink. Give 'em a hand, not a push. Your
no-increased-taxes critics spend more money on a night out than they are

being asked to contribute to the public welfare. You know what the public good requires. Go do it. Thank you.

Vic Glasberg

Comment for Budget Public Hearing
Mary Riley
to:
Jackie Henderson
03/03/2010 06:54 PM
[Show Details](#)

Dear Jackie,

I just submitted a comment (attached & copied below) for the budget public hearing next Wednesday via the budget section of the City website. I wasn't clear if this goes directly to Council or whether you receive a copy, so thought I'd go ahead and send it to you. From the email reply I received, it seemed that it only went to City staff. Can you let me know if that's right? If so, I'd like to send it to Council.

Thanks.
Mary

Mr. Mayor, Vice Mayor and Council Members,

I am sorry that I am not able to attend the budget public hearing on March 10; however, I would like to register my disappointment in the significant reduction (\$502,060) of the real estate tax dedicated for affordable housing initiatives.

Having attended some of the Council's strategic planning sessions with the community, I was hopeful that those items delineated as critical strategic plan goals and initiatives would be targeted as high-priority items in the budget. Thus, I was disturbed to see the significant reduction for affordable housing initiatives. It makes me question the meaning of the strategic plan. With the proposed cut, we will be far from meeting the City's strategic objective to "promote a continuum of affordable housing opportunities for all residents, especially those most in need." (Strategic Goal 7, Objective 1)

As Chair of the Community Services Board (CSB) for the past several years, I saw first-hand the inefficiencies created by the lack of affordable housing opportunities for those CSB clients currently living in CSB-operated group homes and apartments who are now ready to move out and into their own units. This logjam in the housing pipeline for persons with disabilities means that clients who need a roof over their heads, as well as supportive services, are unable to access those services.

Knowing the importance of preserving and increasing affordable housing units in the City, I am dismayed that such a significant reduction is being proposed and ask that you (1) ensure that funding is provided for this purpose and (2) follow the recommendations proposed by Herb Cooper-Levy and others in Housing Action for the creation of a high-level Housing Commission that would provide improved coordination between the City, ARHA and nonprofit housing organizations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Riley
202 E. Alexandria Ave.
Alexandria, VA 22301

Mr. Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Council Members,

I am sorry that I am not able to attend the budget public hearing on March 10; however, I would like to register my disappointment in the significant reduction (\$502,060) of the real estate tax dedicated for affordable housing initiatives.

Having attended some of the Council's strategic planning sessions with the community, I was hopeful that those items delineated as critical strategic plan goals and initiatives would be targeted as high-priority items in the budget. Thus, I was disturbed to see the significant reduction for affordable housing initiatives. It makes me question the meaning of the strategic plan. With the proposed cut, we will be far from meeting the City's strategic objective to "promote a continuum of affordable housing opportunities for all residents, especially those most in need." (Strategic Goal 7, Objective 1)

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Knowing the importance of preserving and increasing affordable housing units in the City, I am dismayed that such a significant reduction is being proposed and ask that you (1) ensure that funding is provided for this purpose and (2) follow the recommendations proposed by Herb Cooper-Levy and others in Housing Action for the creation of a high-level Housing Commission that would provide improved coordination between the City, ARHA and nonprofit housing organizations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Riley
202 E. Alexandria Ave.
Alexandria, VA 22301



COA Contact Us: Community Police Office

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,
Daniel Corle to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/03/2010 08:30 PM

Please respond to Daniel Corle

Time: [Wed Mar 03, 2010 20:30:44] Message ID: [19703]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Daniel

Last Name: Corle

Street Address: 117 West Reed Avenue

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22305

Phone: 703-795-4279

Email Address: danielcorle@yahoo.com

Subject: Community Police Office

Having purchased a home in Hume Springs recently, I was a little nervous about having my wife living in this "transition" neighborhood; however, one of the things that appeased my worries was the presence of the Community Police Officers - particularly Officer Ruggiero. The recent downturn in crime in the neighborhood, in fact, can be directly attributed to his very visible presence. I think by now everyone has read Malcolm Gladwell's book The Tipping Point in which he discusses NY's downturn in crime - the broken window syndrome - if it appears that no one cares or there is no police presence or consequences to crimes, there is no incentive not to commit them. I ask that Alexandria city officials not make a hasty budget decision that can have negative consequences - far greater than the investment - not only on a neighborhood that I hope is in transition and moving toward bigger and better things, but also on the people living here who rely on having the Community Police Officers to ensure a safe neighborhood - for our spouses, children, and pets.



COA Contact Us: 2011 Budget Hearing 03-10-10

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,

James Hoben to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/04/2010 07:07 AM

Please respond to James Hoben

1 attachment



7ca5a5570f5926728c5616fea7878634.doc

Time: [Thu Mar 04, 2010 07:06:03] Message ID: [19709]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: James
Last Name: Hoben
Street Address: 3306 Circle Hill Rd.
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22305
Phone: 703 836-0949
Email Address: jameshoben29@gmail.com
Subject: 2011 Budget Hearing 03-10-10
March 3, 2010
Mayor Euille and Members of Council

I am

James Hoben, formerly Co-chair of Housing Action, presently a continuing

supporter of Housing Action's commitment
to preserving Alexandria'

affordable housing. The aggressive preservation of our remaining

affordable housing is of vital
importance to the City. The loss of

affordable housing has been extreme. Between 2000-200approximately one

half
(10,000 units) of the City's privately owned by affordable rentals

were lost. It is also projected that up to 1,000 publicly-
assisted but

non ARHA, non- resolution 830 units face potential loss in the next five years.

Maintaining an aggressive affordable housing preservation

program is central to Alexandria's future for three reasons. First, it

is vital to for the functioning of our business, education, health and

governmental community, Second, it is central to keeping our homeless

numbers modest, and third, it is central to our City commitment to rich diversity and culture.

Failure to maintain our remaining affordable

housing stock will be an immense future cost to the City. The cost of

preservation is a fraction of the cost of new affordable housing construction.

Specifically, I urge two actions by the Council:

1)

Comments: Restore the formally dedicated \$502,060 in real estate tax revenue to an effective program of affordable housing preservation. Preservation was

the highest priority recommendation of the City's blue ribbon Affordable

Housing Initiatives

Work Group. As you all know, affordable housing is

key to the City's new Strategic Vision Goals 1 & 7.

2) Commit to

finding new sources of predictable and dedicated revenues for affordable

housing that complement what the Council may provide from the property

tax. Create a task force to identify what other communities within and

without

Virginia have done to establish such revenue streams. Examine

all alternatives. For example, look into adding a small fee/tax to

water/sewer bills, electric, telephone or internet services. Investigate

the possibility that an overdue increase in the State gasoline tax should

include a small portion dedicated to community affordable housing to reduce

the long car
commutes by moderate and lower paid households, Re-examine

the possibilities of a fractional percent on the restaurant
meals tax or

real estate transfer actions for affordable housing.

I'm sorry to not

be present at your hearing but I am in California on March 10,

2010.

James Hoben
3306 Circle Hill Rd.
Alexandria, VA 22305
703

836-0949
jameshoben29@gmail.com

Attachment: 7ca5a5570f5926728c5616fea7878634.doc

March 3, 2010

Mayor Euille and Members of Council

I am James Hoben, formerly Co-chair of Housing Action, now a continuing supporter of Housing Action's commitment to preserving affordable housing in Alexandria. The aggressive preservation of our remaining affordable housing is of vital importance to the City. The loss of affordable housing has been extreme. Between 2000-200approximately one half (10,000 units) of the City's privately owned by affordable rentals were lost. It is also projected that up to 1,000 publicly-assisted but non ARHA, non- resolution 830 units face potential loss in the next five years.

Maintaining an aggressive affordable housing preservation program is: 1) vital to our business, education, health and governmental community, 2) central to keeping our homeless numbers modest, and 3) our City commitment to rich diversity and culture. Failure to now maintain our remaining affordable housing stock will be an immense future cost to the City. The cost of preservation is a fraction of the cost of new affordable housing construction.

Specifically, I urge two actions by the Council:

1) Restore the formally dedicated \$502,060 in real estate tax revenue to an effective program of affordable housing preservation. Preservation was the highest priority recommendation of the City's blue ribbon Affordable Housing Initiatives Work Group. Affordable housing is key to the City's new Strategic Vision Goals 1 & 7.

2) Commit to finding new sources of predictable and dedicated revenues for affordable housing that complement what the Council may provide from the property tax. Create a task force to identify what other communities within and without Virginia have done to establish such revenue streams. Examine all alternatives. For example, look into adding a small fee/tax to water/sewer bills, electric, telephone or internet services. Investigate the possibility that an overdue increase in the State gasoline tax might include a small portion dedicated to community affordable housing to reduce the necessities of long car commutes, Re-examine the possibilities of a fractional percent on the restaurant meals tax or real estate transfer actions for affordable housing.

Please do not cut City's FY 2011 Housing Budget, now proposed for a nearly 30 percent reduction. I'm sorry to not be present at your hearing but I am in California on March 10, 2010.

James Hoben
3306 Circle Hill Rd.
Alexandria, VA 22305
703 836-0949
jameshoben29@gmail.com

3 March 2010

Alexandria City Council
Alexandria City Hall
132 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: request for supplemental salary for the Office of the Public Defender

Dear Members of the Alexandria City Council:

I write today in support of the request before you from Melinda Douglas, the Public Defender for the City for Alexandria, for a city supplement for staff salaries in her office. I spent a decade in the Alexandria Public Defender's Office, during more than half of which I served as the Deputy Public Defender. In that capacity, I oversaw many of the day-to-day operations for the office, and I served as counsel to the attorneys in matters both professional and personal. On the personal front, time and again, attorneys would express the difficulty in living in the City of Alexandria on their modest salary. I watched dedicated defenders make the difficult choice to leave the work and the office that they loved in order to support a family. In 2002, after a decade of service, I left the office for the same reason.

Like many of my colleagues who spent years working in the Alexandria Public Defender's Office, I developed considerable expertise in the field of criminal defense – so much so that I am now a law professor teaching Criminal Law, Constitutional Criminal Procedure, and a Capital Punishment seminar. My clients were pleased with the representation that they received from me, and my colleagues in the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office welcomed the opportunity to work with me because my experience and expertise simplified an often complex and emotionally challenging enterprise. Moreover, I loved the work and found it extremely rewarding. But in 2002, I could no longer afford to continue the work that I loved. I had risen to the highest level in both title/position and salary, and the future held no opportunity for advancement. There was no hope of a salary increase based on my performance, as the state did not provide any increase beyond a yearly cost-of-living assessment, and often even that modest annual cost-of-living adjustment was frozen for years at a time. Extra money, in the form of a City salary supplement, in the Public Defender's budget would offer her the flexibility to retain seasoned attorneys, like me, who were committed to a career as a public defender but who could not support a modest lifestyle on the restricted salary. Career defenders deserve career salaries just like all others who devote a lifetime of work to the City and its citizens.

I live in the City, as I have for 17 years, though I commute to Baltimore, where I teach, several days per week during the academic semesters. Financially, I am better off commuting to Baltimore for work than walking to my former office in Old Town and serving the population that could benefit from my expertise. Additionally, my current work will offer several opportunities for significant salary increases at various stages in

my career. I am fortunate in that I love my work, but as with my job as a public defender, I would not be able to continue with it if there were no opportunity for financial advancement.

I would be happy to speak with you in greater detail, and I am available by telephone at 703.625.6675. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best,

J. Amy Dillard
Assistant Professor of Law
University of Baltimore School of Law
1420 North Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
adillard@ubalt.edu

cc: Jim Hartman
Bruce Johnson



COA Contact Us: Loss of Community Liaison Officer for Hume Springs

Claudia Von Pervieux to: william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,
alicia.hughes, council, delpepper,
paulcsmedberg, rose.boyd, jackie.henderson,
elaine.scott

03/03/2010 03:22 PM

Please respond to Claudia Von Pervieux

Time: [Wed Mar 03, 2010 15:22:22] Message ID: [19691]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Claudia

Last Name: Von Pervieux

Street Address: 3714 Mark Drive

City: Alexandria

State: Virginia

Zip: 22305

Phone: 703-683-1441

Email Address: 1cavp@comcast.net

Subject: Loss of Community Liaison Officer for Hume Springs

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

I have lived in Hume Springs for the

last 5 years, and I can honestly say that without the Community Liaison

Officer for our neighborhood, I would not have survived living in this

neighborhood. The CLO is an essential person to that neighborhood. The

taxpaying citizens who live in my community rely on the City of Alexandria

to provide a community police representative to help keep our community

safe and improve the quality of life in our neighborhood. I strongly

Comments: believe that crime has dropped in my neighborhood due to the strong support

of the CLOs we've had over the years.

I want my tax money to support

keeping a CLO in my neighborhood. If you eliminate the position I won't

stay because I don't see a reason to support a city that doesn't support me

when I am trying to be a stable, responsible homeowner. Hume Springs has

the highest foreclosure rate in the area, ask yourself what you're doing to

help fix that problem and don't make the mistake of eliminating CLOs in our

city. Thank you.



COA Contact Us: Community Police Officer Position

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,
Jacob Cuomo to: alicia.hughes, council, delppepper, paulcsmedberg,
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/02/2010 11:11 AM

Please respond to Jacob Cuomo

Time: [Tue Mar 02, 2010 11:10:58] Message ID: [19644]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Jacob
Last Name: Cuomo
Street Address: 51 W. Reed Avenue
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22305
Phone: 7037179465
Email Address: jfcuomo@comcast.net
Subject: Community Police Officer Position
Dear Mr. Mayor et al. ,

I was handed some extremely disturbing news this weekend regarding the possible loss of the Community Officer position in Hume Springs. In my opinion and the opinion of our community this would be a terrible mistake for the City of Alexandria to make. Officer Ruggiero has been instrumental in making our community safer and dare I say it more habitable. Prior to his arrival there was a gap due to his predecessor's departure. During this time my family and I did not feel nearly as safe in our community as we do today. Almost immediately after his arrival my wife, without provocation, was accosted and had fireworks thrown at her on two different occasions while she was standing in our front yard. Fortunately, due to Officer Ruggiero's diligence and hard work, the perpetrator's were brought to justice and sent to jail. Without our Community Officer I am confidant that this type of keen police work would not occur.

I am the son of a twenty-five year police veteran from New

Comments: Jersey. Having grown up around Police Officers I am extremely cognizant of the difficult job that Police perform every day. Thus, I understand just how powerful his influence is in our community.

Why remove a program

that returns so much for the investment? The results of his hard work are everywhere in the community. In addition to the lower crime rates, the streets are cleaner and safer and residents are taking more pride in their properties. As a result, a more affluent and upstanding group of citizens are choosing to make Hume Springs their home.

Please do not make a rash decision due to budget problems. Try to see the forest through the trees and let us keep our Community Officer. Allow Hume Springs to continue its improvements with the help of Officer Ruggiero.

Sincerely,

Jacob F.

Cuomo
Chief Petty Officer, U.S. Coast Guard



COA Contact Us: Community Officer Position for Hume Springs

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,

Catherine Kane to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/02/2010 11:31 AM

Please respond to Catherine Kane

Time: [Tue Mar 02, 2010 11:30:52] Message ID: [19646]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Catherine
Last Name: Kane
Street Address: 142 Dale Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22305
Phone: 7033075620
Email Address: kanec@usa.redcross.org
Subject: Community Officer Position for Hume Springs
Dear Mr. Mayer and Council Members:

Through our active Hume Springs

Neighborhood Association, I heard this weekend that the City intends to remove the Community Officer position in my neighborhood. I am completely dismayed to hear this.

As a six year resident of the community and a single woman, security is very important to me. The neighborhood has transitioned from one where, when I moved in there were Bowie knives and broken bottles strewn through my hedges and incidents regularly to one where I feel safe and engaged in civic betterment, especially due to the new citizens who have been encouraged by the upswing to move into the neighborhood and participate actively.

But this does not mean that

incidents have stopped - my scooter was stolen from my fenceline last year;

I regularly find "40s" and boxes of used beer bottles in the

alley along my fence; and we call our community police officers regularly

Comments:

each week to break up large groups of young men creating mayhem and/or neighbors who violate civic order. The community officers, through their regular engagement, were able to drive away the young men who used to deal drugs along my fenceline and the group who rented the house next to me and had regular poker games and cockfights. They even were able to deal with the dangerous gang one block from my house.

If they leave now, it's entirely too soon. Especially with the depressed housing prices, it would be easy for more unsavory individuals and gangs to move right back in. As witnessed by successful programs like the Gang Intervention Program, the City reaps immense benefits in community engagement, safety and betterment through small investments in wise programming. The Community Police Officer for Hume Springs is exactly this type of low-investment/high-yield program.

I work for the National Headquarters of the American Red Cross.

We are intimately familiar with the value of community investment and engagement. My 129 year old organization could not have achieved its national success without the relatively lean investments in growing communities throughout the nation in communities like Hume Springs.

I

urge you not to eliminate your investment in my community. It has come so far, and the community police officers are an essential part of building an Alexandria in which we all have pride and all have faith in high quality community investment.

Sincerely,

Catherine Kane



COA Contact Us: Don't Take Away Our Community Officers

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,

Nicholas Partee to: alicia.hughes, council, delppepper, paulcsmedberg,
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/01/2010 03:47 PM

Please respond to Nicholas Partee

Time: [Mon Mar 01, 2010 15:47:35] Message ID: [19606]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Nicholas
Last Name: Partee
Street Address: 54 Dale St
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22305
Phone: 571-239-6793
Email Address: nicholas.partee@gmail.com
Subject: Don't Take Away Our Community Officers

Dear Mayor Euille and Council Members,

I recently heard that the

community officer position for several neighborhoods is on the chopping block due to budget cuts. I would be extremely disappointed were this to go forward. I have worked side-by-side with the Hume Springs/Lynhaven community officers over the past 5 years. Early on in my time in the neighborhood, I was subjected to threats by former neighbors, had property stolen, my car broken into, my fence graffitied and have even had to "hit the deck" during a starter pistol drive-by (someone's idea of a joke). That said, year by year, problems have been fewer and farther between. Groups of teens and 20-somethings that used to fight and hurl epithets back and forth on the playground have been replaced with kids playing for the most part, and Type 1 crime is definitely down. This all provides evidence that our community officers are making a huge difference.

Furthermore, I don't fully understand how this "cut" would

save the City the \$200K it purports. Moving our community officers to patrol would only slightly alter their job function. They already spend much of their time on patrol, primarily located in/near the community they serve.

These officers act as the point men for the area and help prevent many crimes before they happen. Moving them exclusively to patrol would cut them off from the communities where they've invested time on neighborhood contacts, learning the lay of the land, and learning names, faces, and probation officers for many offenders. When we found hundreds of malt liquor bottles where Four Mile Run Park meets the neighborhood, our community officer lead other Sector 2 patrol officers to the location. They busted numerous offenders at that location and the public drinking and trash problems have been driven down, but without follow-through, the fairer weather could bring the same problems back to the area.

Comments:

Hume

Springs and Lynhaven have undoubtedly cleaned up their acts over the years, but that improvement is the result of our Community Officers and not in spite of them. You can look at Crime Reports and see that many of the crimes are displaced out of the residential neighborhoods, but still take place nearby. The extreme crackdown on the neighborhoods by our community officers makes our streets an undesirable place to attempt to commit crimes. We are not yet locked in as a low-crime, safe neighborhoods. Removing our conduit to the police force now could set us back years on our efforts to eradicate crime from our streets.

The Hume Springs Citizens

Association feels this is a real threat to all the progress that has been made over the years. Please don't cut the program we consider to be among the most important to our community. Our safety, whether real or perceived, should not be a line item that can be struck from the budget.

Thank You,
Nick Partee

VP, Hume Springs Citizens Association



COA Contact Us: Our Community Police Officer Liaison

william.euille, frank.fannon,
kerry.donley, alicia.hughes,

Andrew and Whitney Dubinsky to: council, delpepper,
paulcsmedberg, rose.boyd,
jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/01/2010 04:05 PM

Please respond to Andrew and Whitney Dubinsky

Time: [Mon Mar 01, 2010 16:05:10] Message ID: [19607]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Andrew and Whitney

Last Name: Dubinsky

Street Address: 234 Evans Lane

City: Alexandria

State: Virginia

Zip: 22305

Phone: 703-243-8458

Email Address: amdubinsky@gmail.com

Subject: Our Community Police Officer Liaison
To the Mayor and Members of City Council:

I write this letter to you out

of great concern due to a proposal to reduce the number of community officers in the city due to budget restraints. It has come to my attention that this proposal includes eliminating Officer Nicholas Ruggerio's position as a liason to Lynhaven. Our community feels that this would be a tremendous mistake.

Initially, I would like to point out that our neighborhood has historically experienced a high crime rate. It was not until we had the good fortunes of Officer Ruggerio's service to Lynhaven that we have seen a reduction in crime. Through his constant vigilance, Officer Ruggerio has always gone above and beyond the call of duty. Not only does he patrol our streets and force drug dealers out of our alleys,

Comments: but he also ensures that our streets are well lit, removes indications of the location of drug dealers, and follows up on offending youths in their

schools.

I believe that removing Officer Ruggerio from our community will result in an increase of crime in our community to the levels we have seen since before he was assigned to Lynhaven. Additionally, cutting his position also sends a message to the Alexandria Police Department that quality police work will be met with a negative response. Our public safety is just too important to allow police officers to fall victim to budget cuts. I hope that you seriously reconsider this proposal and allow Officer Ruggerio to continue keeping Lynhaven safe. Thank you.

Andrew

and Whitney Dubinsky
234 Evans Lane



COA Contact Us: City and State Budgets for 2011

william.euille,
frank.fannon,
kerry.donley,
alicia.hughes,
council,
delpepper,
paulcsmedberg,
rose.boyd,
jackie.henderson
, elaine.scott

Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center to:

03/01/2010 05:03 PM

Please respond to Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center

1 attachment



a784817c976484af92899f5858d32bb0.doc

Time: [Mon Mar 01, 2010 17:02:52] Message ID: [19613]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center

Last Name:

Street Address: 720 North Saint Asaph Street

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22314

Phone:

Email Address: sdrachsler@comcast.net

Subject: City and State Budgets for 2011
March 1, 2010

Mayor William D. Euille
Members of the Alexandria City

Council
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Euille and

City Council Members,

Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center

(AMHC) was greatly encouraged to learn that the City's proposed budget

limits the number of reductions that could have affected Community

Service Board (CSB) services in 2011. It is wonderful to know that we

have leaders who understand the importance of mental health care, and we

thank you for keeping to a minimum the cuts that affect the welfare of

our fellow Alexandrians with mental disabilities.

We were especially

glad that the CSB's prevention programs were not eliminated. Friends of

the AMHC is a partner with the CSB in a Virginia Foundation for Healthy

Youth grant which provides outstanding substance abuse prevention programs

in our schools. This investment in prevention will save lives as well as costs in the future.

However, we are gravely concerned about proposed

budget cuts in health services at the state level. If they are adopted

they will severely affect the CSB and its clients, especially individuals

and families who have limited resources. The impact of these proposed

cuts would place an even greater strain on the CSB which is already dealing

with cuts made in 2010 as well as the reductions proposed by the City for 2011.

We urge you to advocate for the rejection of these proposals.

Among the most critical are the following:

1. Proposals that concern

Medicaid payments and the eligibility for community-based service.

Comments: Governor McDonnell's proposals would make it more difficult for CSB

consumers to receive Medicaid and the CSB would lose revenue. This might

cause further reduction of services.

2. Proposals regarding long-term

Medicaid Waivers for consumers with intellectual disabilities. If

proposals to reduce
waiver rates or diminish the number of waivers pass

the General Assembly, the lives of persons with intellectual
disabilities

will be severely affected and the CSB may ultimately be unable to serve new
consumers with intellectual
disabilities.

We adamantly oppose state

budget reductions that affect the lives and health of our most vulnerable
citizens. Ultimately,
these cuts would further limit the CSB's ability

to serve those in need, people would suffer, and our City would face even

more serious problems in the future.

Sincerely,

The Board of

Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center

Susan Drachsler and

Tiffany Sanchez, Co-Chairs
Robert Bovey
Michele T. Cole
Margee

Eife
Brigitte Guttstadt
Elizabeth A. Livingston
Margaret Moore
Dan

Sweeney, Jr.
Claudia Waller

Since 1984, Friends of the Alexandria

Mental Health Center, a not-for-profit group of resident-volunteers, has

supported
individuals with mental disabilities and their families through

education, advocacy, and fundraising for emergency, social,
and

vocational needs.

Attachment: a784817c976484af92899f5858d32bb0.doc



720 North Saint Asaph Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
703.746.3484.

March 1, 2010

Mayor William D. Euille
Members of the Alexandria City Council
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Euille and City Council Members,

Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center (AMHC) was greatly encouraged to learn that the City's proposed budget limits the number of reductions that could have affected Community Service Board (CSB) services in 2011. It is wonderful to know that we have leaders who understand the importance of mental health care, and we thank you for keeping to a minimum the cuts that affect the welfare of our fellow Alexandrians with mental disabilities.

We were especially glad that the CSB's prevention programs were not eliminated. Friends of the AMHC is a partner with the CSB in a Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth grant which provides outstanding substance abuse prevention programs in our schools. This investment in prevention will save lives as well as costs in the future.

However, we are gravely concerned about proposed budget cuts in health services at the state level. If they are adopted they will severely affect the CSB and its clients, especially individuals and families who have limited resources. The impact of these proposed cuts would place an even greater strain on the CSB which is already dealing with cuts made in 2010 as well as the reductions proposed by the City for 2011.

We urge you to advocate for the rejection of these proposals. Among the most critical are the following:

1. Proposals that concern Medicaid payments and the eligibility for community-based service. Governor McDonnell's proposals would make it more difficult for CSB consumers to receive Medicaid and the CSB would lose revenue. This might cause further reduction of services.

2. Proposals regarding long-term Medicaid Waivers for consumers with intellectual disabilities. If proposals to reduce waiver rates or diminish the number of waivers pass the General Assembly, the lives of persons with intellectual disabilities will be severely affected and the CSB may ultimately be unable to serve new consumers with intellectual disabilities.

We adamantly oppose state budget reductions that affect the lives and health of our most vulnerable citizens. Ultimately, these cuts would further limit the CSB's ability to serve those in need, people would suffer, and our City would face even more serious problems in the future.

Sincerely,

The Board of Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center

Susan Drachsler and Tiffeny Sanchez, Co-Chairs

Robert Bovey

Michele T. Cole

Margee Eife

Brigitte Guttstadt

Elizabeth A. Livingston

Margaret Moore

Dan Sweeney, Jr.

Claudia Waller

Since 1984, Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center, a not-for-profit group of resident-volunteers, has supported individuals with mental disabilities and their families through education, advocacy, and fundraising for emergency, social, and vocational needs.

RE: COA Contact Us: The Residential Police Officer in Arlandria

Michael Magee

to:

Elaine.Scott

03/01/2010 04:59 PM

Cc:

alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, frank.fannon, jackie.henderson, kerry.donley, paulcsmedberg, rose.boyd, william.euille, Beth.Temple, Joanne.Pyle, nanella, council, Brandon.Shultz, Judy.Stack, Sharon.Annear

Show Details

Thank you. Please keep me posted. I also know a few members from Hume Springs plan to be at the meeting tonight. Hopefully this will help support our concerns.

Mike



MICHAEL MAGEE, AIA, LEED AP

Senior Project Manager

mmagee@atsiteres.com

From: Elaine.Scott@alexandriava.gov [<mailto:Elaine.Scott@alexandriava.gov>]

Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 3:57 PM

To: Michael Magee

Cc: alicia.hughes@alexandriava.gov; council@krupicka.com; delpepper@aol.com; frank.fannon@alexandriava.gov; jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov; kerry.donley@alexandriava.gov; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov; william.euille@alexandriava.gov; Beth.Temple@alexandriava.gov; Joanne.Pyle@alexandriava.gov; nanella@aol.com; council@krupicka.com; Brandon.Shultz@alexandriava.gov; Judy.Stack@alexandriava.gov; Sharon.Annear@alexandriava.gov

Subject: Re: COA Contact Us: The Residential Police Officer in Arlandria

Dear Mr. Magee:

The City Council has asked that I let you know that they have received your e-mail. Your concerns will be reviewed and a response will be forthcoming.

Sincerely

Elaine Scott

Citizen Assistance

703-746-4800 - Main

703-746-4317 - Direct

703-838-6426 - Fax

From: Michael Magee <mmagee@atsiteres.com>

To: william.euille@alexandriava.gov, frank.fannon@alexandriava.gov, kerry.donley@alexandriava.gov, alicia.hughes@alexandriava.gov, council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com, rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov, jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov, elaine.scott@alexandriava.gov

Date: 02/28/2010 05:02 PM

Subject: COA Contact Us: The Residential Police Officer in Arlandria

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Sun Feb 28, 2010 17:01:34] Message ID: [19555] ..

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Michael

Last Name: Magee

Street Address: 3809 Edison St

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 2230

Phone: 202.271.7063

Email Address: mmagee@atsiteres.com

Subject: The Residential Police Officer in Arlandria

To whom it may concern,

I am writing you to urge you to consider not

eliminating the Residential Police Officer program for Arlandria.

I

am a resident of Hume Springs and have personally seen the benefit of this

position in helping to revive our neighborhood. It is true that the crime

numbers have gone down as a result of this position. However, the crime

has not left the area. It has simply moved to the peripheral. If this

position is eliminated, we all feel the strong holds created will collapse

and the crime will find it's way back into the neighborhood.

This will

Comments: also be a factor in the redevelopment of this area. As the Planning

Department knows, developers are starting to show an interest in the area.

If the aggressive crime prevention is not continued, Alexandria risks

losing this momentum and having to provide more active incentives to

inspire redevelopment.

The program you have in place has made amazing

strides. I would hate to see the achievements fall back as the result of

stopping a program to fast.

Please feel free to contact me if you have

any questions.

Thank you

Mike



COA Contact Us: Proposed COP Program Reduction

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley, alicia.hughes,

Rosa Byrd to: council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg, rose.boyd,
jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/01/2010 08:48 AM

Please respond to Rosa Byrd

Time: [Mon Mar 01, 2010 08:48:20] Message ID: [19569]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Rosa

Last Name: Byrd

Street Address: 203 Wesmond Drive

City: ALEXANDRIA

State: VA

Zip: 22305

Phone: 703-549-2931

Email Address: reyrd@comcast.net

Subject: Proposed COP Program Reduction

When drug trafficking, prostitution and other criminal activities threaten the quality of life in Lynhaven , residents united with the Alexandria City Police Department (COP) to form a strong crime fighting unit that has evolved into a model for the entire city. This program taught officers that even though crime existed in Lynhaven, all Lynhaven residents were not criminals. Lynhaven residents learned to trust our officers and educated ourselves to take the responsibility of helping our COP clean up our neighborhood. Initially residents were afraid to be seen talking to these officers. Today, we are proud of these officers and do not hesitate to

Comments: talk, walk and encourage our neighbors to get to know them.

To say our neighborhood is being served by the "finest" of "Alexandria's Finest" would be an understatement. Crime numbers in Lynhaven, Hume Springs and surrounding neighborhoods have declined due to the partnership of the residents and the Alexandria Police Department. Do not mistake our success as a lack of need for our COP. Please do not

cut this program and show a disregard for our hard work and continued efforts to protect our neighborhoods.

Thank you.



COA Contact Us: Community Officer

Killashandra Cancel to: william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,
alicia.hughes, council, delpepper,
paulcsmberg, rose.boyd, jackie.henderson,
elaine.scott

02/27/2010 01:40 PM

Please respond to Killashandra Cancel

Time: [Sat Feb 27, 2010 13:40:07] Message ID: [19530]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Killashandra

Last Name: Cancel

Street Address: 49 Dale St.

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22305

Phone: 7034477614

Email Address: killashandrac@gmail.com

Subject: Community Officer

I have heard the city is considering removing the community officer for the Hume Springs neighborhood given the drop in crime. (his is a terrible idea as the drop is a direct result of the presence of these officer. Removing the position would only have a backwards step on the progress that has taken place over the past few years. The heavy crime spots remain close by and the lack of officer patrols will serve to encourage the spread and

Comments: resurgence of crime in the arlandria hume springs area.

As a resident

with a desire to live in a safe neighborhood and not worry about crime and drugs taking over the area once again-how it was before the officer started patrolling-I want to ensure the officers, an integral part of the safety and atmosphere of the neighborhood, remains.
Thank you for your time.



COA Contact Us: our officer

Catherine Corp to: william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,
alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

02/27/2010 08:32 PM

Please respond to Catherine Corp

Time: [Sat Feb 27, 2010 20:32:36] Message ID: [19537]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Catherine

Last Name: Corp

Street Address: 133 Dale st

City: Alex

State: Va

Zip: 22305

Phone: 571 265-8009

Email Address: ccorp9@aol.com

Subject: our officer

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members,

I was just told by my

community assoc (Hume Springs) president that our Community Officer position is on the chopping block. I was told that due to crime numbers falling over time within Hume Springs and Lynhaven, the City thinks they can save some money by cutting out our Community Officer. The

officer would be moved to patrol and would no longer be allowed to focus on the neighborhood or guide other officers to problem spots like he has in the past.

This is a real threat to all the progress that has been made over the years! When i first moved here 5 years ago i was very concerned about safety in the neighborhood. We had guns going off - i hit the floor more than once. Much of the crime that has been driven out of Hume Springs still takes place nearby. The heavy presence of officers that know our community keeps them at bay. Keep them out of Hume Springs! We are

Comments:

becoming a real neighborhood!

I don't want to lose the progress that's

been made over the years. I think that the reduction in crime is the
result of our Community Officer and not in spite of him.

I appreciate

your attention to this email.

Sincerely,
Catherine Corp
133 Dale St

22305



COA Contact Us: Elimination of Community Officer in Hume Springs

Erin Kirk-Cuomo to: william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,
alicia.hughes, council, delpepper,
paulcsmedberg, rose.boyd, jackie.henderson,
elaine.scott

02/28/2010 07:06 AM

Please respond to Erin Kirk-Cuomo

Time: [Sun Feb 28, 2010 07:06:07] Message ID: [19539]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Erin
Last Name: Kirk-Cuomo
Street Address: 51 W. Reed Ave
City: Alexandria
State: Va
Zip: 22305
Phone: 703-717-9465
Email Address: bio1024@aol.com
Subject: Elimination of Community Officer in Hume Springs

To Whom it May Concern,

It has been brought to my attention that the funding for the Community Officer position in Hume Springs/Lynhaven area is being reviewed for elimination. I cannot express my deep regret and anger at the possibility of this taking place. Prior to having an involved community officer the crime in our neighborhood was unacceptable. I myself being on the receiving end of felony weapons usage by prior offenders and harrasment by local thugs. The ONLY reason that this has ceased is because of the involvement that our Community Officer has taken over the last year. Simply because our crime rates have fallen does not mean that the position should be eliminated, it simply means that we should push harder. I am an Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom veteran and I know

Comments: that you just don't pull out of a fight because paperwork is telling you that you have won. You have not won this area Ladies and Gentlemen. It is still boarderline and with the elimination of this position you are just

allowing the drug dealers and thugs a reason to come back. Lately they have simply moved into other areas near Hume Springs where the police presence is not as strong. Take a look at the crime reports for the surrounding areas. This is not an acceptable cut, and it will not be tolerated by the people of this community. We are sick of being disregarded and looked over in favor of nearby Del Ray. We are an up and coming community within Alexandria and to abandon us now would be disastrous and it will reflect in our votes if we are ignored. I truly hope that this does not happen for not only my sanity living in my own house, but also for the community that I strive to better every day.



COA Contact Us: proposed cuts to COP program

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,
Melissa Watson to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

02/28/2010 01:52 PM

Please respond to Melissa Watson

Time: [Sun Feb 28, 2010 13:52:48] Message ID: [19546]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Melissa

Last Name: Watson

Street Address: 206 Wesmond Drive

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22305

Phone: 703-739-9713

Email Address: mwatson@laprimacatering.com

Subject: proposed cuts to COP program

The FY2011 budget proposes cutting community oriented policing in the Lynhaven, Hume Springs and Arlandria neighborhoods. (page 46 of the public safety section of the budget) It is stated that this is justified because of reduction of crime in these neighborhoods. While that is true, I think it is far too early eliminate the concentrated efforts of a neighborhood officer. Although it is stated that each neighborhood has 2 COPs, the fact is that for the past year Lynhaven and Hume Springs have been sharing 1 officer. The question is does this budget proposal formalize an existing reduction OR does it actually propose a further cut from 1 to ZERO? Please do not allow this very successful community policing program to be scrapped. Find \$197, 392 somewhere else or we will all have to pay dearly.

Comments:

Melissa Watson
206 Wesmond Drive
Alexandria, VA 22305



COA Contact Us: Community Officer-Hume Springs

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley, alicia.hughes,

Betty King to: council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg, rose.boyd,
jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

02/28/2010 08:37 PM

Please respond to Betty King

Time: [Sun Feb 28, 2010 20:37:06] Message ID: [19560]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Betty

Last Name: King

Street Address: 3731 Mark Dr.

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22305

Phone: 703-836-0776

Email Address: bking88@comcast.net

Subject: Community Officer-Hume Springs
Please do not cut police presence in Hume Springs and do not axe our
Community Officer. While crime here may be down, it is only because of our
Community Officer. We cannot afford to backslide now.
There are many

Comments: homeless people camped out in the new (Wilson Bridge Project-sponsored)
wetland area who come to our alleys to drink, urinate, make noise, and
vandalize. While their presence and activity has decreased in the winter,
it has not abated altogether and will surge again in spring without a
Community Officer to coordinate the effort to stop it.



COA Contact Us: Community Policing Program

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,
Joseph Bondi to: alicia.hughes, council, delppepper, paulcsmedberg,
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

02/28/2010 10:09 PM

Please respond to Joseph Bondi

1 attachment



c0a38ff92b4dbd436a90acff67dd8428.doc

Time: [Sun Feb 28, 2010 22:09:32] Message ID: [19564]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Joseph
Last Name: Bondi
Street Address: 122 Lynhaven Drive
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22305
Phone: 202-309-0169
Email Address: joebondi@gwu.edu
Subject: Community Policing Program
Attached, please find a letter to the Mayor and City Council expressing our
concern about the cuts to APD's Community Policing program.
Comments: Thanks,
Joe
Bondi
Attachment: c0a38ff92b4dbd436a90acff67dd8428.doc



March 1, 2010

To the Mayor and Members of City Council:

The little neighborhood of Lynhaven occupies a big place in the history of the Alexandria Police Department's (APD) efforts at community outreach. The first iteration of today's Community Oriented Police Program (COPs) was piloted in Lynhaven. Some 30 years ago, Lynhaven was deeply scarred by drugs, crime and prostitution. Working together with our civic leaders, the APD was able to clean the neighborhood up. As partners, we were able to create the desirable—yet fragile—community that now sits at the northern end of Alexandria.

That partnership is now in jeopardy. In Lynhaven, and in our neighboring communities of Hume Springs and Arlandria, we are deeply concerned with the City Manager's proposed budget that cuts a COPs officer from each neighborhood.

The COPs program takes Alexandria's best patrol officers and puts them in a situation much harder than patrol. They are introduced to a neighborhood and asked to learn everything about it. Every dark corner, every troublemaker, every problem house. Our officer—Nick Ruggiero—is so much more than a face at a community meeting. He is the face of the APD in Lynhaven.

COPs officers work with their fellow police officers to issue traffic tickets, arrest drug dealers and break up domestic incidents. But those are the things you can read about in the crime statistics. What you don't read about is the tireless work Officer Ruggiero and his predecessors put in to know what's happening here. He knows everyone in the neighborhood. He knows every kid on probation. He knows their parents. He knows where they live and where they hang out. He even knows their teachers.

This intelligence doesn't come easily. He has put in months and months to build rapport and learn this information that none of his colleagues in the APD know. This intelligence is priceless. Not just for Lynhaven but for the whole City: when there's a problem out west with someone suspected to be from here, the first call they make is to Officer Ruggiero. In some cases, the relationships he builds help to steer those kids in the right direction. You don't read in the crime statistics about kids who *don't* get in trouble because of Nick's hard work.

The crime numbers in Lynhaven may look good to you. Much better than even this time last year. That's due in large part to the work of our COPs officers. But things aren't perfect here, and the work of the COPs program in Lynhaven is not done. There is still domestic abuse here. There are still drugs here. There are still kids getting into trouble. To cut this program now would do a great disservice to this community. Not only would crime certainly increase, but all that intelligence, all that work Officer Ruggiero and his predecessors have put in would be lost.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph A. Bondi, President
The Lynhaven Citizens Association



COA Contact Us: The Residential Police Officer in Arlandria

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,

Michael Magee to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

02/28/2010 05:02 PM

Please respond to Michael Magee

Time: [Sun Feb 28, 2010 17:01:34] Message ID: [19555]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Michael
Last Name: Magee
Street Address: 3809 Edison St
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 2230
Phone: 202.271.7063
Email Address: mmagee@atsiteres.com
Subject: The Residential Police Officer in Arlandria

To whom it may concern,

I am writing you to urge you to consider not

eliminating the Residential Police Officer program for Arlandria.

I

am a resident of Hume Springs and have personally seen the benefit of this position in helping to revive our neighborhood. It is true that the crime numbers have gone down as a result of this position. However, the crime has not left the area. It has simply moved to the peripheral. If this position is eliminated, we all feel the strong holds created will collapse and the crime will find it's way back into the neighborhood.

This will

Comments: also be a factor in the redevelopment of this area. As the Planning Department knows, developers are starting to show an interest in the area. If the aggressive crime prevention is not continued, Alexandria risks losing this momentum and having to provide more active incentives to inspire redevelopment.

The program you have in place has made amazing strides. I would hate to see the achievements fall back as the result of stopping a program too fast.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you

Mike



COA Contact Us: Inquiry of Feb 18

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley, alicia.hughes,

Bud Miller to: council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg, rose.boyd,
jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

02/26/2010 11:01 AM

Please respond to Bud Miller

Time: [Fri Feb 26, 2010 11:01:47] Message ID: [19504]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Bud
Last Name: Miller
Street Address: 115-d South Saint Asaph Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703 684-5312
Email Address: ersalexandria@msn.com
Subject: Inquiry of Feb 18
Dear Mr. Mayor, Vice Mayor and Council Members.

I greatly appreciate the
fact that the Mayor and two City Council Members responded to my inquiry of
February 18, 2010 to state that they or City Staff would research the
answers to my questions.

Unfortunately, as of this time, I have yet to
receive an answer. I understand the many demands on your schedule, however
I believe the questions (reproduced below) are straightforward and that a
minimum of research is involved.

Three Questions regarding Staff

Reductions

According to the City's web site: the budget eliminates 67
positions. Staff reductions would result in reduced service hours at some
City facilities, and cuts to programs and services.

Comments: How many of these 67
positions have been vacant for three months or more?

If a substantial

number of these 67 positions have been unstaffed for three months or more,
why would this result in reduced service hours at some City Facilities, and
cuts to programs and services?

How many of these 67 positions pay
\$100,000 or more?

Thank you for your assistance. I hope the City
Council will give serious consideration to a zero growth budget given the
substantial economic challenges being faced by its
citizens.

Sincerely,

Bud Miller



COA Contact Us: City Property Tax Rate

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,
Steven Johnston to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

02/21/2010 12:35 PM

Please respond to Steven Johnston

Time: [Sun Feb 21, 2010 12:35:31] Message ID: [19287]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Steven
Last Name: Johnston
Street Address: 5017 Grimm Drive
City: ALEXANDRIA
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 7034016082
Email Address: stevejohnston@global.t-bird.edu
Subject: City Property Tax Rate

Dear Mayor,

Here is a copy of my email to City Manager Hartmann sent
today.

Best regards,

Steven Johnston

Dear Mr. Hartmann,

I just

learned that you have proposed a 7 cent increase in the city's property tax
rate to close the budget gap.
As a citizen, I call on you to retract this

Comments:

proposal. I understand that there is a budget gap, but completely
oppose

raising property taxes to close this gap. Rather, you should propose

additional service cuts to close
the budget gap. Yes, I understand this

means reduction in services. That is reality. Stop pinching the citizens

and start cutting! We are already suffering from over spending by city

government and a bad economy.

Sincerely,

Steven Johnston"



COA Contact Us: Property Tax Rate

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,
Anthony Esteve to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

02/20/2010 03:57 PM

Please respond to Anthony Esteve

Time: [Sat Feb 20, 2010 15:57:02] Message ID: [19278]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Anthony

Last Name: Esteve

Street Address: 2736 Franklin Court

City: Alexandria

State: Virginia

Zip: 22302

Phone: None

Email Address: anthonyesteve@gmail.com

Subject: Property Tax Rate
Council:

I'm writing today to request that the City maintain the
residential property tax rate for FY2011's Budget at 90.3 cents/\$100.

At a minimum, any increase in the rate should maintain the total tax

Comments: amount paid last year. In my view, property owners should not be paying
more tax on property that is now worth less.

Regards, Tony Esteve
2736

Franklin Ct



COA Contact Us: Three Questions regarding Staff Reductions

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley, alicia.hughes,

Bud Miller to: council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg, rose.boyd,
jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

02/18/2010 01:22 PM

Please respond to Bud Miller

Time: [Thu Feb 18, 2010 13:22:33] Message ID: [19210]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Bud

Last Name: Miller

Street Address: 115-D South Saint Asaph Street

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22314

Phone: 703 684-5307

Email Address: ersalexandria@msn.com

Subject: Three Questions regarding Staff Reductions
According to the City's web site: the budget eliminates 67 positions.
Staff reductions would result in reduced service hours at some City
facilities, and cuts to programs and services.
How many of these 67
positions have been vacant for three months or more?
If a substantial

Comments: number of these 67 postions have been unstaffed for three months or more,
why would this result in reduced service hours at some City Facilities, and
cuts to programs and services?
How many of these 67 positions pay
\$100,000 or more?



COA Contact Us: Painless savings on leaf removal

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,
Thomas Baker to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

02/16/2010 01:28 PM

Please respond to Thomas Baker

Time: [Tue Feb 16, 2010 13:27:56] Message ID: [19109]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Thomas

Last Name: Baker

Street Address: 600 Pulman Place

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22305-1226

Phone: 703-684-8722

Email Address: charm2017@yahoo.com

Subject: Painless savings on leaf removal

As you review the budget, I wish to suggest a relatively painless way to
save money and reduce costs. DISCONTINUE curb side vacuuming of leaves

& EXPAND your brown recycling bags curb pickup.
I note from a Google

search that many communities have done this with wonderful results.

Basically every community that has switched has not only saved money but

improved the way the town looks.
Moreover, if you adopted this new

policy, you would also increase SAFETY. This fall was especially

dangerous driving along Cameron Mills Road with the leaves all plastered
down and making it one lane. The problem is NOT the city workers who do a
great job, it is the citizens who ignore the guidelines and times posted
and just blow all their leaves willy nilly any time that is convenient.

We even had an early snow that caked all the leaves. Plus all the storm
drains were totally clogged which is both a safety and an environmental
issue.

I am 62 years old and still fighting Stage IV tongue cancer so I

am hardly robust after all the radiation and chemotherapy these last three years, yet I can rake and bag my leaves (a few bags at a time admittedly but since the City is great about picking up those bags every week. I notice walking around that it is NOT my fellow senior citizens using leaf blowers to clog the streets, but strapping youths and adults in the prime of life.

The city could mandate that the leaf services bag the leaves

Comments:

as that is especially irritating to see the commercial businesses, many from outside Alexandria, just clog the streets while we taxpayers subsidize their leaf pickup. Some of my older friends insist their contractors use the city bags because they care about the problems throwing leaves into the street like trash causes.

Alexandria could sell its' vacuum trucks as many

other cities have. We save money by not having to buy or repair

specialized equipment that sits useless for nine months. Instead you get

more bang for your buck

Here is just one account from one New Jersey

borough

This year, the borough discontinued its practice of vacuuming

leaves raked or blown to the curbside. Instead, residents were required to

bag their leaves and place the bags at curbside for Department of Public

Works (DPW) pickup. Borough officials said the change was made to cut costs,

better utilize the borough's workforce, provide the same services to all

local residents and comply with state Department of Environmental

Protection storm water regulations, which require storm drains to remain

clear...the new leaf removal practice has improved the appearance of the

borough. "People have called me and complimented the borough on the

new leaf policy. Some who have called said they didn't want to bag their

leaves at first but have said the town looks better than it ever

has"

Thank you for your consideration

Thomas Baker



COA Contact Us: Budget

Micheline Eyraud to: william.cuille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,
alicia.hughes, council, delpepper,
paulcsmedberg, rose.boyd, jackie.henderson,
elaine.scott

02/20/2010 10:46 AM

Please respond to Micheline Eyraud

Time: [Sat Feb 20, 2010 10:46:29] Message ID: [19268]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Micheline
Last Name: Eyraud
Street Address: 2181 Jamieson Ave #509
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703 567-8896
Email Address: michye00@hotmail.com
Subject: Budget

The budget proposed by Jim Hartmann is a big disappointment -- in a year when everyone else is reining in their spending and making sure that what they spend their money on is important Jim Hartmann has at his principal objective maintaining the standard of living that the City is used to. As a matter of fact, one senior employee told me yesterday that the City is "entitled" to a fair percentage of what I make just because and was quite taken aback when I said that I was wondering where all the efficiencies were that the Council has been bragging about (the tangible result of efficiencies is that there are reductions in force; if you can't provide this information then maybe you should ask what is going on).

Does anyone in the city government have any inkling of what people have been going through over the past several years? The people you want to finance your spending habits have absolutely no job security whatsoever. In many cases they have also lost their jobs and it may take months in order

Comments: to find another one yet you want them to continue to burden them with

excessive taxes just to maintain the status quo.

You need to remember

that the city is not entitled to anything that anyone makes. We are responsible to pay for the fair expenses of maintaining a government. The fair expenses of government does not include continuing to people's salaries even though positions have been eliminated nor does it include continuing redundant or ineffective programs just to keep people employed. Just like business you are going to have to make hard decisions and reshape the workforce to meet the future needs of this city. At some point you are going to have to admit that we have more people than we can reasonably afford (we can't even give them a raise) and that in many cases we are paying people much more than the responsibility of their position dictates. I hope that the Council has the courage to make these hard decisions.



COA Contact Us: Dash Bus Service

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,

Larry McCoy to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

02/20/2010 01:50 AM

Please respond to Larry McCoy

Time: [Sat Feb 20, 2010 01:50:46] Message ID: [19263]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Larry

Last Name: McCoy

Street Address: 5205 Duke St

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22304

Phone:

Email Address: mccoy22304@yahoo.com

Subject: Dash Bus Service

As a resident of Alexandria I can tell you that the Dash Bus system is a valuable resource for citizens, businesses located in our city, and visitors. I know that public money is in short supply in this current economic climate. We have to make cuts here and there based on priorities.

It seems as though we keep dealing with these cuts by reducing the services that the Dash Bus system provides. I understand some cuts in services are needed however I question the fact that every time the budget axe falls we cut services.

How can we save money on the Dash Bus service without cutting services? Well I think we need to cut some of the expenses associated with Dash Bus.

For example it seems to me that

Dash spends a lot of money on marketing. Have you considered cutting back on the marketing staff? Have you considered cutting back on the marketing

materials and other items? I see all of these posters in the buses advertising local events and such. Well frankly people who attend local events already know about them. We do not need all of these posters. I met a person at a happy hour recently in Old Town and she was telling me about what a bloated staff the marketing department at Dash has. It's actually quite sad that you keep cutting services but paying hundreds of thousands of dollars to market a service that sells it's self.

Anyone

who is open to public transportation will seek it out. You do not need to sell public transportation to anyone.

I would like to challenge each

and everyone of you to cut some expenses at Dash before you cut the service. Have you considered a hiring freeze for administrative staff?

Have you considered cutting back on the fluff expenses that are unnecessary to the operation of Dash such as marketing and advertising?

Comments:

When John

Cato came to DC to lead Metro one of the first things he did was cut back on all the unnecessary staff. We need a comon sense approach like this to the operations of Dash.

I really think Dash needs to cut back on the

administrative staff. Anyone who wants to take the bus will find the bus.

So why does Dash spend so much on marketing? As far as I am concerned Dash could have no marketing and I would be more than happy with the service.

Anyone who wants to not drive will look for other options. The internet rules in this day and age for information and anyone can find enough information there to take Dash.

I really think that before we cut the

Dash bus service anymore we need to make some cuts to the operations budget. The administrative staff at Dash should be reduced. Salary increases should be curtailed. There should be no cuts to things that are associated with safety however luxury items such as marketing should be drastically reduced before services are cut.

Why has'nt Dash eliminated

the paper transfers as most other bus systems have for example? These paper transfers cost money and waste paper. All of the other bus systems in the area have eliminated paper transfers in favor of electronic transfers via the smartrip card. Why are you cutting Dash services when you could cut Dash expenses such as these paper transfers?

Please take a

hard look at the operations of Dash before you cut anymore services. We all are having to make some hard choices about priorities in this market. Before there are anymore cuts to Dash services I think there should first be some cuts to Dash EXPENSES!



linda morefield
<linp@comcast.net>

01/24/2010 01:06 PM

Please respond to
linda morefield
<linp@comcast.net>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov, frank.fannon@alexandriava.gov,
kerry.donley@alexandriava.gov, alicia.hughes@alexandriava.gov,
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: our library

Time: [Sun Jan 24, 2010 13:06:05] Message ID: [18360]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: linda
Last Name: morefield
Street Address: 215 woodland terrace
City: alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22302
Phone: 703-836-5561
Email Address: linp@comcast.net
Subject: our library

Dear Sirs. i am writing to urge you to visit your local library in the

evening--As I've observed at my branch library, Duncan, the library is

much more than a place to borrow books. It is a community resource,

particularly for those who have financial disadvantages in this difficult

economy. At Duncan, there is typically a wait-list for using

computers--and you will see a cross-section of the community at the

computers--children doing their homework, adults researching jobs, not only

to find out where there are openings but to read about the companies they

may be applying to so that they can apply smart. There are people typing

resumes, researching how to write resumes. These are people who, unlike

you and me, are not lucky enough to have a computer at home or

discretionary funds to pay for an internet connection. The library

provides equal opportunity for all--and
for many of the users,

schoolchildren, those employed during the day and looking to better

Comments: themselves, evening access to the
library is essential. In addition, the

library offers classes, for free, in preparing a resume, doing a job

search, using a
computer. The library is a resource for our community in

providing free educational programs and author talks--for those who
have

outside employment or house responsibilities during the day, evening

programs are an enrichment--a gift from the city
to its community.

For

those without the discretionary funds for newspapers or magazines--the

library is the place to read the daily newspaper,
to check out music and

video discs.

Particularly now, in this economic downturn, the library is

more important than ever to ensuring the well-being of every
member of

the community. Please keep the library open in the evening. Please do not

cut even more funds that the library
needs to by the resources needed by

all members of the community. Thank you. Linda Morefield



David Lord
<dal80521@yahoo.com>

01/14/2010 09:43 AM

Please respond to
David Lord
<dal80521@yahoo.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov, frank.fannon@alexandriava.gov,
kerry.donley@alexandriava.gov, alicia.hughes@alexandriava.gov,
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Budget Question and Concern

Time: [Thu Jan 14, 2010 09:43:31] Message ID: [18188]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: David

Last Name: Lord

Street Address: 706A King Street #2A

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22314

Phone: 202-446-6490

Email Address: dal80521@yahoo.com

Subject: Budget Question and Concern

I heard a rumor this morning that the City of Alexandria was considering installing a carousel on the waterfront. This carousel would purportedly offer free rides. Can you please tell me if there is any truth in this rumor and, if so, what the funding source would be? Specifically, would any public funds be going toward this endeavor? I'm sure that you can imagine the concern the public would have over this possibility. Given how much heat the City has taken for expending public funds on things such as ethics consultants and free trolley rides during a time of economic turmoil, any truth behind this rumor would doubtless lead to additional criticism of Alexandria. Any assistance you can provide in validating the truth or falsity of this story would be greatly appreciated.

Comments:

Many

thanks,

David Lord

**Alexandria Council for Human Service Organizations (ACSHO)
Alexandria, Virginia**

December 30, 2009

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Donley, Members of City Council, City Manager Hartmann and Assistant City Manager Collins:

The Alexandria Council for Human Service Organizations' (ACHSO) purpose is to improve human services through cross sector collaboration to benefit the entire Alexandria community. Thus, we send this letter to convey our interest in making improvements to the City's Community Partnership Funds.

We believe the changes recommended below can enable the City and the nonprofit organizations that provide human services to Alexandria residents to better deliver needed services in our community. Decreased revenues at a time of increased needs is a plight both ACSHO member organizations, as well as the City, face. While the need for our services has grown during this time of reduced revenues, many of our organizations have drawn down on our reserve funds to increase our service delivery. Of course that trend will not be able to continue indefinitely. With funding restored at least to FY09 levels, it can have a significant payoff for our clients. Our ability to leverage private resources means our City's residents have even more benefit because of the City's investment.

The Alexandria Council for Human Services Organizations (ACHSO) recommends the following changes to the City of Alexandria's Community Partnership Funds (Community Partnership, Youth and Children's Funds):

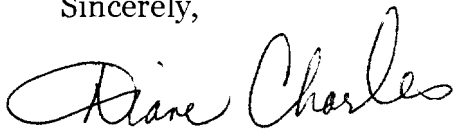
- Restore the funding for each of the three City funds that grant funding to nonprofits to carry out needed human services in the City of Alexandria to their FY09 level. While Alexandria reduced funding for nonprofits to provide human services last year, neighbor jurisdictions Fairfax and Arlington Counties maintained level funding. The reduction last year, combined with no increases in previous years, has stressed both organizations and the services delivered, while the need for services has increased. During these especially difficult economic times, both the challenge and need for services for our vulnerable population, are at an all time high. Thus, we are asking for at least a restoration of the FY09 funding level for the Alexandria Community Partnership Funds.
- Return to the practice of funding nonprofit organizations (for whom they provide grants for City human services) for a two-year cycle. We strongly recommend this approach even if during this challenging economic climate, the City wishes to include as part of a two-year cycle, a stipulation that the grants are contingent **on**

- **each City budget year's status.** This enables an organization to do more effective planning – on a two year cycle. It also would be expected that the City would ask for updates on any programmatic or budget alternations during the two year time period.
- Change (move-up) the dates of grant submissions to March 1st, and thus grant notifications to organizations by May 15th each year. Enabling nonprofit organizations to have a little more lead time on notification of grants is critical to effective planning. We suggest moving up the process so that organizations can learn of the status of their grant requests within two weeks of the City's final budget passage.

We believe these changes can mean important improvements that will make a significant difference to those who most need the human services in our City. We look forward to continuing our partnerships with the City to ensure that the most effective, efficient and critical services are delivered to our citizens.

Thank you for your attention to these important issues. We look forward to working together to make improvements to the delivery of human services in Alexandria.

Sincerely,



Diane Charles

Chair, ACHSO's Education & Advocacy Committee

....on behalf of the

Over 40 Members of the Alexandria Council for Human Service Organizations (ACHSO)



Jon Rosenbaum
<HJRosenbaum@comcast.net>

01/03/2010 02:21 PM

Please respond to
Jon Rosenbaum
<HJRosenbaum@comcast.net>

To: william.euille@alexandriava.gov, frank.fannon@alexandriava.gov,
kerry.donley@alexandriava.gov, alicia.hughes@alexandriava.gov,
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject: COA Contact Us: Budget and Strategic Plan

Time: [Sun Jan 03, 2010 14:21:24] Message ID: [17988]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Jon

Last Name: Rosenbaum

Street Address: 421 North Saint Asaph Street

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22314

Phone: 703-836-7877

Email Address: HJRosenbaum@comcast.net

Subject: Budget and Strategic Plan

The city should move resources from the Planning Department to fund economic development and business promotion. Currently the Planning Department is overstaffed. The plans being developed will no doubt need to be redone in several years once development commences again and their are few current projects needing analysis. On the other hand, the Development Collaborative with the Chamber has very few employees. We have three archeologists on the city staff. There are not many more staffers paid by the city doing economic development.

And I want to urge you again not to pass a storm water fee. This would not be deductible from income tax for filers that itemize. Property taxes are deductible. Fees are not.



Kathryn Tatko
<ktjr89@verizon.net>

12/14/2009 06:01 PM

Please respond to
Kathryn Tatko
<ktjr89@verizon.net>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov, frank.fannon@alexandriava.gov,
kerry.donley@alexandriava.gov, alicia.hughes@alexandriava.gov,
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Recent email about Alexadnria library budget

Time: [Mon Dec 14, 2009 18:01:06] Message ID: [17613]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Kathryn

Last Name: Tatko

Street Address: 4542 Seminary Rd.

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22304

Phone: 703-751-1456

Email Address: ktjr89@verizon.net

Subject: Recent email about Alexadnria library budget
My husband and I sent you an email last Friday concerning the budget
process for the Alexandria Libraries for 2010 and 2011.

Please note

Comments: that our names are:
Kathryn Tatko & John Richards.

Thank you

for noting this.



Elizabeth Guttman
<bguttmann19@yahoo.com>

12/10/2009 01:38 PM

Please respond to
Elizabeth Guttman
<bguttmann19@yahoo.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov, frank.fannon@alexandriava.gov,
kerry.donley@alexandriava.gov, alicia.hughes@alexandriava.gov,
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Cuts to ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY SYSTEM

Time: [Thu Dec 10, 2009 13:38:39] Message ID: [17486]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Elizabeth

Last Name: Guttman

Street Address: 2933 Nob Hill Court

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22314

Phone: 703-370-4834

Email Address: bguttmann19@yahoo.com

Subject: Cuts to ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY SYSTEM

As a long time resident of Alexandria (since 1974) I have developed a long and ongoing relationship with the Alexandria Libraries. With my love for books I have to come to regard the library as a second home. I have also spent many an hour as a volunteer (and a Friend of Burke Branch Library) helping out with the Burke Branch's quarterly book sales. Hence it is with extreme disappointment and dismay that I learn that the 2010 and 2011 budget for the Alexandria Library System is undergoing painful cuts.

I recognize that our city (and cities all over the country) is experiencing economic hardships. However, I would ask that the Mayor and the City Council at least strongly consider at least not implementing any further cuts those that have already been made.

The reasons for not making further cuts are many, which I will not go into at length...however, I would like to present a few thoughts as to why I think we need to preserve our Library (ies). First and foremost, a library represents the

Comments:

very heart of a community. It is a safe haven for children to go to learn and interact with other children. Our (collective) community is a very diverse one and the library again, represents a place where people of different cultures can go to learn to read, to be exposed to new ideas, learn to use a computer and learn about many cultural aspects of our country. A library provides people with a chance to access resources they may never have known even existed. It allows them to learn about our community they may never have known about, The library in many ways acts as a town crier: it lets people know what is going on in the community .
The

access to computers is an enormous gateway to the world for many of our library patrons. Many cannot afford one themselves. So, the library is there to provide them with this access to the world...including helping them, perhaps, to look for employment.
For children...the library is a

wonderland ! at least it was for me, as a child. It opened my eyes to worlds and words I didn't know about.
There are so many more reasons NOT

to reduce the budget or the hours of our libraries. Losing them would leave our world a lot less colorful.

I thank you for hearing me out and
listening to my concerns.

Elizabeth Guttman
2933 Nob Hill

Court
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-370-4834



Jon Rosenbaum
<HJRosenbaum@comcast.net>

11/12/2009 03:02 PM

Please respond to
Jon Rosenbaum
<HJRosenbaum@comcast.net>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov, frank.fannon@alexandriava.gov,
kerry.donley@alexandriava.gov, alicia.hughes@alexandriava.gov,
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Revenue

Time: [Thu Nov 12, 2009 15:02:20] Message ID: [16804]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Jon
Last Name: Rosenbaum
Street Address: 421 North Saint Asaph Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703-836-7877
Email Address: HJRosenbaum@comcast.net
Subject: Revenue
I believe that the city could raise revenue by adding parking meters or,
preferably, the new computerized machines that take
credit card payment
for parking. The 800 block of South Saint Asaph Street, for example, is a
strip of stores - but currently
parking is free. A survey should be made
Comments: of areas like that block that could accommodate paid parking on the
street.
On another, related budget issue - please do not add fees.
Local taxes are deductible from federal taxes. Fees do not qualify
for
tax deductions.



Bud Miller
<Bud@efficientresearch.com>

11/17/2009 10:27 AM

Please respond to
Bud Miller
<Bud@efficientresearch.com>

To: william.euille@alexandriava.gov, frank.fannon@alexandriava.gov,
kerry.donley@alexandriava.gov, alicia.hughes@alexandriava.gov,
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject: COA Contact Us: Budget Matters

Time: [Tue Nov 17, 2009 10:27:28] Message ID: [16879]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Bud
Last Name: Miller
Street Address: 115-D South Saint Asaph Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703 684-5312
Email Address: Bud@efficientresearch.com
Subject: Budget Matters
I've attached an editorial listing six general budget reforms and seven
Comments: specific proposed budget cuts for your review.
Bud Miller
Attachment: e61381159a8942a9bdf4a7c831191cba.docx



e61381159a8942a9bdf4a7c831191cba.docx

It is good to see that City Manager Jim Hartman is instituting a program of “collaborative realignment “. In private business, we would likely skip the fancy words and simply call such a program “common sense”. Given the stresses on the City Budget over the last few years, one can reasonably question why such operational inefficiencies weren’t addressed long ago. Regardless, it is an encouraging sign.

It would be cruel, damaging, and counterproductive to impose yet more tax increases on Alexandria homeowners and businesses as we struggle to climb out of the worst recession in recent memory. Obviously, making cuts in order to close gaps in the budget will cause a level of discomfort for the professional politicians that occupy our City government, but the Mayor and Alexandria City Council must learn to live within their means like any other American institution or individual.

Given the lack of imagination in the area of budget reductions expressed by our Mayor, I thought it would be appropriate to make a few suggestions as follows:

General Reform

1. **Close City coffers to new programs.** For example, the City shouldn’t even consider jumping into the financial morass (easily worth tens of millions of taxpayer dollars) associated with proposed street cars.
2. **Transparency.** Post all financial information, contracts, invoices, etc. on the City’s web site so we can see where our money is being spent. Of course, there should be some exceptions to this, such as payments associated with police investigations.
3. **Zero Based Budgeting.** Programs shouldn’t be funded just because they exist. Start from the ground up and justify costs on an annual basis. Weed out the bad and fertilize the good.
4. **Litigation Board.** Create a nonpartisan board of retired judges and lawyers to review all pending and future litigation involving the City. This volunteer board should be able to veto new and settle pending litigation. Each member should voluntarily agree to abstain from running for public office for five years beginning with the end of their service to the City.
5. **Auditing Board.** Create a nonpartisan board of auditors, business executives and individuals who have served in local governments outside of Alexandria to review operations and budgeting. These volunteers should also foreswear running for public office in Alexandria for five years at the end of their service.
6. **Cease using the powers of the City as political weapons.** It appears that the elected leadership doesn’t like business, especially if it deals with goods or services that some may consider “politically incorrect” such as fuel oil or high quality sporting weapons. After all, the elimination of one discreet, high end sporting goods store resulted in the unexpected opening of the first “adult” shop on King Street, with more to come.

Specific Programs

Here are a few items for immediate savings.

1. **Terminate the "Safe Haven" Program.** Though created with the best of intentions, this controversial, misguided, multi-million dollar program designed to provide luxury apartments in the heart of Old Town to a dozen homeless people is a gold plated monument to waste. As of this date, the poorly managed, over budget program has yet to service a single person.
2. **Terminate the Sister City Program.** Surely, Alexandria's tourism industry benefits much more from its location at the step of our nation's capital than association with a city an ocean away.
3. **Terminate the iPod/key chain giveaway.** Sure, it's only \$30,000, but how many meals could that buy for the truly needy had the city left those dollars in the hands of charitable private citizens?
4. **Verify that all public school students are legal residents of Alexandria.** Transfer non-residents to the appropriate school district, and fine the parents for the cost of the services provided by the City. Why should Alexandria taxpayers pay the tab for students sneaking in from other jurisdictions?
5. **Terminate City participation in the NVTa.** By any reasonable expectation, The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTa) has been an abject failure. Its finances were gutted as unconstitutional; its original "priority" projects met with ridicule from its closest allies as being politically motivated and ineffective; and even one of its staff members was arrested for allegedly defrauding the organization. There are better solutions for our transportation problems, beginning with cutting all support for this failure.
6. **Planning and Zoning.** Readers may recall that it was only a few months ago that Planning Director Faroll Hamer's arbitrary, capricious, or simply unreasonable actions in a recent land use case were overturned by the BZA. Now taxpayers deserve an answer to this question: why have staffing and other costs increased when economic activity, such as building, has declined? Replace Faroll Hamer with a professional urban planner, down size the staff and keep personal political agendas out of this office.
7. **Divest of land holdings and leave the Old Dominion Boat Club alone.** Instead of attacking an Alexandria institution with an unwarranted land grab, the city should focus on reducing its property holdings and improving management at existing locations.

Obviously, with a bloated budget that has grown so quickly over the past few years, there is plenty of room for additional reductions and no need to raise taxes yet again. Hopefully, the Mayor and City Council will be up to the task to make these decisions and do their jobs. Goodness knows, the taxpayers have done more than their fair share.

Sincerely,

Bud Miller
Alexandria Taxpayers United
115-D South Saint Asaph Street
(703) 684-5312



COA Contact Us: Duncan library budget cut back

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,

Nicoletta Clifford to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/08/2010 04:30 PM

Please respond to Nicoletta Clifford

Time: [Mon Mar 08, 2010 16:14:58] Message ID: [19822]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Nicoletta

Last Name: Clifford

Street Address: 2712 Holly Street

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22305

Phone: 5712011364

Email Address: nikkiclifford@gmail.com

Subject: Duncan library budget cut back

I am extremely upset that the Library Board and the City Manager have proposed cutting Duncan Library's operating hours. This is an incredibly short-sighted and unreasonable cut, particularly considering that, during an economic downturn, library resources are in greater demand. People have less money, are unable to purchase books, so move from Barnes and Noble to our libraries.

For working families, the reduced hours would make the libraries virtually inaccessible during the week. For children, these shortened hours would mean morning programs and storytimes would be delayed or cut, and evening storytimes would be eliminated. For adults, evening programs -- such as book clubs and author talks -- would likely be eliminated, and the meeting rooms would be inaccessible for community groups and library events, as all these typically begin at or after 7pm.

Comments:

Is this worth a savings of just \$173,000 annually, when the cost is reducing access to all of Alexandria's neighborhood branches?

If

you've never visited Duncan Library, I encourage you to do so. It's a true neighborhood library; many patrons live within walking distance, and the staff knows practically every child by name. It is, without a doubt, a central part of the Del Ray community and an invaluable City service.

Please keep the library open in the evening. The impact of the reduced hours is extremely disproportionate to the amount of the budget cut achieved.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the FY 2011 Budget.



COA Contact Us: Duncan Library Cutbacks

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley, alicia.hughes,
Anne Shine to: council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg, rose.boyd,
jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/08/2010 04:23 PM

Please respond to Anne Shine

Time: [Mon Mar 08, 2010 16:06:55] Message ID: [19818]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Anne

Last Name: Shine

Street Address: 108 West Maple Street

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22301

Phone: 703-518-8158

Email Address: anneshine@comcast.net

Subject: Duncan Library Cutbacks

It has recently come to my attention that the Alexandria Library,

specifically Duncan Branch will have its hours shortened, its
budget cut

once again. I realize that every agency in the City budget needs to be

scrutinized for balancing purposes, but it
would seem to me that cutting

back on schools and libraries would be, in the long run, counter productive

and therefore the
very last areas in which the City makes budget

reductions. It is a resource for our children as well as our adults in

this
community.

Comments:

Please come see for yourselves how this library is

utilized in so many ways, for job-hunting resources, taking out books,

reading time for pre-schoolers (there were about 25 there the other day

when I came to donate some books), community
board meetings. The latter

would be excluded if hours are cut in the evenings.

As a citizen and
frequent user of this facility, please re-consider your budget reduction in
our libraries.

Anne Shine



COA Contact Us: Please do not cut library hours.

Elizabeth Schilling to: william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,
alicia.hughes, council, delpepper,
paulcsmedberg, rose.boyd, jackie.henderson,
elaine.scott

03/08/2010 04:23 PM

Please respond to Elizabeth Schilling

Time: [Mon Mar 08, 2010 16:23:07] Message ID: [19823]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Elizabeth

Last Name: Schilling

Street Address: 10 E. Custis Ave

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22301

Phone: 703-294-6659

Email Address: eschilling@smartgrowthamerica.org

Subject: Please do not cut library hours.
To the Honorable Mayor Euille and all Council Members -

The announcement

that the City plans to further cut the hours of the Duncan library is

extremely distressing and strikes me
as penny wise and pound foolish.

The public library system is one of the most important services the City

provides, and at
less than 2% of the City's budget, it is already

underfunded.

Slashing the hours "around the edges", by

delaying opening times until 10:00 and closing earlier on week days, will

sharply
reduce the Duncan library's utility to working families and to

children. Storytimes are already regularly at capacity, and the
delayed

opening would be likely to reduce the number available. As a parent

working flexible part time in order to raise my
two small children, I

Comments: regularly seek out the library to sneak in a few quiet hours of work early and late. (I would use the library even earlier if I could!) Cutting out evening hours would make the meeting room much less available and eliminate some important community activities such as book clubs.

The facility and the staff at Duncan library are the heart of my neighborhood. My entire family and my community benefits directly from the library's services and we will be directly affected by the proposed cuts.

Understanding that the City does need to balance its budget, I urge you to consider the impact these minimal savings will have on such an important, valuable and highly valued institution.

Thank you for your attention and your service on our behalf,
Sincerely,
Elizabeth Schilling



COA Contact Us: Duncan library reduced hours

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,
Hallie Wilfert to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/08/2010 04:23 PM

Please respond to Hallie Wilfert

Time: [Mon Mar 08, 2010 16:08:36] Message ID: [19819]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Hallie

Last Name: Wilfert

Street Address: 409 Hume Ave

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22301

Phone: 202-270-8778

Email Address: halliewilfert@gmail.com

Subject: Duncan library reduced hours

I am extremely upset that the Library Board and the City Manager have proposed cutting Duncan Library's operating hours. This is an incredibly short-sighted and unreasonable cut, particularly considering that, during an economic downturn, library resources are in greater demand.

The

Duncan library is one of my favorite parts of the Del Ray neighborhood. I visit the Duncan library at least once a week to check out books, movies, and books on CD. Since I work in Maryland, the only time I am able to visit the library is after 7 pm. As a home owner and tax payer in Alexandria, I do not think it's fair to punish me and other working professionals by limiting our access to these resources.

Comments:

Additionally, closing the library by 7 on the weeknights would mean that the book clubs and author talks would most likely not occur, since these all generally start at 7 pm.

Please keep the library open in the evening. The impact of the reduced hours is extremely disproportionate to the amount of the budget cut achieved.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the FY 2011 Budget.

Best,
Hallie Wilfert



COA Contact Us: Reduced Library Hours

william.euille, frank.fannon,
kerry.donley, alicia.hughes, council,
Michelle & Joseph McCarthy to: delpepper, paulcsmedberg,
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson,
elaine.scott

03/08/2010 04:24 PM

Please respond to Michelle & Joseph McCarthy

Time: [Mon Mar 08, 2010 16:09:31] Message ID: [19820]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Michelle & Joseph
Last Name: McCarthy
Street Address: 729 West Braddock Road
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22302
Phone: 703 549-1366
Email Address: amd.mccarthy@gmail.com
Subject: Reduced Library Hours

We are extremely upset that the Library Board and the City Manager have proposed cutting Duncan Library's operating hours. This is an incredibly short-sighted and unreasonable cut, particularly considering that, during an economic downturn, library resources are in greater demand.

For

working families, the reduced hours would make the libraries virtually inaccessible during the week. For children, these shortened hours would mean morning programs and storytimes would be delayed or cut, and evening storytimes would be eliminated. For adults, evening programs -- such as book clubs and author talks -- would likely be eliminated, and the meeting rooms would be inaccessible for community groups and library events, as all these typically begin at or after 7pm.

Is this worth a savings of just

Comments: \$173,000 annually, when the cost is reducing access to all of Alexandria's neighborhood branches?

If you've never visited Duncan Library, we encourage you to do so. It's a true neighborhood library; many patrons live within walking distance, and the staff knows practically every child by name. It is, without a doubt, a central part of the Del Ray community and an invaluable City service.

Please keep the library open in the evening. The impact of the reduced hours is extremely disproportionate to the amount of the budget cut achieved.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the FY 2011 Budget.

Joseph & Michelle McCarthy



COA Contact Us: Duncan Library hours

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,
Andrea Koslow to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/08/2010 04:27 PM

Please respond to Andrea Koslow

Time: [Mon Mar 08, 2010 16:12:14] Message ID: [19821]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Andrea

Last Name: Koslow

Street Address: 112A Hume Avenue

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22301

Phone:

Email Address: bignera@hotmail.com

Subject: Duncan Library hours

Please accept this notice as citizen feedback in response to the cut proposed by the Library Board and the City Manager, effectively cutting Duncan Library's operating hours.

Cutting the hours would make the libraries virtually inaccessible during the week for my family. During a time of economic trouble, city services like the library become more necessary and important to families than ever before.

Comments: Duncan Library a central part of the Del Ray community and a resource to our neighborhood. The city has already closed the pool, located in the same block. What else are you going to take from our kids?

Please keep the library open as is. This is getting out of hand.

Thank you for allowing me to share my point of view as a tax payer.

March 10, 2010

Mayor Euille
Vice Mayor Donley
Councilman Fannon
Councilwoman Hughes
Councilman Krupicka
Councilwoman Pepper
Councilman Smedberg
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Council Members:

I write to urge the City Council to adopt pay parity for the employees of the Office of the Public Defender by budgeting salary supplements for that office. By granting supplements the City can assure that attorneys at the Public Defender's office are offered the same career opportunity as their colleagues in the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office.

I had the great honor and privilege to start my career as an attorney in that office and worked there from June 2002 through October 2008. My resignation in 2008 was based primarily on my need to earn a higher income in order to support my growing family.

The Office of the Public Defender has a stellar reputation for competent and zealous representation. I learned this quickly my first days on the job. Attorneys in that office hail from some of the best law schools in the country and are often in the top of their classes. More importantly, every one of my colleagues in the office possesses the most important quality a good attorney can possess: The sincere desire to do the very best they can for each and every client, no matter what. As a member of the defense bar, I've also had the opportunity to observe many other attorneys in practice and I can honestly say that the large majority simply don't compare to the level of practice expected from an Alexandria Public Defender. Having skilled and respected attorneys benefits our community because cases are resolved efficiently and fairly either through bargaining through a prosecutor and defender who have mutual respect for the other's experience and judgment or through resolution before the court.

When I accepted the position at the Public Defender's office, I believed I would be a career public defender. I wasn't drawn to the position to make a fortune. I chose that career because I believe we all have an obligation to work for the Greater Good. During my tenure, I got married, bought a home (a humble 2 bedroom condo), and had a child. In addition to paying back a student loan debt of over \$105,000, my wife and I also had to manage our family budget, a mortgage, and the

cost for daycare (nearly \$2700 monthly for two kids) because we both work. We now have a second child, and have outgrown our first home. It is clear to me now that I could not sustain a family while working as a defender because there limited opportunity for advancement.

When I left, I felt a tremendous loss. My colleagues in that office were and still are my closest friends. When I left, the office also lost an experienced and seasoned attorney. With over five years experience, I had handled thousands of cases. I had tried hundreds of bench trials and about a dozen jury trials. I was successful because I was able to judge the merit of each case accurately and I had gained a wealth of knowledge and experience that made me a formidable litigator. On the flipside, I also resolved cases by plea expeditiously because I knew what they were worth, and I did all I could to gain my client's trust in my skills and knowledge so that they knew they were making the right decision. Plus, I had the experience and knowledge of my colleagues to draw from whenever those resources were needed. When I left I also felt that I was letting my colleagues down. We all shared the same sincere belief that we were fighting for a worthy cause. But worse yet, my resignation caused my colleagues to shoulder a heavier burden of caseloads because they had lost a senior attorney.

I did not simply take the job to gain experience and move on. Skilled criminal defense attorneys can and do demand top dollar for their work, which puts that resource out of reach for all but the wealthiest defendants. Melinda Douglas has spent literally decades building a highly reputed office. The attorneys who are offered an opportunity to work in that office accept that opportunity knowing that they are joining a family of dedicated attorneys who sincerely believe in public interest lawyering.

The last thing I want to share is information which you are all already aware. The Office of the Public Defender is the only criminal justice agency that does not receive salary supplements. The Alexandria Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney offers supplements to their attorneys, causing inequity between their salaries and their counterparts in the Public Defender's Office. In 2008 the General Assembly passed legislation to permit localities to supplement public defender salaries. This legislation was proposed by Del. Moran and was part of the City's legislative package. The legislation makes sense and it makes sense to treat Public Defenders equally to attorneys in the Commonwealth's Office. A comparison of retention between the two offices proves it. After about 4 or so years, a defender typically will max out their salary, as I did, and may only receive a cost-of-living increase after that point. If that individual wants to own a home, or have a family, they will be forced to change career paths and leave the office. Having competent and experience attorneys working as defenders is efficient for the system and benefits the community. Experienced attorneys can handle cases more expeditiously. And they've built reputations and trust with prosecutors, judges, and clients that allows an expedient and fair outcome in each case.

The Alexandria Office of the Public Defender is a tremendous resource that deserves pay parity and I hope that the City Council will include this worthy cause in their future budget.

Sincerely,



Ryan Campbell
King & Campbell, PLLC

CC: Jim Hartmann, City Manager
Bruce Johnson, Budget Director
City Clerk