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3-7-11

Seminary Civic Association
1005 N. Quaker Lane
Alexandria, VA 22302
(703)379-9511

March 4, 2011

Honorable William Euille
Mayor
City of Alexandria
City Hall
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Euille:

The African American residents of the Seminary Community, which includes the residents of the Seminary Civic Association, the Fort Ward and Seminary African American Descendants Society, and members of the Oakland Baptist Church, speak collectively, with one voice, in supporting the efforts of the Ft Ward Park and Museum Ad Hoc Committee in its findings and solutions on the management of the multi-faceted Ft Ward Park.

Our community roots predate the incorporation of this portion of Fairfax County into the City of Alexandria, thus pre-Civil War. Our ties run deep, our commitment is strong, and our concern is real. The Park, aside from being a place of history, recreation, relaxation and beauty, is also an integral part of the origin of our Seminary community. We, therefore, support all efforts to effect positive and proper management practices for the benefit and enjoyment of all Alexandrians and tourists as well.

However, what the city has done to our ancestors, our loved ones, through the desecration of the Oakland cemetery and other graves in the park, is unconscionable. It is imperative that you locate and restore those graves left outside of the cemetery when the City reconfigured the old cemetery for its use and gain, and that you take all necessary and appropriate action now to abate the storm water runoff which causes continual erosion and subsidence of the graves and headstones.

We encourage the Mayor and Council, no we insist, that you implement the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee as rapidly as possible and certainly allow adequate funding in your 2012 budget to fund the necessary historic, archaeological,

master planning and storm water work. We endorse the idea of a work session with the Council, community and interested parties to discuss these recommendations.
Thank you for your consideration this matter.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Washington
Director
African American Seminary
Descendants Society

Frances C. Terrell
President
Seminary Civic Association

Harry Vickers
Chairman
Oakland Baptist Church
Deacons Ministry

Calvin D. Terrell, Sr.

Carl Davis

Mary Ann Carter

Alfonso Jones

Henry J. Gamble

Paul Smith

MaKebalucas

Clory Wynn

Walter Cain

Joe Arin

Fred L. Keiser

Alvin R. Parish, Sr.

Francis H. Hood

Joe Brown

Lucia G. Gled

Raymond E. Jackson

Fred Lee Lottan
 Truckman Lottan
 Andrea C. Jackson
 Mathe A. Jenkins
 Jyuguna Kabugi
 Leonardine Coffman
 Magana Kabugi
 Mae L. Daniel
 Kinuthia Youson-Kabugi
 Ernest Kenji
 Andrew Parker
 Gayle A. McClain
 Mary E. Harris
 Michael K. Sill
 Melissa Spaulding
 Phyllis A. Brown
 Gena Stanner
 Lawrence M. Colbert
 Sheri Colbert
 Dorothy B. Smith
 Walden Smith
 Marilyn White

Nellie G.
 Alfred B. Lewis
 Laura
 Joyce Casey Sanchez
 Dale Wanzgr
 St. D. Henry
 Elizabeth Douglas
 Christina Jensen
 Herman Lewis
 Patrice Laines
 Correll J. Lewis
 Ah. Lewis
 Debra Anderson
 Maureen Scales
 Roxahl Wagon
 Dorothy Lewis
 Daniel Scales
 Lyone Scales
 Norma D. Wagon
 Gary D. D.
 Sheila Rucker

Arthur L. Smith

Paul H. Taylor
Karl Miller

Karen Terrell-Hargrove

Mary H. Z. [unclear]

Barbara E. Dagg

Jocelyn E. DeLoe

Geoff E. DeLoe

Charles Hankins

John S. [unclear]

[unclear]

Ronald W. Rust

William A. Patterson

Lee Young
Gudy Smith

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David Kaplan

418 Queen Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

City Council Budget Hearing – March 7, 2011

Good evening Mr. Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Members of Council:

My name is David Kaplan, and I'm a proud resident of Old Town.

One of the pressing issues the Council must resolve as part of this year's budget deliberations is the question of how we will invest in the future mobility of the City's residents, workers, and visitors. How do we nurture the qualities that make our community a distinctive destination and also an attractive place to live and work? We don't get there without dedicated funding for transportation.

As we emerge from the recession, we celebrate the City's improving financial health. Challenges remain. We must be mindful of the need to foster, not cut off, renewed economic growth, of the unique struggles facing small businesses, and of commercial vacancy rates. But the City doesn't solve these issues by deferring our unmet transportation needs to another budget cycle. Gridlock on our roadways, insufficient capacity on our transit systems, and poor connections to employment centers and other parts of this region aren't the way to sell Alexandria to prospective residents and businesses. And, if this Council says no to dedicated transportation funding this budget cycle, there will just be continued uncertainty for businesses, and nothing gained. Given the limited

options available, it's likely that in two years, with a new Council writing the FY 2014 budget, the add-on tax will again be up for consideration.

By moving forward now, we show businesses that, as a community, we are ready, willing, and able to invest in our future. By investing in our City's infrastructure, we show that we are a good place for a business to invest for the long term.

I support the commercial property add-on tax at the rate proposed by the City Manager. The add-on tax offers the City unique benefits not afforded by other potential revenue sources. I do not make this recommendation lightly, since I'm not myself a business owner. I applaud efforts being made to mitigate the potential for adverse effects on the City's smallest businesses with a reduction to BPOL taxes. If that means, as a result of the reduction, my own residential property taxes go up to fund core City services, I'll accept that. I also think that the increase in the ACVA's budget, out of general fund dollars is justified. Increased marketing of the City is itself an investment in the business community.

There are many reasons why we need dedicated transportation funding. One is regional connectivity. All the redevelopment going on in neighboring jurisdictions impacts us. High capacity transit is coming to Arlington and Fairfax. We need to make sure that people traveling to and from Alexandria can connect to these systems. Many of the transportation projects we fund in the first few years of this tax lay the groundwork for the creation of this regional network.

I'm very excited about the current list of proposed projects. It's a thoughtful list that was developed through several months of outreach sessions with

stakeholders. The projects to be undertaken promote mass transit, improve pedestrian and bicycle safety, and they are targeted to the areas of the city where we anticipate population and job growth.

Thank you for all you are doing to craft a budget that maintains Alexandria's high quality of life and secures our future as a vibrant and modern city.

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3-7-11

From: Fay D. Slotnick on behalf of ACHSO, PLTI and herself

To: Mayor and City Council
Budget Public Hearing
3/7/11

Good afternoon Mayor and Council Members, City Manager and staff, and all of you who care about Alexandria's future. I am Fay Slotnick, 311 Second Street, here as a citizen and taxpayer, as Director of the Parent Leadership Training Institute of Alexandria, and as a member of the Alexandria Council of Human Service Organizations (ACHSO).

As a general proposition, it would seem that when budgets are constrained, there is a greater not lesser need for services. Do we take the risk of failing to provide medical and mental health services, early childhood intervention and education, teen pregnancy prevention programs, and other human services? Will we not create so much increased need that even as the economy now regains strength, we won't be able to stem the tide of increased need?

The Parent Leadership Training Institute of Alexandria is exclusively concerned with the welfare of children and families. It provides a safety net by expanding the network of those who will work for the welfare of Alexandrians. Our alumni continue to serve on numerous City Boards and Commissions, ACPS Committees and PTAs, and in Community Organizations. Community projects often take on a life of their own, continuing long after graduation, including a renowned financial literacy course, teen pregnancy prevention program, new immigrant preparation for public schools, and lots of mentoring- to name a few.

PLTI affects lives in so many ways, providing a safe place to learn and expand, resulting in the unintended benefit that English Language Learners are able to deliver their speeches entirely in English. Even our expanding Children Leadership Training Institute videotaped the children making their speeches.

I know that you all support PLTI, and I truly appreciate it. We have become part of the fiber of the City. Our needs and those of the other ACHSO member organizations have not diminished. We are grateful that the City Manager has set a 2-year funding cycle and does not recommend cuts to our funding this year, but we implore you to restore funding to the FY2009 level. As a taxpayer, I ask that you RAISE OUR TAXES to a level that will assure that the quality of life for ALL ALEXANDRIANS remains intact. Our money will be returned many times.

Thank you.

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3-7-11

**Alexandria Community Services Board Testimony
City of Alexandria Public Hearing on the FY 2012 Budget
March 7, 2011**

Speaker: Mary Anne Weber, Chair, Alexandria Community Services Board

I am Mary Anne Weber, Chair of the Alexandria Community Services Board.

I am here today to express the Board's support for the City Manager's Proposed Budget. Like all other City programs, the Alexandria Community Services Board has experienced significant reductions during the past several years and I, along with the other Board members, am pleased that another round of service reductions is not in the proposed budget.

As you are aware, the Board serves Alexandria's most vulnerable residents. The Board served more than 5,100 residents last year and only 10% of the people we serve earn more than \$25,000 a year. The Board has improved efficiencies as much as possible, by increasing productivity standards, eliminating non-essential personnel and reducing capacity in lower-priority and administrative programs. We are grateful that you understand that any further reductions will result in fewer services for the people who need them the most. We also want to remind you of the good things that have happened this past year because of the city's commitment to the mental health of its residents.

Riley's Place, a program to provide permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals with a mental illness and or a substance abuse disorder opened and now 12 people are rebuilding their lives.

Thanks to the efforts of Child Family and Prevention services 45 percent of the children in residential care have been returned to our community and Alexandria placed 30 percent fewer children in residential care than in the previous year.

The Teen Wellness Center opened inside T.C. Williams High School and two CSB staff provide mental health services. The CSB and other community partners brought public attention to underage drinking and substance abuse through year round events.

CSB's emergency services is working with the Alexandria police and the sheriff's department to create crisis intervention teams. The goal to have such teams on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Their work has already averted potential problems in the city and gotten people the services they needed.

Because of your continued support for Alexandrians with mental health, substance abuse disorders and intellectual disabilities, our hard-working and compassionate staff and our volunteers have been able to serve the city's most fragile citizens.

We thank you.

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City Council of Alexandria, Virginia

Public Hearing Meeting

Monday, March 7, 2011

Docket Item #2

Public Discussion – Budget for FY2012

Fund Fort Ward Park Recommendations

Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Donley, and Members of the City Council:

My name is Nancy Jennings and I live at 2115 Marlboro Drive, Alexandria. I speak for myself this evening.

In the last decade, mistakes were made in managing Fort Ward Park. You appointed an Advisory Group to restore the park, and it has submitted its recommendations. Since three City departments manage the Park--Historic Alexandria, Parks & Recreation and T&ES--I'm guessing that three funding lines are necessary. I urge you to fully fund all of the Advisory Groups recommendations for the Park and to instruct City staff to expedite the needed work.

The process to arrive at these recommendations has taken years, and our happy park continues to decline. Funding them in the 2012 Budget will begin the restoration of this jewel to a sparkling park that the City can be proud of during the sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

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**Public Statement
Before the
City Council of Alexandria, Virginia**

Monday, March 7, 2011

Speaker:

Katherine J. Walker
5125 Heritage Lane
Alexandria, VA 22311

President, PTA at John Adams ES
Member of Special Education Advisory Board to the ACPS School Board
Mother of three children in ACPS

Every morning, the driveway and bus lane of JAES literally become a parking lot! Unfortunately, Head Start begins at the exact same time as the rest of JA. Right after all the buses have discharged their passengers, the bus lane is "opened" to Head Start parents. If you go to JAES between 7:50 am and 8:10 you may not be able to make it onto the property as gridlock takes hold. You see, Head Start Parents can't just drop off their kids like parents of students attending regular classes. No, they HAVE TO GET OUT OF THE CAR AND SIGN THIER CHILDREN IN. So you literally have at least a dozen cars parked in the bus lane, in the fire lane, on the sidewalk.... it is chaos!!!

As you know, JAES has undergone a beautiful and critically needed expansion. We are proud of the new and improved JA. Yet the job is not done. We didn't get an improved bus loop, we don't have adequate parking and our bathrooms are in desperate state.

Did you know that our children spend 30% of their life inside the confines of ACPS buildings. I want those buildings to be in the best condition -- the Clty Council has the responsibility to ensure the schools are safe, clean and green.

As the City Council - you NEED TO KNOW THE REALITY. Right now, even with our beautiful improvements we still deal with:

- KG having to eat LUNCH at 10:30 -- I was shocked when I found out my son would eat at 10:30 AM when he was in KG two years ago.... they STILL eat at 10:30!
- Bathrooms that aren't fit to be on a hiking trail. They are old, too small and frequently stink of urine despite the efforts of the custodial staff.
- An intense smell of mold in the library.

- Black mold on the ceiling tiles of the chorus room.
- Closet spaces being converted to offices for staff.
- Class Rooms with no windows to the outside world.
- Inadequate Audio Visual equipment in our "Cafetorium" -- yes -- the cafeteria also doubles as the auditorium... at assemblies and meetings, it is extremely difficult to hear.
- The West End desperately needs a new ES. JAES is currently at 805 students preschool - 5th grade. That does NOT include the children attending Head Start. Ramsey

ACPS is charged with educating the future workforce, managers, leaders and even council members of the city of Alexandria. To not adequately fund ACPS' CIP is undermining that education. Our children deserve the best schools. I beseech you - do not sacrifice the education and safe environment of the next generation to satisfy the monetary desires of the current generation in charge.

March 7, 2011

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Honorable Mayor, Mr. Vice-Mayor, ^{Mr. Hennessy} Members of Council, Fellow Employees, Citizens of Alexandria.

My name is Richard Estes; I am the Vice-President of The Alexandria Government Employee's Association, representing Non-Sworn General Pay Scale Employees.

On February 15 that the National Trust for Historic Preservation named Alexandria to the 2011 list of **Dozen Distinctive Destinations**. The Trust went on to say:

"Alexandria, Virginia is one of the most culturally rich destinations in the country. The city has taken such care in saving its cherished past that you can still dine at the same tavern where Thomas Jefferson celebrated his presidential inauguration. Visitors can even hop on a free trolley to discover historic sites."

Alexandria was also recently recognized as **one of the top 100 Walking Cities in America and the Best Walking City in Virginia**.

A 2010 Money Magazine pick of **Top 100 Cities to Live in America (#47)**.

It seems that someone has done something right to make these things happen and that Alexandria is being recognized as one of best the cities in America, not only to live, but visit.

Without the continued dedication of your employees, where would Alexandria be?

I bet not getting the same praise.

Then ladies and gentlemen, why am I here? Why are all of my fellow workers sitting and standing behind me? It seems that once again, despite all of the honors and accolades given to the City, the workers are placed last on the list when it comes to the budget. These are the same workers who made Alexandria what it has become, a great place to live, and to visit.

Every year we have to come to you in this forum and are forced to BEG for the small crumbs that are left over.

Now this year, despite a healthier forecast; we your workers are being asked (when all is said and done) to take home LESS pay next year than we did this year!

These are same employees who during the economic downturn over the past several years, agreed with you to sacrifice any pay increases to help keep Alexandria financially viable. But now that the economy seems to be recovering, and we can see light at the end of the tunnel, we are being asked to continue to make more sacrifices.

The Manager's proposal calls for General Scale employees to pay a cost-sharing contribution towards the Virginia Retirement System despite the fact, that in 1986/87, the City agreed to make the contribution instead of employees receiving a COLA. The proposal also calls for employees belonging to the Police/Fire pension fund to contribute an additional 1% towards their pensions, even though the fund is financially sound and looks to stay that way. WHY? By forcing the workers to pay this "Cost-Share", the majority of City worker's net pay will be less next year.

The City spent considerable sums of money to study employee pay scales over the past three years, and it was determined through that study, that a large number of us have been underpaid when compared to our counterparts. We have been telling the City that for years. At NO charge!

At an employee work session held in **February 2008**, it was reported that General Scale Employees were working for 13% less than their counterparts. At this year's work session you were told 7%. Which is true?

We were told to wait until the study was completed and then employee's pay would be "Benchmarked". Now three years later and the study has been completed, we are being told that many of those same employees may have to wait an additional three years for pay scale adjustment to be completed! Wait six years to **MAYBE** get some sort of pay adjustment is **absurd**.

At the February 23rd work session even staff from OMB stated and I quote: "All of staff don't exactly understand".

If "Benchmarking" pay scale adjustment is completed this year, it is estimated that it would cost the City around 1.6 Million dollars; but if drawn out over the next three years the amount will increase to around 2.3 Million.

For all that your employees do for the citizens and visitors of this Alexandria, the Council needs to **step up to the plate** and do the following for Fiscal Year 2012:

1. Eliminate any cost-sharing increases for retirement/pension plans for all City employees.
2. Institute the recommended pay scale benchmarking this year.
3. **Oh and one can dream, being that the employees haven't seen a COLA or Market rate adjustment in years, could you at least think about it... : { }**

Thank You

Richard A. Estes

Vice-President, Alexandria Government Employee's Association

CHRIS O'DELL
President

MONIQUE EDWARDS
Vice President



P.O. BOX 320219
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
703-746-4099

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MICHAEL COLE
Secretary

RONALD LAWHORNE
Treasurer

March 7, 2011

Dear Mayor Euille and City Council Members,

My name is Chris O'Dell. I am a 17 year employee of the City of Alexandria, a Sergeant with the Alexandria Sheriff's Office, and the President of the Alexandria Sheriff's Association. I represent 80% of the 172 sworn Deputy Sheriff's in the City of Alexandria.


Today, I come before you to express the Alexandria Sheriff's Association opposition to the City Managers proposed FY2012 budget. Specifically, I am here to object to the proposal of having Deputies and other effected City employees contribute a 1% minimum to the employee share of the cost of the City Supplemental Retirement Plan. This 1% equates to a cost of 1.6 million dollars that effected City employees would have to pay from their own pockets over FY2012.

This is simply not fair for several reasons. Over the last several years, City employees, to include Deputy Sheriff's, have been doing more with less. This is illustrated in number of full time employees (FTE's) from FY 2009 as compared to FTE's in the proposed budget of FY2012. The workload of the vacant FTE's is being covered by current City employees every day without any additional compensation. Secondly, the proposed FY2012 budget does not include an across-the-board pay increase better known as MRA/COLA. Without the MRA/COLA, salary divisions, as compared to neighboring jurisdictions, begins to emerge. Third, of the 2021 City employees that would be affected by paying this proposed 1% towards the cost of the City Supplemental Retirement Plan, 49% would bring home less money every payday when coupled with the increase in the employee share of the health insurance paid by the employee. In some cases, this could result in more than \$1,800.00 less per year for the employee and their family.

When examining the \$553.4 million proposed FY2012 budget, 1.6 million is an extremely small percentage that should be absorbed through other avenues and not from the pockets of Deputies and other City employees. With projections that revenue is increasing in the City, why are employees being asked to sacrifice? When it has been reported that a multi-million dollar increase has occurred in the City Employee Retirement Trust Fund in recent months, why are employees being asked to sacrifice? With the recent request by City Council for an ad hoc committee called the Benefits Advisory Group, why is a proposal regarding paying for retirement being discussed prior to this newly formed group meeting? Again, why are employees being asked to sacrifice?

With all of this being said, I question why Deputies and other City employees are being asked to pay 1% toward the City Supplemental Retirement Plan. According to the City Manager, "the City is not facing a budget shortfall for the first time since FY2008". In response to our now brighter financial days in the City, Deputies and other City employees should not have to bear this burden of paying for something that is not justified.

Sincerely,


Chris O'Dell
President
Alexandria Sheriff's Association

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Remarks to the Mayor and City Council on the FY 2012 Budget
J. Glenn Eugster, 4022 Ellicott Street, Alexandria, Virginia

I have followed the discussions about Fort Ward Park closely the last four years. I have read the Fort Ward Advisory Group Report and noted that the members unanimously approved the recommendations and they set priorities for action in the Executive Summary. I support the report and the priority recommendations that were made. I urge you to adopt and implement the Fort Ward Park Report by taking the following actions:

1. Provide FY 2012 funds to continue, if not complete, the historical and archaeological research, for the park.
2. Provide FY 2012 funds to take short-term, low-cost and low-impact stormwater management measures to stop the runoff from parkland that is desecrating the graves and gravestones of the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery and other African Americans buried in the park.
3. Provide FY 2012 funds to do pre-planning work for the Fort Ward Park Master Plan and Stormwater Plan so that when the historical and archaeological research has been completed these important efforts can be undertaken without further delays.
4. Appoint an interim commission or advisory group to observe the progress being made by the Departments of Recreation, Transportation & Environmental Services, and the Office of Historic Alexandria to implement the plan recommendations and provide public input, access and information to discussions about these actions.

Why should this effort be funded in the FY 2012 budget? The park has suffered from bad management decisions due to a lack of basic park planning, competing interests within City government, and a disrespectful attitude on the part of Recreation Department managers and staff toward people in the community. In some cases these decisions have ignored City and Commonwealth regulations. In other cases these decisions have desecrated people's graves and adversely impacted adjacent homeowners.

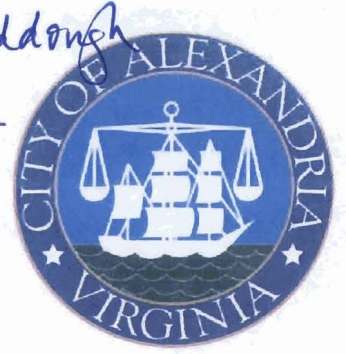
The Fort Ward Report, as well as the February 5, 2011 report on *Archeological Investigations at Fort Ward Historical Park* by the contractor for the City, gives you facts to move forward to solve these long-standing problems. I urge you to act now that you know. Please don't turn your head away from what needs to be done.

These FY 2012 budget items can be included by postponing other less important initiatives.

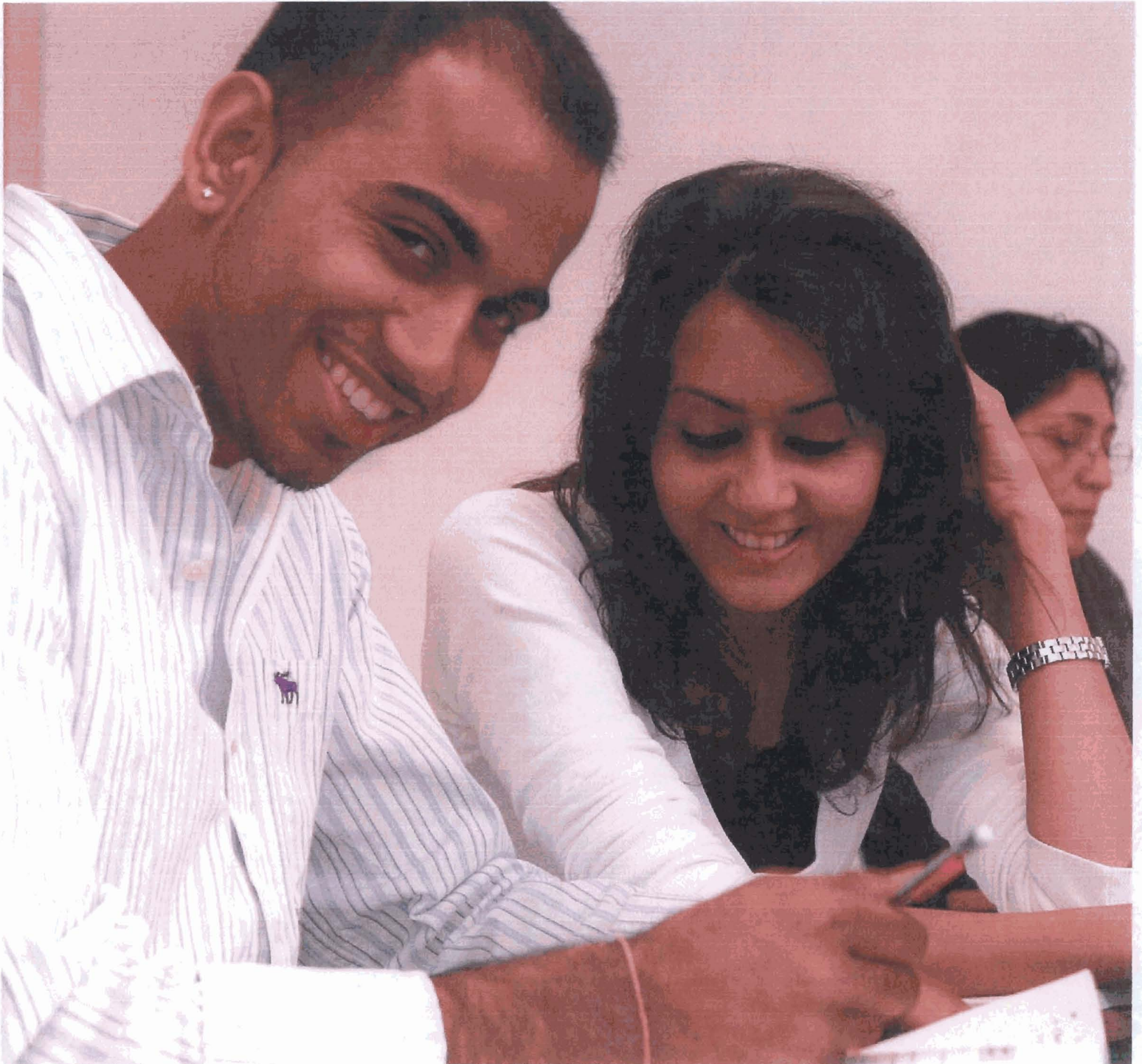
NOVA

Northern Virginia
Community College

Jason Meddough
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3-7-11

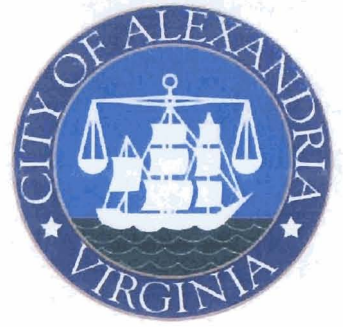


NOVA-City of Alexandria Partnerships



NOVA

**Northern Virginia
Community College**



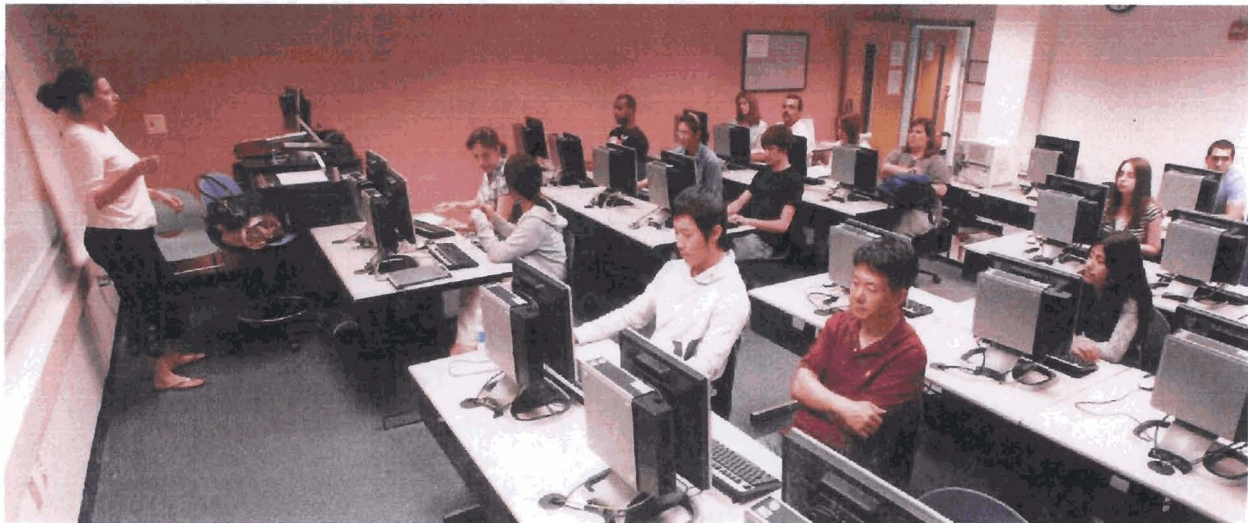
NOVA-City of Alexandria Partnerships

Continuing Education

Northern Virginia Community College provides residents of the City of Alexandria with a wide variety of non-credit courses. Whether for personal enrichment or workforce development, NOVA's continuing education program offers engaging, short-term classes for the entire community. Classes are offered at NOVA's Alexandria Campus, located in the West End near the convergence of Arlington and Fairfax Counties with the City of Alexandria.

By the Numbers

Number of Classes Offered	105
Number of Students	1,090
Number of Instructors and Staff	81



NOVA-City of Alexandria Partnerships

Alexandria City Public Schools

College readiness is extremely important to success in higher education. To that end, NOVA has developed a strategic partnership with the Alexandria City Public School system. Several initiatives are designed to provide students with college credit while still enrolled in high school or to facilitate the transition from high school to college. Programs are targeted to assist students at all levels, from at-risk students to advanced placed students.

Dual Enrollment

Students are provided with the opportunity to earn college credit while simultaneously taking advanced high school courses. Those teaching these courses have been qualified as NOVA adjunct instructors.

- Number of Students 51
- Total Dual Enrolled Courses 3

Pathway to the Baccalaureate

Pathway to the Baccalaureate is a consortium of education institutions in Northern Virginia: K-12 public schools (including the City of Alexandria), NOVA, and George Mason University. The three groups have joined forces to provide a web of support to students as they make the transition from high school to NOVA to George Mason University or another four-year institution. The program's goal is to improve college access and success for underrepresented students in higher education living in Northern Virginia. Pathway has emerged as an award-winning program model that has demonstrated remarkable outcomes in the areas of college access, success and persistence. Pathway students graduate from NOVA at more than twice the rate of the general student population. Additionally, 99% of Pathway graduates plan to pursue a bachelor's degree at universities across the country.

- ACPS Pathway Students 348
- NOVA-Alexandria Pathway Students 280

Summer Bridge

Offered to recent high school graduates, Summer Bridge allows students in developmental math and English courses to earn college credit through a college success skills course while completing remedial studies. The goal of the program is to increase the retention rates and college readiness of these students. Upon completion, students are eligible to retake the math and English placement tests in an effort to place into a higher level. Summer Bridge is also an Achieving the Dream initiative, which is a nationwide program focusing on student success. Summer Bridge is exclusive to the Alexandria Campus.

- Number of Participants (Summer 2010) 40
 - Percentage of Participants from Alexandria 42.5%
 - Percentage of Students Who Advanced 43.0%
- One or More Developmental Levels



Summer Bridge

NOVA - The Road to Success

NOVA Northern Virginia Community College

Math, Reading, and College Success Skills
July 6 – August 5
Monday – Thursday
9:00am – 1:45pm

Cost	
In-State Tuition:	\$ 112.45
Out-of-State Tuition:	\$ 297.20
Parking Decal:	\$ 75.00

To qualify for the Summer Bridge Program, students must be graduating from high school in June 2010 & place into one or more of the following:
ENG 1,3, 4,5 and/or MTH 2,3,4

Get a head start at NOVA's Alexandria Campus!

During the Summer Bridge Program students will:

- Complete one college credit: SDV 100 - College Success Skills
- Prepare for college-level work while working closely with NOVA English & Math faculty
- Experience college life and complete a service learning project all before the Fall Semester begins

Register Today!

Contact:
Ms. Shannon Ingram
Pathway Counselor
(703) 933-5086
singram@nvcc.edu

NOVA

**Northern Virginia
Community College**

c o m p u t e r

C.O.R.E.

Building Careers and Community

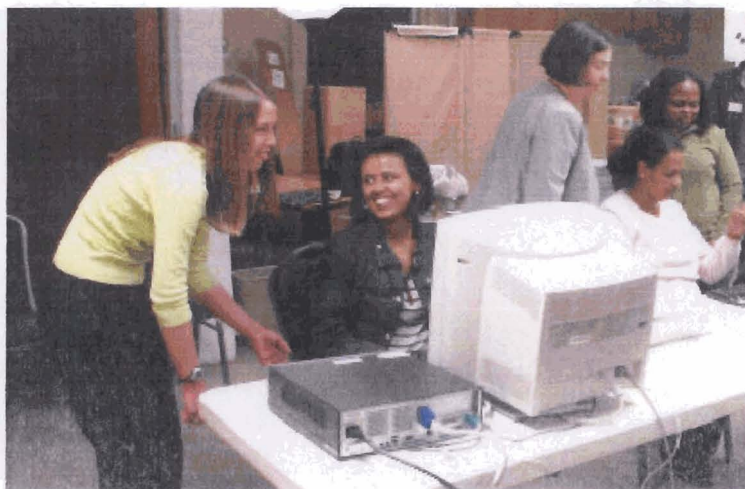
NOVA-City of Alexandria Partnerships

City of Alexandria Community-Based Organization Partnerships

Together, the nation's community colleges and community-based organizations can form key components of a comprehensive workforce development system to benefit workers, the unemployed, and America's businesses by joining their job training programs. NOVA's community-based organization (CBO) partnership model provides CBO students with the opportunity to be co-enrolled as NOVA students, therefore, earning college credit and being eligible for financial aid. This model, exclusive to the Alexandria Campus, currently has six partnerships, one of which is with an organization located in the city of Alexandria.

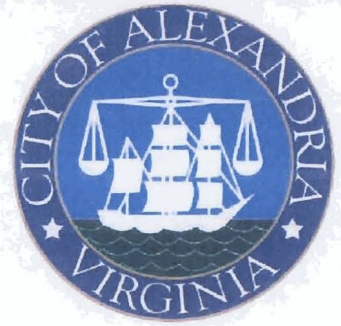
Computer C.O.R.E

The mission of Computer C.O.R.E. is to create a world where all people shall have the skills and confidence to pursue their dreams, reach their full potential, and make meaningful contributions to their communities. This is accomplished by helping low-income adults acquire the technological and life skills they need to pursue their career aspirations.



NOVA

**Northern Virginia
Community College**



NOVA-City of Alexandria Partnerships

Other City Offerings

Programs Focused on the Success of At-Risk Populations

Project Discovery and Great Expectations are two programs focused on increasing the success rate of at-risk populations. Project Discovery is geared towards helping low-income (and potentially first generation college) students succeed in high school with the end goal of enrolling these students into college courses upon graduation. Great Expectations is an initiative designed to increase the retention and graduation rates of foster children enrolled at NOVA. There are currently 17 foster children participating in the Great Expectations program, 12 of whom are represented by the Alexandria Department of Human Services (70.5%).

Local Motion

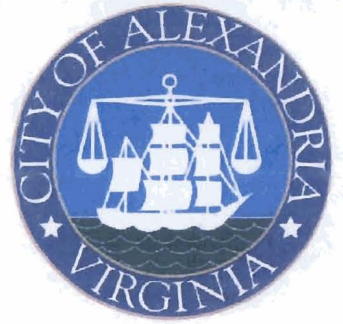
In 2010, the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College was recognized by the City of Alexandria's Local Motion program as a Gold Employer. This distinction acknowledged the city's efforts to provide green commuting choices for faculty and staff. To earn this award, the Alexandria Campus encouraged employees to consider green commutes at least three days a week and provided incentives for doing so.

Association Memberships

The Alexandria Campus is a member of two professional organizations within the City of Alexandria: The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce and the West End Business Association. Additionally, the Campus has supported other professional organizations in the City of Alexandria including the Eisenhower Partnership and the Quantico-Belvoir Regional Business Alliance who held a summit focusing on the positive impacts the BRAC 133 building will have on the business, housing, education, and workforce sectors.

NOVA

Northern Virginia
Community College

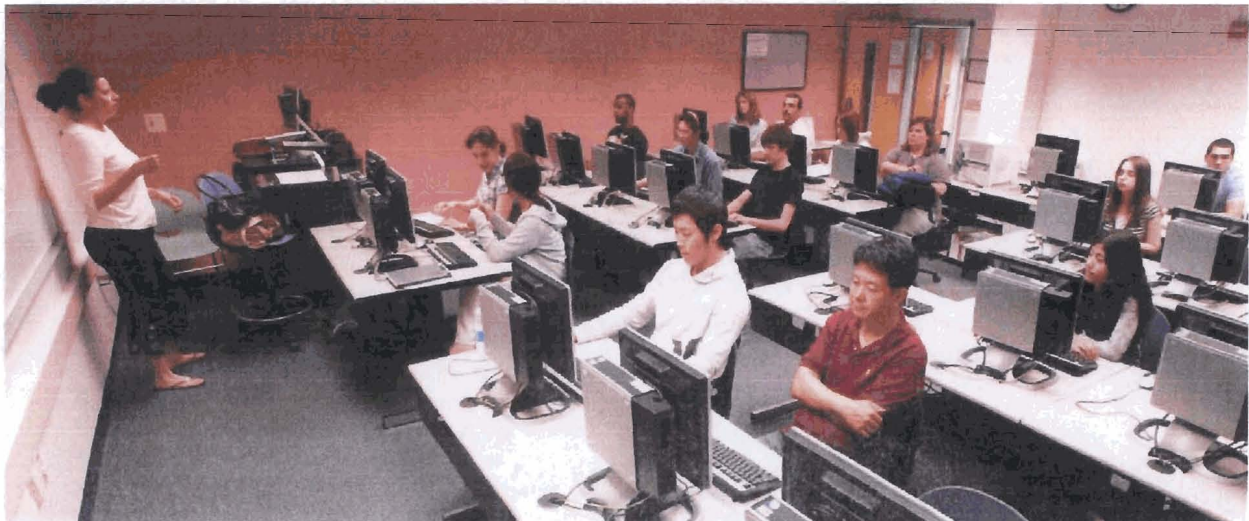


NOVA-City of Alexandria Partnerships Continuing Education

Northern Virginia Community College provides residents of the City of Alexandria with a wide variety of non-credit courses. Whether for personal enrichment or workforce development, NOVA's continuing education program offers engaging, short-term classes for the entire community. Classes are offered at NOVA's Alexandria Campus, located in the West End near the convergence of Arlington and Fairfax Counties with the City of Alexandria.

By the Numbers

Number of Classes Offered	105
Number of Students	1,090
Number of Instructors and Staff	81



2

3-7-11

**Statement to City Council of Support for Funding New Jefferson-Houston K-8 School
Julie Loi Rocchio, 3-7-2011**

My name is Julie Rocchio. I am a 14-year resident of Alexandria City who has had children in ACPS schools since 2003. I am a proud Jefferson-Houston parent who requests your support for funding a new Jefferson-Houston K-8 school building.

Jefferson-Houston is a great success story that is just beginning to be told. Our family has four school-aged children, including Kindergarten twins and a 6th grader, who attend Jefferson-Houston via lottery. Our children love their school so much that we were tickled when they complained repeatedly over Winter break about school being closed for too long. That is definitely a complaint which gives our family confidence we have made an excellent schooling decision for our children. Not only do our children love attending Jefferson-Houston, they are exceeding all of our expectations academically.

Since I am asking you to invest significant resources into Jefferson-Houston, I want to explain what I believe Jefferson-Houston has already invested its students. Jefferson-Houston offers small class sizes and extraordinarily good teachers who work well in cooperation with parents. The students know one another across grade levels and the staff seems to individually know every student which fosters a cohesive and caring community environment. The K-8 program provides a smaller, more supportive environment that allows young teens to make learning their primary focus. The transitioning International Baccalaureate curriculum offers Spanish as part of regular classroom learning and provides multi-disciplinary teaching. The music and arts programs are very small so students are provided with extra attention and more opportunities.

I became educated about the request for a new school building at Jefferson-Houston when the school system held a series of in-depth community meetings this fall about the proposed construction needs. Based on the information shared and developed during community discussions at all four meetings I attended, I believe moving forward with Dr. Sherman's recommendation is prudent. Most significantly, I am persuaded that the cost of maintaining the current aging facility combined with basic renovations to address increased capacity needs is almost the same as building a higher-quality, new building. Even if my children were not attending this school, investing in a new, expanded facility with state-of-the-art programs is a wise financial investment for our city.

Our city is in desperate need of more classroom space city-wide due to continued expanding enrollment at the elementary and secondary levels. Over-enrollment challenges in our city schools are very real and seem to impact more schools and more new families every year through limited lottery choices and the need for a Modified Open Enrollment policy. My children have dealt with the negative aspects of over-crowding and displacement their entire school careers. We are thrilled to have Jefferson-Houston as a solution to our various enrollment and over-crowding challenges.

A new Jefferson-Houston building would enable our city to expand available space for both elementary and middle school students, releasing pressure from adjacent elementary schools and GW which do not have the same options to expand capacity. I truly believe Jefferson-Houston is an excellent school and that families will increasingly come by choice, as we did, given the high quality of its leadership, staff and programs. Many other families will need to come to Jefferson-Houston since our city's schools are at or above capacity. Even as the overall size of Jefferson-Houston increases, the numbers by grade should still be smaller in proportion to other schools - especially at the middle school level. I also expect the supportive community culture to be maintained since it is built on a strong foundation created by Jefferson-Houston's highly skilled and compassionate teachers, staff and administrators. Please support a new school building to allow Jefferson-Houston's excellent programs to grow and thrive and to help alleviate city-wide overcrowding.

323 SIGNATURES ^{2:15 pm}
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2
3-7-11

- Intro – we represent over 860 businesses about ½ of which are also residents of Alexandria
- We Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the budget and for developing it by the long term directives you outlined as goals for the city
- We'd also like to thank Mr. Hartmann for his tremendous work for our City over the six years and in particular for his work in making this process much more transparent and collaborative
- As you all know-a strong, viable business community is central to the City's success. We support the proposed increases in funding for our econ dev partners- AEDP, ACVA and the SBDC
- We also congratulate the City for its commitment to public education. Quality public education is essential to our City's success and the future of business in Alexandria. We encourage you to continue this commitment to excellence. Similarly, we encourage you to look closely at our public safety resources to make sure that our City is a safe place to live and work.

- CAT
 - Chamber opposes CAT
 - 315 Signatures
- BPOL
 - First, BPOL Has been a long standing burden and should be considered as a separate issue

Overall, we have about the highest BPOL rates in northern Virginia, and in particular with the professional services license tax, which is the highest anywhere.

The BPOL taxes need reform whether or not a commercial add-on tax (CAT) is implemented, -Do not tie this to CAT.

- Second, When considering it as an offset to CAT, it doesn't go far enough to give relief

In fact the amount is quite minimal- only a savings of \$1.6M on \$30M in revenue, or a little over 5% overall.

When you consider the increase in commercial real estate assessments, which I have seen from our members to be about 9 to 14%, and combine that with the

12.5 cents additional tax, business owners are looking at an increase of 13% or more for their property taxes. That's a sizable amount to absorb, especially all at once.

The BPOL would need to be reduced by that percentage or more to be able to call it relief.

- - Finally, Any relief should be equally shared among all businesses since we all pay the tax equally

The current proposal discriminates against those businesses with revenue over \$750,000, who would receive no reduction on their current BPOL tax. Why would we treat these companies differently?

Danielle

- It almost appears that we are punishing companies for being successful. Since we all pay the tax equally, we should all receive equal benefit if a reduction or "relief" is implemented.

- We'd like to see a proposal with a meaningful and significant reduction in BPOL tax which would stimulate commerce and send a message out to the region that Alexandria is promoting an environment open for business.

Oppose the Commercial Add-on Tax

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Signatures

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- Name:** Alexandria Chamber Of Commerce on Feb 10, 2011 1
Comments: We represent over 860 businesses in Alexandria.
- Name:** Bud Miller, CPP on Feb 10, 2011 2
Comments: Mr. Mayor, City Council Members: Please listen to the voices of Alexandrians, not outside lobbyists and professional politicians, and vote against this unfair tax as you have so many times in the past.
- Name:** Chris Marston on Feb 10, 2011 3
Comments: Just because you can tax someone, doesn't mean you should. The growth in the cost of city government has greatly outstripped inflation, cost of living, and most other indicators.
- Name:** Laurie Wirth on Feb 10, 2011 4
Comments:
- Name:** Dora Adamopoulos on Feb 11, 2011 5
Comments: Even though I currently rent retail property, this proposed increase will have a tremendous impact to my small business in being able to maintain affordable rental values in the future. I feel it is unfair to solely tax the businesses for an outcome that is to effect all residents. Either tax everyone equally, or don't tax at all. Increased taxes will force the struggling small business community to relocate to other areas that are more supportive of businesses and will lead to even more expensive, empty, retail slots city-wide. Sincerely, Dora Adamopoulos, OD eye2eye Optometry Corner
- Name:** Mary Longacre on Feb 11, 2011 6
Comments:
- Name:** Theresa Del Ninno on Feb 11, 2011 7
Comments: I fully support developing our transportation system but not at the cost of stunting business growth by increasing taxes for property owners.
- Name:** Laura Lee, General Manager Hawthorn Suites on Feb 11, 2011 8
Comments: Dear Mayor, I must participate in this petition because we are already taxed to death and on top of being taxed to death all city utilities have increased by proportionate measures costing me far more than I can afford in this economy. To top it all off, my payroll tax, unemployment tax (even though I haven't laid a single associate off as long as I've been here (4yrs)) property taxes have also all gone up. I find it unreasonable to expect our businesses to absorb the cost of special projects and other new items added to the "City" budget. Please consider this when voting. Respectfully, Laura Lee General Manager
- Name:** H. (Skip) Maginniss on Feb 11, 2011 9
Comments: Transportation improvements benefit the entire City and should be funded by the entire population, not by one constituency.

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by Propert
& Location
www.LoopNet.

Name: Anthony J. Scovazzo on Feb 11, 2011
Comments: I have recently relocated my office within the city and added three new employees. All of us are supporting local business. The gross receipt tax for my business is already larger in Alexandria than Fairfax County. Adding the new tax will make it more difficult to attract and keep business with the city. Tony Scovazzo

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Name: Melinda Sigal on Feb 11, 2011
Comments:

11

Name: Carl Glad on Feb 11, 2011

12

Comments: Small businesses in Old Towne open and close regularly. The heart of Old Towne, King Street, already has empty commercial property on nearly every block. Additional taxes will burden small businesses in an already trying economic time. Alexandria should encourage small business ownership. We are Virginians, let Maryland tax itself to death.

Name: Sydney Olson on Feb 11, 2011
Comments:

13

Name: Leslie Bauman on Feb 11, 2011
Comments: Thank you for your consideration of this petition!

14

Name: Rick Endres on Feb 11, 2011
Comments: Amen.

15

Name: Christine Sennott on Feb 11, 2011
Comments:

16

Name: Andrew F Palmieri on Feb 11, 2011

17

Comments: It is disappointing to see the City Manager resorting to an anti-business solution to the City's transportation needs. The Chamber routinely works with the City to improve its reputation as a place to do business, and this budget recommendation for a full rate commercial add-on tax is a step in the wrong direction for our City government. I hope that the Council recognizes that taking the easy route of over-taxing commercial property owners (and as a result, their business tenants) will only hurt Alexandria's economy. Moreover, while the City hopes to fund transportation improvements at the expense of Alexandria's businesses, these improvements must be maintained and operated, which will be general fund expenses in the future. Tax hikes are coming for everyone unless we dramatically build the commercial tax base in the City. As our economy hopefully emerges from a recession, the City now asks those businesses that have managed to survive difficult times to face new economic challenges. There are other choices: general revenue bonds, and allocation of general fund dollars in conjunction with increasing efficiencies in City Government, to name a few. Some might even suggest an across-the-board tax increase, which I do not favor. Nearly all would agree that the City needs transportation infrastructure improvements. These improvements will benefit residents and businesses alike. Funding the construction and maintenance of these improvements is a core governmental function. I ask that our Council make some tough decisions about an equitable means of accomplishing this task and reject the City Manager's easy solution at the expense of Alexandria's business community.

Name: David A Glazier on Feb 11, 2011
Comments:

18

Name: Thomas Welsh on Feb 11, 2011
Comments:

19

Name: Kimberly Korbelt on Feb 11, 2011

20

Comments: As a small business owner, we've been holding on through the recession, but there's not much left to cut. A tax increase at this time would be devastating.

Name: Nancy J. Appleby, Appleby Law PLLC on Feb 11, 2011
Comments:

21

Name: Jody Manor on Feb 11, 2011

Comments: We're really just starting to recover. Please don't squeeze small business owners to pay for transportation projects.

22

Name: Anila Angjeli on Feb 11, 2011 **23**
Comments:

Name: Dayna Blumel on Feb 11, 2011 **24**
Comments:

Name: Marcia Miller on Feb 11, 2011 **25**
Comments: This new tax will cost jobs, kill businesses and increase prices in Alexandria. Why is City Council doing everything they can to move our businesses to National Harbor?

Name: Saly Scime on Feb 11, 2011 **26**
Comments: As a citizen and small business owner, I firmly believe that this tax will create an unreasonable and unsustainable burdon on the small businesses in Alexandria, many of whom continue to struggle in an already difficult economy.

Name: Matt Whitaker on Feb 11, 2011 **27**
Comments:

Name: Raighne Delaney on Feb 11, 2011 **28**
Comments: I don't see any justification for differentiation of commercial and residential property taxes. Raise them together if need be, lower them together when possible, but keep them together.

Name: Rusty Dalal on Feb 11, 2011 **29**
Comments:

Name: Jennifer Coffey on Feb 11, 2011 **30**
Comments:

Name: John Altman on Feb 12, 2011 **31**
Comments:

Name: Tom Osborne on Feb 12, 2011 **32**
Comments: Either we're all in this together, or we're not. If the former, then a uniform tax increase on all property would be an appropriate solution. If the latter, then only those who stand to benefit directly from each project should be expected to pay higher taxes to support it. I see no justification that an Old Town business like mine should be singled out to pay a higher tax rate than my residential neighbors for a traffic improvement around BRAC (for example) that will have no direct benefit for me or my business.

Name: J. Bradford Altman on Feb 12, 2011 **33**
Comments:

Name: Cindy Mccartney on Feb 13, 2011 **34**
Comments:

Name: Tom Lally on Feb 13, 2011 **35**
Comments: To tax commercial real estate is to tax small mom and pop business in the city. Landlords pass all increases on to us. Tom Lally Alexandria Pastry Shop and Cafe

Name: Lawrence Singer on Feb 13, 2011 **36**
Comments: Small businesses have difficulties with high rents competitive disadvantage compared to larger companies that have economies of scale and high real estate costs. Additionally, we have high taxes already. This would put us in an even more perilous position. Small businesses such as mine would have to combine with other in larger to achieve economies of scale and ultimately government would receive less revenue. In the short term, I can afford to employ fewer people and pay less. Taxing business is not the way out of government overspending.

Name: Brian Kimmel on Feb 14, 2011

Comments: In a time where everyone is being hurt by an apathetic economy, the city won't thrive by placing an unfair burden on the businesses that so enthusiastically support it. But rather, it will drive business out, away from Alexandria, no different than other tax discrepancies drive both businesses and consumers to adjacent jurisdiction. This move will not produce the desired result, but rather will reduce the base from which the city draws its income. Not a wise move.

- Name:** John Whalen on Feb 14, 2011 **38**
Comments: As a commercial real estate owner in Alaxandria, I must say that not only is Alexandria an impossible city in which to do business, with incredible beauracratic hoops to jump through to do anything in Real Estate, NOW you want us to pay more for this aggravation. If you stop spending money on foolish programs, maybe you'd have some left to run the city efficiently.
- Name:** Mike Anderson on Feb 14, 2011 **39**
Comments:
- Name:** Bill Blackburn on Feb 14, 2011 **40**
Comments:
- Name:** Donna Anderson on Feb 14, 2011 **41**
Comments:
- Name:** Philip D. Weber, Director Of Property Management - LCOR on Feb 14, 2011 **42**
Comments: Year 2006, Rate was 81.5/\$100 Year 2007, Rate was 83.0/\$100 (1.84% increase) Year 2008, Rate was 84.5/\$100 (1.81% increase) Year 2009, Rate was 90.3/\$100 (6.86% increase) Year 2010, Rate was 97.8/\$100 (8.31% increase) Year 2011, Rate will be 110.3(?)/\$100 (12.78% inc.) Total increase is 35.34% in rate alone over 5 years!!
- Name:** Lillian Chao-Quinlan on Feb 14, 2011 **43**
Comments:
- Name:** Mary Maginniss on Feb 14, 2011 **44**
Comments: Cost sharing would be more equitable, as residents, workers, and tourists all benefit from improved transportation.
- Name:** Caren Camp on Feb 14, 2011 **45**
Comments: Please do not raise the taxes!
- Name:** Joseph F. Collum on Feb 14, 2011 **46**
Comments: As an owner of a small residential rental property zoned CL, this will create a bigger challenge to break even on rents that are already at the top of what is possible. Please consider all options before enacting this measure.
- Name:** *Anonymous* on Feb 15, 2011 **47**
Comments:
- Name:** Charlie Banta on Feb 15, 2011 **48**
Comments:
- Name:** Sharon Eddy on Feb 15, 2011 **49**
Comments: I use many more services as a resident of Alexandria then my business does and the tax is overly burdensome.
- Name:** Shelli Vasser Gilliam on Feb 15, 2011 **50**
Comments:

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Name: *Anonymous* on Feb 16, 2011 **51**
Comments: This is a ludicrous add-on tax that will break the backs of businesses in the city. Why don't you just cut costs across the board to rein in the short-fall. There is so much fluff in the system that we would all benefit by MUCH LESS waste.

Name: Christopher M. Bates on Feb 16, 2011 **52**
Comments: We strongly agree that small businesses in Alexandria should not be expected to bear this proposed additional local tax burden. Alexandria is different than its surrounding county neighbors in terms of the make-up of its business community, and we urge our elected officials to take the Chamber's advice as outlined in this letter/petition.

Name: Kyle Olson on Feb 16, 2011 **53**
Comments:

Name: JOHN J. RENNER II on Feb 16, 2011 **54**
Comments:

Name: Deborah George on Feb 16, 2011 **55**
Comments: I've owned a staffing firm in Alexandria for 23 years. I feel I pay more than my share of personal property and revenue taxes - almost to the point of having to relocate during these tough times. I do not want to have a commercial real estate tax passed on to me from my landlord. This is a ridiculous tax in an already very tough job market/business climate. I'm doing all I can to survive. I've tried in vain to get some of City of Alexandria's staffing business - but it is always awarded to national firms? After hundreds of thousands of dollars invested her in Alexandria City, why am I not being used as a valuable staffing resource? Why is the city not reinvesting in the local community? I would love an answer to this question. Twenty three years this year! Debbie George President Curzon Staffing, Inc. 703-836-4403

Name: Diana Simonton on Feb 16, 2011 **56**
Comments: Small businesses are the lifeblood of Alexandria. Please reconsider this 12.5% tax increase.

Name: Sandra Levy, Alexandria Myotherapy, Inc. on Feb 16, 2011 **57**
Comments: I am the co-owner of Alexandria Myotherapy, Inc., a small massage practice with eight employees. Please know that aside from being an unfair burden on business, this add-on tax will be a hardship that comes at a time when we are already stretched.

Name: Cathy And Jay Thomas, Owners Alphagraphics on Feb 16, 2011 **58**
Comments:

Name: Edward D. Hubacher on Feb 16, 2011
Comments: If you continue with your tax and spend habits you will find that small businesses cannot afford to be located in the City of Alexandria. There's a reason we have so many ice cream stores on lower King Street. Shortly everyone will find it necessary to relocate to National Harbor.

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Name: Judy Mangum on Feb 16, 2011 **60**
Comments: Director of Finance & Administration American College of Osteopathic Surgeons 123 N. Henry St.

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Name: Dennis Goris on Feb 16, 2011 **61**
Comments:

Name: Mark S. Allen on Feb 16, 2011 **62**
Comments: This tax has no logical connection to its alleged goal. If transportation infrastructure is needed, then everyone should be taxed, not just the select few whose properties actually generate revenue for the City and don't require such things as schools. This is outrageous.

Name: CATHERINE VIERNES on Feb 16, 2011 **63**
Comments:

Name: Rebecca Lasky on Feb 16, 2011 **64**
Comments:

Name: Peter Moran CEO Society Of American Florist on Feb 16, 2011 **65**
Comments: With over 400 non- profit associations based in Alexandria almost none of us need to make our headquarters here as it is a very expensive area to to base operations. The add on tax to just the business community is not a reasonable approach .

Name: Anita Peine on Feb 16, 2011 **66**
Comments: This would be a major imposition on the business community in Alexandria, possibly one that would make think twice about being in Alexandria instead of Fairfax County.

Name: Audrey Boobar on Feb 16, 2011 **67**
Comments:

Name: OLDE TOWNE GEMSTONES on Feb 16, 2011 **68**
Comments:

Name: Anna Fitzgerald on Feb 16, 2011 **69**
Comments:

Name: *Anonymous* on Feb 16, 2011 **70**
Comments:

Name: Genie Ko on Feb 16, 2011 **71**
Comments:

Name: *Anonymous* on Feb 16, 2011 **72**
Comments:

Name: Gregory L. Kunding - HomeFirst Mortgage Corp. on Feb 16, 2011 **73**
Comments: The time has come for our politicians to consider options that are not anathema to those of us who have made a conscious decision to locate our businesses in the City. Many of us are already struggling in this business environment. Instead of making hard decisions about spending priorities, political leaders seek to punish the most productive among us. Remember, our businesses already pay taxes, hire employees who patronize local entrepreneurs and provide the glue that allows this City to retain its vitality. Higher taxes mean that we have to consider cuts of our own, even as we have already made the hard decisions implicit in running a business. It's time for the City to find a way to provide basic city services while living within their budget. To do less is to pass the poor decisions of our City leaders on to a community that is already pulling its share of the load.

Name: Kevin R. Brockway on Feb 16, 2011

Comments: While i agree transportation and roads need improvement the commercial entities should not bear the burden solely.

Name: Kathie Little on Feb 16, 2011 **75**
Comments: spread the cost to all not just businesses.

Name: Bob Kuletz on Feb 16, 2011 **76**
Comments:

Name: Eisenhower Mill Properties, LLC on Feb 16, 2011 **77**
Comments:

Name: Eisenhower Center Office Building (2121 Eisenhower Ave) on Feb 16, 2011 **78**
Comments:

Name: 2111 Eisenhower Avenue, LP on Feb 16, 2011 **79**
Comments:

Name: Wellington Watts on Feb 16, 2011 **80**
Comments:

Name: Stephen Tarbuck on Feb 16, 2011 **81**
Comments:

Name: Sally Vaquero on Feb 16, 2011 **82**
Comments:

Name: Dennis Greene on Feb 16, 2011 **83**
Comments:

Name: Gregory Llinas on Feb 16, 2011 **84**
Comments: I also believe that the City of Alexandria should analyze better how to support the business community as a way to improve the business climate, environment and ability for more busienss to relocate to this area rather than increasing the burden of existing business.

Name: Michael Leonard on Feb 16, 2011 **85**
Comments: It does not seem fair to place the entire burden of funding new construction entirely on the business community when the general public will benefit from transportation infrastructure improvements as well. Taxing business may be politically expedient, but it does not allow for the entire sum to be raised and is unjust.

Name: Anysia Oswald & Thomas Singer on Feb 16, 2011 **86**
Comments: Increasingly, it feels like the City of Alexandria takes its independent businesses for granted in many ways, and seems not to understand how very difficult it is to survive as a small business This is just one more example.

Name: Thor Lynch on Feb 16, 2011 **87**
Comments: Please consider alternatives the proposed commercial property tax increase. Our small business owners cannot afford addition tax burdens placed on them at this time in our economic recovery. Furthermore, our commercial property owners have worked exhaustively with their tenants throughout the past two years of this economic downturn to keep their buildings and offices leased, often making concessions and compromises to prevent their tenants from leaving and moving their businesses elsewhere. What good are improved roads and transportation systems, like a new metro stop at Potomac Yards, if there are significantly fewer businesses and retail shops for consumers and citizens to frequent? This is a slippery slope we are about to start down and there is a very real possibility that this will push small business owners away from doing business in Alexandria and will have a severely negative impact on our competitiveness and ability to attract and maintain a strong small business community so essential to the economic engine of this great city. Please listen to our concerns and trust the voice of your citizens whose lives depend on and this community.

- Name:** Camille Leverett on Feb 16, 2011 **88**
Comments:
- Name:** Rebecca Fertig on Feb 16, 2011 **89**
Comments:
- Name:** Ashley McNeff on Feb 16, 2011 **90**
Comments:
- Name:** Institute For The Advancement Of Service on Feb 16, 2011 **91**
Comments: We are a small nonprofit service organization, located in Alexandria since 1994. Last year our total income was \$107,412. In 2010, 13% of our budget went for real estate taxes. Adding the 12.5 cent add on tax would present significant hardship on our ability to sustain our community services, much of which are at an affordable cost to the citizens of Alexandria during this time of economic challenge.
- Name:** Jill Erber on Feb 16, 2011 **92**
Comments:
- Name:** William Dougherty on Feb 16, 2011 **93**
Comments:
- Name:** Domar Properties, LLC on Feb 16, 2011 **94**
Comments:
- Name:** 700 N Fairfax St, LP on Feb 16, 2011 **95**
Comments:
- Name:** Bankers Square Associates on Feb 16, 2011 **96**
Comments:
- Name:** Linda J. Kelsey on Feb 16, 2011 **97**
Comments:
- Name:** RC Fields on Feb 16, 2011 **98**
Comments: I was born in this City. I live in this City. I worked for this City. I have always worked and own a business of 25 years in this City. I employ others that live in this City. I own commercial property in this City. I LOVE THIS CITY! With the state of the economy as it is, this is not the time for any tax increase. We need to work harder and tighten our belts to get thru this. I've reduced rents to help my tenants. Have my taxes gone down? NO! Make me continue to be PROUD of this City.
- Name:** Bruce Machanic on Feb 16, 2011 **99**
Comments: Why are you just targeting the businesses. I don't mind paying a bit more for transporation issues if they are truly necessary, but residents use our roads just as much as business does so the tax should be levied on all, not just us.
- Name:** Strand on Feb 16, 2011 **100**
Comments:

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Name: Wheeler Center And Associates on Feb 16, 2011 Comments:	101	Sign Pe Nov Sponsore
Name: Simpson Company on Feb 16, 2011 Comments:	102	Ads by GOOG
Name: Mary Polsley Williams on Feb 16, 2011 Comments:	103	Get Appro Today Fast \$250!
Name: Allen J. McBride on Feb 16, 2011 Comments:	104	Unsecurec Credit OK ! Business l
Name: Chris Darling on Feb 16, 2011 Comments:	105	NO Start U www.FastUpFr
Name: Thomas J. Russo on Feb 16, 2011 Comments:	106	
Name: Susan Scheffler on Feb 17, 2011 Comments:	107	
Name: Warren L. Almquist, AIA Architect on Feb 17, 2011 Comments:	108	
Name: Sheri Bergen on Feb 17, 2011 Comments: This tax on transportation improvements will directly affect my income NEGATIVELY. I believe everyone, not just businesses should be responsible for these improvements. It is anti-business and anti-jobs to foist this on the many small businesses and employees (if indirectly) in Alexandria.	109	
Name: <i>Anonymous</i> on Feb 17, 2011 Comments:	110	
Name: Amelia R. Bennett on Feb 17, 2011 Comments: If you raise the taxes on buildings, my rent will increase. I have a very small business that is difficult to sustain in the current economy, anyway, and I don't need the additional expense or my rent increasing. Thank you	111	
Name: Charles K. Collum, Jr. on Feb 17, 2011 Comments:	112	

Name: Clark Bavin on Feb 17, 2011

113

Comments: As a small business owner in the City, I strongly support this petition! Putting additional taxes on property owners trickles down to tenants who then cannot pass them on to their customers very easily. Increasing our cost of doing business doesn't make us competitive. Singling out businesses from residents is also not fair because they use the roads just as much as I do, if not more. And you're already taking away from people wanting to come to do business by putting in additional parking meters in traditional 2hr zones - very sneaky and greedy I might add. And I think it's naive on Council's part to think that Small Businesses have huge pots of money to fork over to the City. Afterall we're called small businesses for a reason. You're already double taxing us by basing business licensing fees with Sales Tax included in the Gross Income line. Then, you're hitting us with Personal Property Tax on everything right down to our paperclips. I dare say this new tax will more than likely put a few more businesse, out of business. And then, what - you'll wind up with nothing. Does that seem very smart? Why not reduce City Salaries or make departmental cuts? I don't see enough sacrificing being done on your side of things. It seems every time there's an issue, someone proposes we need "another tax". The truth is transportation is not a new issue. We've always had the need for transportation, going back to the city's founding. So, let's not pretend it's a new problem. It's part of our City and it's always evolving. Therefore, you need to better plan and you need to figure out how to make it work with what you've got to work with. It's called staying within your budget. Don't just increase the budget and then expect to add another tax to make up the difference.

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Name: Alex McGuinness on Feb 17, 2011

114

Comments:

Name: Maureen Schantz on Feb 17, 2011

115

Comments: No more taxes!! How about cutting spending for a change? Maureen Schantz

Name: Kenneth R Schantz on Feb 17, 2011

116

Comments:

Name: Nancy Belmont on Feb 18, 2011

117

Comments: Resident and business owner!

Name: Susan Elbertson on Feb 18, 2011

118

Comments:

Name: Dina Clevenson Katz on Feb 18, 2011

119

Comments: Let's look for a more equitable solution please. This is too harsh for the small business, on top of the property and business license taxes.

Name: Frank Flaherty on Feb 18, 2011

120

Comments:

Name: Jeffrey A. Tassej on Feb 18, 2011

121

Comments:

Name: John Stephenson on Feb 18, 2011

122

Comments: Small businesses are the life-blood of Alexandria. By taxing small businesses as the economy is starting to recover, you run the risk of doing serious harm to small businesses who are struggling to pay bills and avoid layoffs. There are other ways to improve transportation. But this harmful tax is not one of them.

Name: *Anonymous* on Feb 18, 2011

123

Comments:

Name: David Rudy on Feb 18, 2011

124

Comments:

Name: Chuck Martin on Feb 18, 2011

125

Comments: No added anti-business taxes in Alexandria!

- Name:** John McManus on Feb 18, 2011 **126**
Comments:
- Name:** Robert Hannigan on Feb 18, 2011 **127**
Comments: As someone who both works and lives in Alexandria, I agree with the assessment that our transportation infrastructure is inadequate. That said, this is a problem that affects both residents and businesses and to unfairly burden businesses with the add on tax will negatively impact the businesses in our community that provide the lion's share of taxes for Alexandria. I urge that you consider alternatives to the idea of having one group pay for something that affects everyone.
- Name:** Lonnie C. Rich on Feb 18, 2011 **128**
Comments: I support a uniform tax rate as the best way to govern. This really hurts small businesses most of whom have leases with tax pass through provisions.
- Name:** *Anonymous* on Feb 18, 2011 **129**
Comments:
- Name:** Jay Atkinson on Feb 18, 2011 **130**
Comments:
- Name:** Michele Ward on Feb 18, 2011 **131**
Comments: This increase will be devastating to small business like mine!
- Name:** Jennifer Bodie on Feb 18, 2011 **132**
Comments:
- Name:** Nancy W. Macklin on Feb 18, 2011 **133**
Comments:
- Name:** Mary White on Feb 18, 2011 **134**
Comments:
- Name:** RC Fields on Feb 18, 2011 **135**
Comments:
- Name:** Demian Brady on Feb 18, 2011 **136**
Comments:
- Name:** Rob Kaufman on Feb 18, 2011 **137**
Comments: I am concerned this will be economic suicide for most small businesses that will be affected. The second important impact is that it will lower the NOI on the commercial buildings which will lower their value and therefore their assessment.
- Name:** *Anonymous* on Feb 18, 2011 **138**
Comments: Please stop taxing us! Sincerely, Ben Lievestro
- Name:** Robert L Bell, SVP Armed Forced Benefit Association on Feb 18, 2011 **139**
Comments:
- Name:** Thomas S Patti on Feb 18, 2011 **140**
Comments: Reject any increase in commercial property tax. Any increased taxes will prolong the economic recovery.
- Name:** *Anonymous* on Feb 18, 2011 **141**
Comments:
- Name:** Patrick Murray on Feb 19, 2011

Comments: Raising taxes is the wrong answer for Alexandria's business owners and citizens. There problem is one of excess spending, not a lack of revenue. We cannot tax ourselves to prosperity.

Name: Joseph Hadeed on Feb 19, 2011 **143**
Comments:

Name: Brianna Cardiff on Feb 19, 2011 **144**
Comments:

Name: Ira Peine on Feb 19, 2011 **145**
Comments: It is important that the city of Alexandria support the local businesses and provide a financially secure environment for their growth and well being.

Name: A J Kearney on Feb 19, 2011 **146**
Comments: I think we should first justify each project and then find funding for them based on the justification. Building a fund from new taxes is an invitation for wasteful spending.

Name: Ruth Duty on Feb 19, 2011 **147**
Comments: Please! Thank You!

Name: Andrew Orenge on Feb 19, 2011 **148**
Comments:

Name: Linda Hubbard on Feb 19, 2011 **149**
Comments:

Name: Joseph M. Egerton on Feb 19, 2011 **150**
Comments:

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- Name:** Linda Lloyd on Feb 19, 2011 **151**
Comments: The commercial property tax that is already imposed is burdensome as it is. I am definitely opposed to this tax proposal. I would consider moving outside of the Alexandria City limits in order to lower my tax burden.
- Name:** Dr Roy Heron on Feb 19, 2011 **152**
Comments: I am oppose of this commercial add on tax
- Name:** Pamela Prevar on Feb 19, 2011 **153**
Comments: Small business in Alexandria cannot survive if the taxes increase.
- Name:** Danielle Romanetti on Feb 19, 2011 **154**
Comments:
- Name:** Dominic Latella on Feb 19, 2011 **155**
Comments:
- Name:** Valerie R Ianieri on Feb 19, 2011 **156**
Comments:
- Name:** Dennis Belmont on Feb 19, 2011 **157**
Comments: I am truly appalled - this tax goes directly against the council's pledge to make Alexandria more friendly to small businesses.
- Name:** Howard Thomas Hay on Feb 20, 2011 **158**
Comments:

Name: Jeffrey Cukr on Feb 20, 2011 **159**
Comments: anyone with a master's degree in public administration or who has taken a basic public financing course would make a more appropriate recommendation in such a case: capital improvements should be funded with municipal bonds. i am proud to be a citizen of the City of Alexandria and especially proud of our top bond ratings from Moody and S&P. however, these ratings are moot if we do not appropriately use them as a tool to fund our public needs. revenues from taxes should be used to fund current operating expenses, while capital improvements (new schools, new libraries, new rec centers, new roads, etc) should be funded via municipal bonds. the City administration pats itself on the back for having top bond ratings, yet has not used it for years. rather it has used property and sales taxes to fund all of our budgetary needs. this does not make any sense from a public, personal, or investment financing perspective. furthermore, i already find the burden on business in the City of Alexandria to be overly onerous. i personally know firsthand of several businesses that either did not choose to come to our City or prematurely left due to these policies. anyone who sees prime commercial properties sit empty and unused for extended periods of time (for example, at the intersection of King and Union Streets) will wonder why this is so. Alexandria already has special taxes on restaurants and theatres; continuing to add to these business burdens will only drive more of them out and in the long run

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reduce our revenues. if the City insists on targeting taxes levied on specific groups, then it should at least target them at those who use and benefit from the intended use of the additional taxes, although in this case that too might "drive" people out of Alexandria (no pun intended) to purchase gasoline elsewhere, since the targeted tax would most likely be an increase on gasoline. in summary, i would like the City of Alexandria to finally start putting its good bond ratings to work and start issuing municipal bonds to pay for captial improvements, as would be recommended by anyone with a basic finance course on their resume. thank you.

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Name: Melissa Viscovich on Feb 20, 2011

160

Comments:

Name: Luana Bossolo on Feb 21, 2011

161

Comments: As a long time Alexandria resident, I support small businesses and believe that is what makes Alexandria special and unique. It's also a reason why I live in Alexandria. Small businesses help Alexandria maintain it's historical ambiance, unlike large commercial retale chains. Keep the business tax low so small businesses can thrive in Alexandria.

Name: Michelle B. Bouma on Feb 21, 2011

162

Comments: Please leave the businesses in the City of Alexandria alone, we have a hard enough time making it and a tax increase could close a lot of small businesses that are needed by the City of Alexandria.

Name: Celia Booth on Feb 21, 2011

163

Comments: My husband and I run a small business in Alexandria that employs 15 people. This usurious tax will negatively impact our ability to operate our business.

Name: *Anonymous* on Feb 21, 2011

164

Comments:

Name: Michael MacNair on Feb 21, 2011

165

Comments:

Name: Rita Offer, CMT on Feb 21, 2011

166

Comments: Employee at Alexandira Myotherapy

Name: Lisa Balzereit on Feb 22, 2011

167

Comments: I have worked and lived in Alexandria for over 20 years. My business has been located in Alexandria for the last 10 years. I do not benefit, in my business, from my location but enjoyed the idea of working and living in the same community. For that matter my business would be easier if I worked closer to my client in DC. In addition, I as a resident do not mind paying for enhanced transportation but as a business I truly oppose this action. We need to encourage small unique business to operate and thrive in our communities. These entities are the ones that provide character and community to our neighborhoods. If we keep this tactic we will all look like Old town and Potomac Yard, chain stores and mass marketing restaurants.

Name: William A. Moncure Jr. on Feb 22, 2011

168

Comments: We need to encourage small business, the true growth of the future vs large conglomerate for the whole of Alexandria. Small is more / diverse business is more for all in Alexandria.

Name: Joe Guiffre on Feb 22, 2011

169

Comments: Most of the business establishments at the Trade Center are small and having difficulty surviving this economy. Any "feather" of extra expense may cause some of them to fail. Don't let these good people down.

Name: HARRISON DANG on Feb 22, 2011

170

Comments:

Name: James E. Jarrett on Feb 22, 2011

171

Comments:

Name: George E. Kostel on Feb 22, 2011

172

Comments:

- Name:** Keith Fimian on Feb 22, 2011 **173**
Comments:
- Name:** John Ross on Feb 23, 2011 **174**
Comments:
- Name:** Michael D. Rockefeller on Feb 23, 2011 **175**
Comments:
- Name:** Laura Machanic on Feb 23, 2011 **176**
Comments:
- Name:** John M. Camp on Feb 23, 2011 **177**
Comments: Too many taxes now....of all sorts. Cut the budget, cut the employees, cut the pension benefits, cut the DASH
- Name:** Sam Chamberlain on Feb 23, 2011 **178**
Comments:
- Name:** Connie Dale on Feb 23, 2011 **179**
Comments: This tax would be a hardship on Small Businesses in throughout Alexandria and does not reflect the spirit of supporting small and retail type business. If anything it is a deterrant for anyone considering a start-up or a re-location as we have done in August of 2009. I am a member in the Chamber of Commerce and our position is not supportive of this initiative. Many small business owners I am friends with are outraged and will suffer financially which will be yet another reason to leave the City should they already be suffering due to the current economy. Look up and down King Street and count how many empty storefronts you see since the end of 2008. Our City officials do not have their finger on the pulse of local entrepreneurs.
- Name:** Trish Chandler on Feb 23, 2011 **180**
Comments:
- Name:** Kristen Coffield on Feb 23, 2011 **181**
Comments: This is a sure way to turn Historic Old Town Alexandria into another mall, the only stores that will be able to afford to do business here will be the chains. How about a sliding scale.
- Name:** *Anonymous* on Feb 23, 2011 **182**
Comments:
- Name:** David Hudgins on Feb 23, 2011 **183**
Comments:
- Name:** Jeff Erber on Feb 23, 2011 **184**
Comments:
- Name:** Laura Francis on Feb 24, 2011 **185**
Comments: How in the world do you expect reputable, desirable businesses to maintain a presence in our town when you price them out of the already faltering market!?
- Name:** Joseph Corey on Feb 24, 2011 **186**
Comments: if you are pro business, the taxes should be reduced, not increased.. If our sales decrease, we spend less.. If city revenues decrease, it just raises taxes.. If the city was run like a business, it would be out of business!!!! Wake up.. Soon we will be driven out of business..
- Name:** SebastienTavel on Feb 24, 2011 **187**
Comments:

- Name:** Mary Tavel on Feb 24, 2011 **188**
Comments:
- Name:** Leonard Calvert 111 on Feb 24, 2011 **189**
Comments:
- Name:** Dennis Bradshaw on Feb 24, 2011 **190**
Comments: Stop this bill!!
- Name:** Laura Simmons on Feb 25, 2011 **191**
Comments: Look at the number of vacant buildings that should be filled by small businesses. This tax will only assure more closings and change the complexion of the city in a negative way. Small businesses are key to growth and new jobs. You do not want to reverse what is starting to look like a rebound for the city.
- Name:** Stephen A. Robinson on Feb 25, 2011 **192**
Comments: We as small business owners already pay far too many taxes to do business in the City of Alexandria. I feel this would only for others out of business.
- Name:** Pamela Valenzuela on Feb 25, 2011 **193**
Comments: I am a small business owner, with my office in Alexandria, VA, and have had to curtail expenditures in the past few years, and would hope the City would curtail taxes that will injure my business further. Thank you.
- Name:** Robert L King, President - MSR Inc. on Feb 25, 2011 **194**
Comments: MSR owns property at 206/208 King Street and the current taxes on the property are already a significant burden to both MSR and it's tenant. Any NEW tax should be born evenly by all parties in Alexandria
- Name:** Troy Englert on Feb 25, 2011 **195**
Comments: No More Taxes!!!!!!
- Name:** Jay Thomas on Feb 25, 2011 **196**
Comments: As a small business owner struggling to keep my business open, I cannot believe that this add on tax is being considered. As a business that has not released any employee's over the last two years and is trying to do the right thing by not reducing their pay, it is hard to understand how you can expect small, family owned business to continue stay on the city with these types of taxes. Please protect our business and my employee's by refusing this add-on tax. Jay Thomas Owner Alphagraphics
- Name:** Lee McAllister on Feb 25, 2011 **197**
Comments: The City has put me out of business, cost me my house, office and more. Many of my clients have also gone bankrupt in the City because of red tape at the permit office and taxes out of control, favoritism and corruption at City hall. Meanwhile they need to send their kids to private schools if they continue to live in the city. I tell all my restaurant clients to open elsewhere and help them find spaces in other jurisdictions so they do not get hurt by the City
- Name:** Matt McKinnis on Feb 25, 2011 **198**
Comments:
- Name:** Linda Constantine on Feb 26, 2011 **199**
Comments:
- Name:** Joe Corey on Feb 27, 2011 **200**
Comments: Don't balance your mistakes on our backs. We make less, we spend less. Plain and simple. There comes a time when taxes will drive business away. That time has come. Business will leave or fail to come in when confronted with an oppressive tax Program.

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Name: Caity Davis on Feb 27, 2011
Comments:

201

Name: Jill Stump on Feb 27, 2011
Comments:

202

Name: Garet Schalinske on Feb 27, 2011
Comments:

203

Name: Jay Palermino on Feb 27, 2011
Comments: Defeat the commercial add-on tax, please.

204

Name: Virginia Barlow on Feb 28, 2011

205

Comments: Our small businesses are on the verge of total collapse and this proposal will only cause the final straw for businesses barely able to pay their bills. With consumers buying far less but expenses going up many more businesses will close. The city relies on these small businesses for revenue, what will the city do when here are no more small businesses to support it? Not the time for this at all.

Name: Cynthia Davis on Feb 28, 2011
Comments:

206

Name: Ben Roberts on Feb 28, 2011
Comments:

207

Name: Andrea Smith on Feb 28, 2011
Comments:

208

Name: *Anonymous* on Feb 28, 2011
Comments:

209

Name: Jennifer Schwartz on Mar 1, 2011
Comments:

210

Name: Nancy Pollard on Mar 1, 2011

211

Comments: Many of us live here and have established small independent businesses to enrich the fabric of Alexandria's central business district. We have seen commercial buildings for lease and for sale. This destructive tax will make selling and renting these buildings even more difficult. Institute a city sales tax on sodas and vending machines instead.

Name: *Anonymous* on Mar 1, 2011

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Monitoring
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Support &
Expertise.
More Now
Rackspace.co

Comments:

Name: Jennifer Donohue on Mar 1, 2011 **213**
Comments: resident of and business owner in Old Town

Name: James Matthews on Mar 2, 2011 **214**
Comments: This is a very difficult business environment for small business, business is uniformly down. This tax is a difficult burden to bear. It also discourages businesses from relocating to Alexandria.

~~**Name:** James Matthews on Mar 2, 2011 **215**
Comments: This is a very difficult business environment in general. This tax increase targeted at small businesses is an unfair extra burden, discouraging business development in Alexandria.~~

Name: Elizabeth Todd on Mar 2, 2011 **216**
Comments:

Name: Adrien Cotton on Mar 2, 2011 **217**
Comments: I oppose any tax on small business. Period. In this economy, it is insensitive and frankly short sided for the City to tax us MORE. Adrien Cotton Co-Owner Fitness on the Run, LLC

Name: Ben Davis on Mar 2, 2011 **218**
Comments:

Name: Daniel Ryal on Mar 2, 2011 **219**
Comments:

Name: Ann Ile on Mar 2, 2011 **220**
Comments: This tax would strain a new small business like myself as well as all other small businesses! Please reconsider other options for funding transportation!

Name: Alison Lynn on Mar 2, 2011 **221**
Comments: Cut the budget instead of continuing to raise taxes like you have done for the last several years. It is gross mismanagement.

Name: Boyd Walker on Mar 2, 2011 **222**
Comments:

Name: Kenneth M. Boland on Mar 2, 2011 **223**
Comments: While I agree these transportation improvements should be funded, I believe it is unfair to put this tax only on the back of commercial property owners only. There is no proof that commercial property owners are contributing to the transportation needs more than any other citizen in Alexandria. This tax is not fair. Doing something that needs to be done (funding transportation improvements) the wrong way is just wrong. This tax should be equally divided on all of us.

Name: William D. Cammack on Mar 2, 2011 **224**
Comments:

Name: Abigail on Mar 2, 2011 **225**
Comments:

Name: Robert Gasiewicz on Mar 3, 2011 **226**
Comments:

Name: Madelyn Smith on Mar 3, 2011 **227**
Comments:

Name: Mark X. LaPierre, ASLA on Mar 3, 2011

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Comments: LAPIERRE STUDIO, PLLC Landscape Architects 1212 Prince Street Alexandria VA 22314

Name: *Anonymous* on Mar 4, 2011 **229**
Comments:

Name: Matt Timms on Mar 4, 2011 **230**
Comments:

Name: Mark Ahart on Mar 4, 2011 **231**
Comments:

Name: Ken Balbuena on Mar 4, 2011 **232**
Comments: A better alternative than raising the tax is to reduce the commercial vacancy rate. An increase in commercial property taxes discourages businesses from moving or relocating to the City of Alexandria. The fewer businesses there are, the greater the vacancy rate is and the less successful the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce's "Try It Local" campaign is. Please do not raise the commercial add-on tax.

Name: Monica Bell on Mar 4, 2011 **233**
Comments:

Name: Timothy R. Geary on Mar 4, 2011 **234**
Comments:

Name: Nina Latimer on Mar 4, 2011 **235**
Comments:

Name: Deborah Tait on Mar 4, 2011 **236**
Comments:

Name: Lani Gering on Mar 4, 2011 **237**
Comments:

Name: Heidi Burkhardt on Mar 4, 2011 **238**
Comments: Please say NO!

Name: Joe Waldman on Mar 4, 2011 **239**
Comments:

Name: Serge And Wendy Albert on Mar 4, 2011 **240**
Comments: With the monthly increases on all of the products that we use from butter, flour, sugar, meats and fish this tax just might be the straw that breaks the camels back. We have not raised our prices since 1998 and the rising prices have cut out all profit from our small business. Since we are are our own "landlords" there is no one else to pass this tax on to except our customers and the community that we support with in-kind donations of food and gift certificates. This is something that we do not want to do. Selling the business and moving to France sounds better and better all the time.

Name: Alexandra Khalaf on Mar 4, 2011 **241**
Comments:

Name: Michael Guiffre on Mar 4, 2011 **242**
Comments:

Name: Edward T. Brennan, Jr. on Mar 4, 2011 **243**
Comments:

Name: Kristen Reamy on Mar 4, 2011 **244**
Comments: NO MORE TAX!!!!!!!

Name: Joseph Egerton on Mar 4, 2011 245

Comments: I feel certain that any add-on taxes to the small business community in Alexandria would only further the loss of character and charm to Old Town Alexandria. We are losing quality small businesses right and left, and any additional expense will only cause more businesses to close. Since the beginning of 2011 there are now three quality businesses closing their doors in Old Town: Artcraft Collection, La Muse, and now Banana Tree (leaving March 31, 2011). Banana Tree is moving to the internet because business is so slow in Alexandria, and the parking has made it even worse. Be mindful that there is a ripple effect here: Other businesses such as food establishments lose the patronage of the shop owners and employees when they close. My observation is that spaces are filled mostly by foreigners who must bring their own native food to work because they never patronize the lunch venues, and their offerings are not really what Alexandrians and visitors are accustomed to. You see very few of their bags on the street. If the character of Old Town further deteriorates, marketing the city will become very difficult. There's plenty of money to be had by putting parking meters in Del Ray. They have 14 commercial blocks vs 18 blocks on King Street, and the parking there is very, very tight. On most days in Old Town on King Street you could park an 18 wheeler on most any block at various times of the day.

Name: JOHN WHALEN on Mar 4, 2011 246

Comments:

Name: Connie Dale on Mar 4, 2011 247

Comments: I urge City Council to re-think this Add-On Tax, it is a terrible burden to place on the Businesses who are already paying some of the highest taxes on the East Coast. It is your job to support and sustain the existing businesses that are part of our great city. Don't discourage new business from settling here. Have any of you driven up and down King and Washington streets lately? There are more vacancies every month, is this what you want? VOTE NO - Commercial ADD-ON Tax!

Name: Dave Gimbel Signs By Tomorrow on Mar 4, 2011 248

Comments: Please help small businesses stay afloat to generate revenues for Alexandria. Thank you

Name: Diane G. Murphy on Mar 4, 2011 249

Comments: I have written a letter.

Name: Karl Smith on Mar 4, 2011 250

Comments:

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- Name:** *Anonymous* on Mar 4, 2011 **251**
Comments:
- Name:** Ken Lopez on Mar 4, 2011 **252**
Comments:
- Name:** Laura Norfolk on Mar 4, 2011 **253**
Comments:
- Name:** Alyssa Theodore, Co-Owner, The Sugar Cube on Mar 4, 2011 **254**
Comments:
- Name:** Christopher Campagna on Mar 4, 2011 **255**
Comments: NO NO NO - Not CAT.
- Name:** Charlie Lindsey on Mar 5, 2011 **256**
Comments:
- Name:** Lorraine Aprile on Mar 5, 2011 **257**
Comments:
- Name:** Tracey Koch on Mar 5, 2011 **258**
Comments:
- Name:** Elizabeth Farrell on Mar 5, 2011 **259**
Comments:
- Name:** Patricia White on Mar 5, 2011 **260**
Comments: At a time when commercial building owners are already struggling to compete with commercial space in other counties, and to fill their properties here by offering attractive rent rates, raising taxes on commercial properties is exactly the wrong thing to do- if you want Alexandria to remain a viable place to do business. As a commercial real estate broker, I am painfully aware of all the vacant commercial space in Alexandria. Further, there have already been selective-- but substantial-- tax increases last year on some of Alexandria's commercial buildings. Sincerely, Patricia L. White (Cell: 703-981-8032)
- Name:** Richard Dorman on Mar 5, 2011 **261**
Comments:
- Name:** Adron Krekeler on Mar 5, 2011 **262**
Comments: Transportation is everyones issue. Everyone should pay their share.

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Name: Gant Redmon on Mar 5, 2011

263

Comments: The key is to increase revenue by expanding the commercial tax base. It would not cost the City additional funds to streamline development process to encourage good development in the City.

Name: Phil McCombie - Perk's And Thailand Royal St on Mar 5, 2011

264

Comments: Alexandria promotes tourism. Tourists do not come here to look at peoples residences. They come for the commercial/retail attractions. They need to survive. This proposal will ensure that a lot of them will not! Find another way.

Name: Michael K Cornish on Mar 5, 2011

265

Comments: The City is nickle and diming us to death and pushing us to relocate. If you really want businesses to move keep up this sort of thing.

Name: Ron Caffi on Mar 5, 2011

266

Comments: As a small struggling small business owner in the City my real estate taxes have almost tripled in the 9 years since my move here from Arlington. I have faced with declining revenues since this recession hit 3 years ago yet my taxes continue to increase. This tax will make it next to impossible for me to afford to stay in the City to conduct business. This tax is would be terribly inequitable and allow only big business to stay in the City. If that is the City's objective then move forward with the tax. I am struggling.

Name: Allen Schirmer on Mar 5, 2011

267

Comments:

Name: Denise Dick on Mar 5, 2011

268

Comments:

Name: Margaret Smith on Mar 5, 2011

269

Comments: This tax will add additional tax burden to our small business base during these economic times and cause more closures. Consider a broad based sales tax to include all of Alexandria patrons to spread over a larger population than just the small business base.

Name: Nina Tisara on Mar 5, 2011

270

Comments: I just got word that yet another King Street Business, Banana Tree, is moving it's location to the web. As the costs of doing business increase, small, independent business just can't compete. If we lose our unique shops, we will turn ourselves into yet another mall. Surely this is not a good solution to funding our transportation needs.

Name: Lisa Capobianco/ King Street Blues on Mar 5, 2011

271

Comments: Small businesses have struggled since 2008. An additional tax would set most of us back even further- there has to be another way to balance the budget without further taxing small businesses- it could quite possibly put some of us out of business. The City depends on the independent shops and restaurants to create a unique dining and shopping destination- do not jeopardize this

Name: *Anonymous* on Mar 6, 2011

272

Comments:

Name: Bill Tinsley on Mar 6, 2011

273

Comments: Small business drives the economy and creates much needed job opportunities. By imposing this tax, you will stop growth and economic development. Remember to not shoot the cow that gives you the milk.

Name: Lorin S Curit on Mar 6, 2011

274

Comments:

Name: Kathleen Dunn on Mar 6, 2011

275

Comments: I have been wanting to open a new shop in Alexandria, but won't (and can't) because of the current tax burden. Raise them will just keep new businesses from opening and force many other small businesses to close their doors. Am I going to have to move to Canada for more favorable taxes????

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- Name:** Leslie Nagao on Mar 6, 2011 **276**
Comments:
- Name:** Perry Keeton on Mar 6, 2011 **277**
Comments: Take a look at this a year from now and realize how you have reaped what you have sown. It shall surely be the result of an unintended, but easily predictable, circumstance. At that time be sure to reload so you can shoot yourself in the other foot.
- Name:** Rhonda Smith on Mar 6, 2011 **278**
Comments:
- Name:** Dorothee Oberdhan on Mar 6, 2011 **279**
Comments:
- Name:** Vivian K. Keller on Mar 6, 2011 **280**
Comments: Please do not raise taxes on the businesses in our community. I am afraid that this additional burden will cause businesses to either close or to lay off some of their employees. I also believe that businesses will be forced to raise prices to cover the tax, meaning less people will be able to afford their services or products causing the businesses to lose revenue. The outcome will be less money in Alexandria's coffers as businesses that close, pay no tax; as businesses that make less money, pay less taxes.
- Name:** Virginia P Norton on Mar 6, 2011 **281**
Comments: This tax will essentially kill our small business. That will mean 5 or more people without jobs in Alexandria.
- Name:** Bob McIntyre on Mar 6, 2011 **282**
Comments: I am single and eat out all of the time. When Alexandria raised their taxes I started going across the to Fairfax and Arlington to eat. With these new taxes the prices for restaurants will increase and make my decision not to eat, or shop, in Alexandria. My \$10-\$15 per day is no big thing but how many others will think the same way. This will drive business away from Alexandria and then many open stores will be available for no renters. Thus, a Detroit style of slums will occur here in Alexandria. Check into the waste in the government BEFORE this step is made. You will lose more revenue in the long run.
- Name:** Clinton Craddock on Mar 6, 2011 **283**
Comments: Honorable Sirs and Madam Council Members, The tax burden on the people and businesses are already too high. Your proposed increase is outrageous. You were elected to control costs not to tax and spend. Reductions in waste should occur before any new taxes. There is too much bloat in city government already. Fancy offices, high tech equipment to write tickets, parking officers who ride around and leave cars running while they walk their overweight bodies 4 feet to write a ticket, wasteful. Too many people not doing their job but complaining of being overworked. Please do not implement this upon pain of defeat in the next election or a recall action being taken.
- Name:** Robert Frere on Mar 6, 2011 **284**
Comments:
- Name:** Mary Catherine Coleman on Mar 6, 2011 **285**
Comments:
- Name:** Brian Adams on Mar 6, 2011 **286**
Comments: I live in S. Arlington, one block from the Alexandria city limit. I think this tax will hurt businesses and drive shoppers elsewhere when it's passed on to consumers by higher prices.
- Name:** Kirsten Obadal on Mar 6, 2011 **287**
Comments: Please do not raise taxes on Alexandria Businesses.
- Name:** Mark S. Feldheim on Mar 6, 2011 **288**
Comments: While I believe that the add-on tax is a valuable tool, the proposed transportation projects do not adequately relate to expansion of business opportunities for the commercial activities subject to the tax!

- Name:** Ramon J. Kazanjian on Mar 6, 2011 **289**
Comments: Listen to the advice of Frank Fannon and do not add an additional tax our businesses. This tax will not only raise costs for all of us, but will also provide an incentive for businesses to move out of Alexandria. It may also contribute to the failure of some businesses during these difficult economic times. With a resulting diminished business tax base, you will have shot yourselves in the foot. Then, do not look to residential property owners for the additional taxes. Just reduce the size of government and do not begin new initiatives until better economic times.
- Name:** Pauline Bacaj on Mar 6, 2011 **290**
Comments: This tax on small businesses does not make any sense: it will only cripple them.
- Name:** Susan A. Carleson on Mar 6, 2011 **291**
Comments: Why are Democrat city officials so ignorant about the effects of taxation? Anybody ever hear the word incentive?
- Name:** Charles Varipapa DDS on Mar 6, 2011 **292**
Comments: Are we not already paying enough taxes to fund a poorly lead and poorly run government? To add another tax to small businesses is only to tax the whole community and encourage the uncontrolled spending and mis- management of our tax dollars by the city government.
- Name:** Lee Hernly on Mar 6, 2011 **293**
Comments: Considering that the City has a surplus from previous round of tax increases, this is deplorable.
- Name:** Amy H. Glad on Mar 6, 2011 **294**
Comments:
- Name:** Donna Rhodes Dickey on Mar 6, 2011 **295**
Comments: At this time when so many individuals and families are suffering economically and so many small businesses are just hanging on, to impose this tax on Alexandria businesses will not only hurt them, but the individuals who may need their services. I know transportation is a problem in this area, but think it is unconscionable to impose this kind of tax with so many businesses and families just hanging on. I would ask that you table your transportation projects or fund them in some other way until we all are on firmer ground economically.
- Name:** Russell Axelson Jr on Mar 6, 2011 **296**
Comments: I certainly feel this should be looked at again, the business area of Alexandria already has enough burden to face. This tax will be passed on to the consumer base of citizens in Alexandria and the visitors that a lot of small business depend on to stay in business!. Lets look at this tax before we are sorry about something before it is too late. regards, Russell Axelson Jr
- Name:** *Anonymous* on Mar 6, 2011 **297**
Comments: This is no the time to raise taxes of any kind. You might need to fix the roads, but this is not the time to tax. The roads can wait until the economy is on better footing.
- Name:** Jim Karabin on Mar 6, 2011 **298**
Comments:
- Name:** Michael Whitley on Mar 6, 2011 **299**
Comments: Alexandrians should not have to pay for a new and un-necessary metro station at Potomac Yards. If this station is desired, developers of the area should pay for it and recoup their costs in sales of residential and commercial properties.
- Name:** Daniel Tangora on Mar 7, 2011 **300**
Comments: Death to socialism

Oppose the Commercial Add-on Tax

Home > Categories > Business and Industry > Commercial /
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324 TOTAL

Page: « < 1 , ... 4 , 5 , 6 , 7

Name: Harriett G. McCune on Mar 7, 2011 **301**
Comments: I urge you to reject any increase in the commercial property tax. Alexandria has far too much empty storefronts as it is. Why would you want to contribute to more businesses leaving Alexandria? Agenda: Alexandria had a program recently about why it is so hard to do business in Alexandria. Why make it worse?

Name: Jennifer Smith on Mar 7, 2011 **302**
Comments: My company has barely been able to survive in this economy. And, I'm working seven days a week, 18 hours per day just to keep my doors open. If the city imposes one more tax, I can assure you, with total certainty, that I will move my business to another city that values and appreciates my business and the people I employ.

Name: John E Frawley on Mar 7, 2011 **303**
Comments: I find it very disturbing that the only solution our government representatives has is the raising of taxes. As a business owner who struggles to provide the good health care and other benefits to it's employees in our current economic environment with sale down over 30 %. Hanging on to our employees and their current benefits cost me a \$125,000.00 loss in 2010. Raising our taxes in a down economy by \$6,000.00 will result in more layoffs. Assuming a 10% profit margin will take \$60,000.00 of gross income just to pay your proposed tax. Government needs to quit looking at the working man for solutions to your revenue short falls.

Name: Dennis Greene For Security Storage Company on Mar 7, 2011 **304**
Comments:

Name: Cathleen Walpole on Mar 7, 2011 **305**
Comments:

Name: Darlene Kuny - American Optometric Association on Mar 7, 2011 **306**
Comments:

Name: Victoria Vergason on Mar 7, 2011 **307**
Comments: Small businesses are truly having a difficult time surviving financially. All the community has to do is notice how many long-standing businesses on King Street have recently closed their doors. This tax will just cause more small businesses to consider closing or moving to other locals as well as strongly discourage any potential new businesses from opening. I strongly oppose this increase in Alexandria's commercial property tax.

Name: Daniel D. Mauler on Mar 7, 2011 **308**
Comments:

Name: Edward Moser on Mar 7, 2011 **309**
Comments: Owner, Moser Ink. Publications, Alexandria

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Qualified
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seconds.**
www.GoodAcc

Name: Heather Wright on Mar 7, 2011

Comments:

310

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Name: Sheila Cantrell on Mar 7, 2011

Comments: Let us not put any additional taxes on the backs of small business community . People need jobs and small businesses cannot afford to hire if they have additional taxes.

311

Name: Nadine on Mar 7, 2011

Comments:

312

Name: Robert M. Marino on Mar 7, 2011

Comments:

313

Name: Gordon P Peyton on Mar 7, 2011

Comments:

314

Name: Paul Maloof on Mar 7, 2011

Comments: I strongly oppose the commerical add-on tax.

315

Name: Eileen Warren on Mar 7, 2011

Comments: This is no time to increase spending and taxes. Cut the waste out of existing programs as businesses have to do in tough economic times.

316

Name: Nancy Herrman, Tiffany Tavern on Mar 7, 2011

Comments: As a King Street business owner, I can tell you that I am sick of all the oppressive fees and taxes that are levied on small family-owned enterprises.

317

Name: Patricia Green on Mar 7, 2011

Comments:

318

Name: Melissa Scalph on Mar 7, 2011

Comments:

319

Name: Stacey Swartz on Mar 7, 2011

Comments:

320

Name: Mindy Lyle on Mar 7, 2011

Comments: Alexandria is not friendly to business or development. By imposing an additional tax you further discourage the location of businesses to our community.

321

Name: *Anonymous* on Mar 7, 2011

Comments:

322

Name: Leslie R. Pickens, M.D. on Mar 7, 2011

Comments:

323

Name: Linda Blythe on Mar 7, 2011

Comments: In this economy no new taxes should be imposed especially the commercial add-on tax.

324

323 unigmp

2
3-7-11

Jackie Henderson

From: Dak Hardwick <dakhardwick@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 12:03 PM
To: Jackie Henderson
Cc: Bruce Johnson; Steven Elliott; Holly Hemphill; Holly K. Hemphill; Jim Butler; Jim Butler
Subject: BFAAC Testimony for Public Budget Hearing
Attachments: 2012 BFAAC Testimony (Final).doc

Jackie -

Attached is the written testimony from BFAAC for today's public budget hearing. Thought you'd like to have the soft copy prior to the hearing.

See you at 4pm.

Regards,
-Dak

Dak Hardwick
Mobile: (571) 215-3008
dakhardwick@yahoo.com

Twitter: @dakhardwick
Facebook: www.facebook.com/dakhardwick

**Testimony of the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee
Public Hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2012 Budget
City of Alexandria Virginia
March 7, 2011**

Good afternoon, Mayor Euille and members of City Council. My name is Dak Hardwick and I am presenting the views of the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee on the proposed fiscal year 2012 budget. The Committee appreciates the opportunity to present our preliminary views on the fiscal year 2012 budget proposal and we thank you for your on-going efforts to ensure public involvement in the budget process.

For the fiscal year 2012 deliberations, we continue to emphasize many of the same themes from past budget cycles, most notably sound financial policies and long-term perspective.

- We are pleased to see that, in accordance with your more detailed fiscal year 2012 budget guidance, the City Manager has taken a cautious approach in his proposals. We believe the City's budget theme for fiscal year 2012 should continue to be one of restraint and fiscal prudence as the economy continues to improve.
- We have historically recommended a long-term, multi-year planning horizon for budgeting which then aligns with the City's Strategic Goals. We are encouraged that this year's budget is linked closer to the Strategic Goals though we believe there should be more explicit criteria for

determining priorities among and within those Goals. We are also pleased to see that the Capital Improvements Program continues to project a 10-year horizon.

- We continue to recommend further strengthening of Alexandria's long-term forecasting model and note that the model is available as an interactive exercise accessible to Alexandria citizens via the City's website.
- We continue to support balance between City employee salary and benefits in a "total compensation" approach, one that makes Alexandria's compensation structure competitive with its neighboring jurisdictions.
- We appreciate the work done by the City Manager and staff to review and reclassify positions, engage in the benchmarking process and develop a means for adjusting salaries as necessary so that City public servants are fairly and competitively compensated for their work. However, as we are always mindful of long-term financial implications, we continue to recommend that Council closely analyze all additional personnel expenditures. Overall, BFAAC believes that Council is addressing City workforce issues directly and aggressively to ensure that employees are fairly compensated and that the City remains fiscally prudent.
- We look forward to the results of the recently formed Ad Hoc Retirement Benefit Advisory Group which is made up of both City employees and members of the general public. We anticipate analyzing the impact of the Group's recommendations on future fiscal years.

- We continue to support the concept of using the cost of current services as a foundation for building the budget and endorse the use of the Managing for Results Initiative budgeting tool.

In a preview of our report, we will address many of the major financial issues facing the City this year, including:

- Compensation and benefits proposals in the City Manager's budget;
- the capital funding request of the Alexandria City Public Schools;
- the debt burden resulting from the construction of the Potomac Yards Metro station;
- the proposed add-on tax for commercial real estate to fund priority transportation projects in Alexandria; and,
- the effect of a Business and Professional Occupancy License tax reduction on the City's General Fund.

As you requested, we will also address:

- financial guidelines for the use of cash capital;
- the use and funding of consultants and contractors, including a recommendation for when those expenditures should be reported to Council and Alexandria citizens; and,
- the development of metrics to evaluate the total financial burden on City residents and businesses from taxes and various fees.

As always, we extend our appreciation to Bruce Johnson and the entire Office of Management and Budget staff for their help in assisting us in the preparation of our report and for the support they provide to the Committee throughout the year.

We are pleased to be able to make this presentation today and forward to working with you in considering the critical budget issues facing the City in fiscal year 2012.

2
3-7-11

Statement to City Council of Support for Funding New Jefferson-Houston K-8 School
Julie Loi Rocchio, 3-7-2011

~~Good afternoon.~~ My name is Julie Rocchio. I am a 14-year resident of Alexandria City who has had children in ACPS schools since 2003. I am a proud Jefferson-Houston parent who requests your support for funding a new Jefferson-Houston K-8 school building.

Jefferson-Houston is a great success story that is just beginning to be told. ~~Our family. We have~~ four school-aged children, including with Kindergarten twins and a 6th grader, who attend Jefferson-Houston via lottery. Our children love their school so much that we were tickled when they complained repeatedly over Winter break about school being closed for too long. That is definitely ~~a the type of complaint which make this Mom content and gives our family me~~ confidence ~~we~~ we have made an excellent schooling decision about where ~~myfor our~~ our children attend school. Not only do our children love attending Jefferson-Houston, they are exceeding all of our expectations for them academically.

Since I am asking you to invest significant resources into Jefferson-Houston, I want to explain what I believe Jefferson-Houston has already invested its students. Jefferson-Houston offers small class sizes and extraordinarily good teachers who work well in cooperation with parents. The students know one another across grade levels and the staff seems to individually know every student which fosters a cohesive and caring community environment. The K-8 program provides a smaller, more supportive environment that allows young teens to make learning their primary focus. The transitioning International Baccalaureate curriculum offers Spanish as part of regular classroom learning and provides excellent multi-disciplinary teaching opportunities. The music and arts programs are very small so students are provided with extra attention and more opportunities.

I became educated about the request for a new school building at Jefferson-Houston when the school system held a series of in-depth community meetings this fall about the proposed construction needs. Based on the information shared and developed during community discussions at all four meetings I attended, I believe moving forward with Dr. Sherman's recommendation is prudent. Most significantly, I am persuaded that the cost of maintaining the current aging facility combined with basic renovations to address increased capacity needs is almost the same as building a higher-quality, new building with much greater capacity. [The cost is not almost the same. The Facilities Report from EMG stated that it would cost \$12.7 million to maintain the building at the current state. This dollar amount does not address the fact that it's an inferior education space to any other ACPS school OR that this cost would not accommodate the needs of more students OR of middle school level education—proper gym, science, music, art spaces; classroom spaces that meet the needs of growing students.] Even if my children were not attending this school, investing in a new, expanded facility with state-of-the-art programs is a wise financial investment for our city—~~especially if it costs the same as maintaining status quo.~~

Our city is ~~also~~ in desperate need of more classroom space city-wide due to continued expanding enrollment at the elementary and secondary levels. Over-enrollment challenges in our city schools are very real and seem to impact more schools and more new families every year through limited lottery choices and the need for a Modified Open Enrollment policy. My children have ~~actually~~ dealt with the negative aspects of over-crowding and displacement their entire school careers. We are thrilled to have Jefferson-Houston as a solution to our various enrollment and over-crowding challenges.

A new Jefferson-Houston building is the only city school I am aware of with significant available capacity [be careful with the word "significant". Kim maintains that the current building cannot accommodate many more students because of the way it is broken up, the lack of appropriate storage space, and the way space must be allocated for our middle school education program. A more accurate argument would be that a new building would enable our city us to expand available space for both the number of elementary students and AND middle school students,

releasing pressure from adjacent elementary schools and GW-1 which do not have the same options to expand capacity we need to fill to balance out overall enrollment. I truly believe Jefferson-Houston is an excellent school and that families will increasingly come by choice, as we did, given the high quality of its leadership, staff and programs. Many other families will need to come to Jefferson-Houston since our city's schools are at or above capacity. Even as the overall size of Jefferson-Houston increases, the numbers by grade should still be smaller in proportion to other schools - especially at the Middle School level. I also expect the supportive community culture to be maintained since it is built on a strong foundation created by Jefferson-Houston's highly skilled and compassionate teachers, staff and administrators. Please support a new school building to allow Jefferson-Houston's excellent programs to grow and thrive and to help alleviate city-wide overcrowding.

2
3-7-11

Jackie Henderson

From: JD Walker (Manager, Resource Dev.) <jdwalker@HopkinsHouse.org>
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 11:58 AM
To: Jackie Henderson
Subject: Script for Jacqueline Walker #54
Attachments: Jacque's Script.doc

Ms. Henderson,

It was explained to me that you may want a script of what Ms. Jacqueline Walker plans on reading today at the 4:00pm Proposed 2012 Budget Public Hearing. She is making finalized changes, but attached you will see what she has presented so far. I imagine it will not change much. Thank you.

James-Douglas "J-D" Walker

Manager, Resource and Alumni Development
HOPKINS HOUSE

"Building the Foundation for Your Family's Future"

Tel. 571-480-4086
Fax. 703-347-6867
jdwalker@hopkinshouse.org

Mr. Mayor and Members of City Council: Good afternoon. My name is Jacque Walker. I am a member of the Community Outreach & Public Advocacy Committee at the Hopkins House Preschool Academy located at 1224 Princess Street and I am a resident of the City of Alexandria.

On behalf of Hopkins House, I am here this afternoon to speak in support of the City Manager's FY12 Budget, with particular support for his recommended funding of early child care in the City.

In this context, we would like to bring Council's attention to a growing matter of concern at Hopkins House and at other preschools in the City: That of declining access to quality child care and preschool for the children of low-income families in the City.

In 2008, 58% of the children enrolled in the Hopkins House Preschool Academy here in the City were from low-income families. Today, just three years later, that number has fallen to just 24% of our enrollment. This change is not unique to Hopkins House and is true of other preschools in the City. It is a change necessitated by our need to survive.

Current government policies – policies emanating from Richmond – make it increasingly difficult for preschools serving large numbers of children from low-income families to survive. For example:

- The market rate that sets the amount of tuition preschools receive to serve government subsidized children has not been updated in years, despite the fact that the cost of providing these services has increased;
- Preschools no longer receive tuition for government subsidized children when the preschools are required to close due to severe and unsafe weather conditions; and,
- The government requires 16 hours of annual training for staff but does not reimburse preschools for this mandated time.

As a result of these and other policies, preschools lose money for every government subsidized child they serve. Rather than going bankrupt, preschools are being forced to serve fewer and fewer government subsidized children every year.

The City Manager has recommended an additional \$450,000 in the City's FY12 Budget for early childhood programs in the City. We support this request but urge that the City convene an interagency work-group to bring forward specific recommendations to use these funds in a fashion that helps to mitigate state policies that result in reduced access to quality childcare for this City's low-income children.

Thank you.

2
3-7-11

To: Alexandria City Council, Budget Hearing, March 7, 2011

From: Adrienne Terrell Washington, director of the Ft. Ward and Seminary African American Descendants Society, member of the Alexandria Citizens Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Ft. Ward, Seminary Civic Association, Alexandria History Work Group on Ft. Ward

RE: Items For the Record

To accompany testimony of Adrienne Terrell Washington in favor of funding Ad Hoc Advisory Committee recommendations to complete archeological and historical studies to restore and preserve African American history of Ft. Ward, protect grave sites, remedy storm water runoff compromising Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery and maintain park as a historic site for future heritage trail tours.

1. "What Ft. Ward Means to Us," by Adrienne Terrell Washington, Ft. Ward Observer.
2. "Cashing in on History," Washington Post article about descendants of USCT James Montgomery Peters.
3. "Old Musket.." by Adrienne T. Washington, The Washington Times
4. Photo of James Montgomery Peters, USCAT, 1st Colored Infantry, Co. E
5. Photo of Four Generations of Descendants of James Montgomery Peters who lived in Ft. Ward and Seminary communities.
6. Photo of John Peters, who owned farm in Ft. Ward and worked at VTS, along with daughter Juanita in Ft. Ward.

Signed:

Adrienne Terrell Washington

Fort Ward Observer

News about the Fort Ward, Seminary, Marlboro Estates and Seminary Hill areas

Monday,
June 27th
Fort Ward Civil War Kids Camp

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- [Fort Ward Observer](#)
- **Fort Ward & Seminary African American Descendants Society**
- [Comments on the Draft Report from the Fort Ward Park Advisory Commission](#)
- [Fort Ward Park](#)
- [Fort Ward Observer Network](#)
- [Quotes of Note](#)
- [Fort Ward Park News Coverage](#)
- [Petition Request to Mayor and City Council to Help Keep Marlboro Estate Safe & Healthy](#)
- [Fort Ward Park Archaeological Investigations](#)
- [Fort Ward Park Planning](#)
- [News Alerts--Fort Ward Park Report Update February 10, 2011](#)

Fort Ward & Seminary African American Descendants Society

What does "The Fort" and "Seminary" Mean to Us?

By Adrienne Terrell (Randall) Washington, for Ft. Ward and Seminary African American Descendants' Society, 7/9/10

While officials and others, with their agendas and individual interests, struggle about the future of Ft. Ward Park and the appropriate uses of its 33 acreage in order to strike a proper "balance" between historic and recreational uses, one group of people, the African American descendants of "The Fort" and "Seminary" communities, have only one dutiful and determined goal, the restoration and preservation of our sacred heritage.

Where others view parcels and plots and deeds and maps and directories and census records, or canons and bastions and picnic pavilions, we see people, people buried on this hallowed ground whose blood runs

through our veins, our parents' veins, our grandparents' veins, our great-grandparent's veins and our great-great grandparents' veins. The countless unmarked graves of our ancestors are buried under the very soil that joggers and dog walkers and Civil War history buffs unknowingly tread today.

Where others would dig up the dirt to discover what trinkets lay beneath it, we know what treasures will be unearthed there, the blood, sweat and tears of our departed loved ones who called this place home.

Where others see "open space," we see familiar faces and family memories and challenges on land that our ancestors - from slavery to freedom to Jim Crow to urban renewal -- toiled, bought and successfully seeded to grow a sustainable community through self-sufficiency with homesteads, small farms, churches, schools and community values that have contributed to the prosperity of this city and of this "more perfect nation" from more than 150 years.

When we call the roll tracing back, we know that Shorts, McKnight, Terrell, Adams, Casey, Wanzer, Wood, Jackson, Peters, Randall, Craven, Thomas, Johnson, and Lewis among others, will answer for providing labor, learning, housing, food, clothing, comfort and especially prayer for the collective goodwill of these interrelated families that settled around Ft. Ward and Virginia Theological Seminary.

"In Seminary and up The Fort, we might have different last names, but we are all family," says Minister Alphonso Terrell of the Oakland Baptist Church, in a familiar refrain.

The bedrock of the African American Ft. Ward and Seminary communities is the Oakland Baptist Church, formerly built in 1898 out of a grove of oak trees and whose cemetery rests within the Ft. Ward Park today. While others might wonder about these remains, we know that those headstones of our forefathers mark but a portion of the disturbed and desecrated graves that once belonged to family burial plots peppered throughout what became the park in the 1960s.

Ft. Ward, VTS and the Episcopal High School were the economic lifeblood of the African American "Fort" and "Seminary" communities as these institutions provided jobs for domestic and trade labor before and after enslavement. It was not uncommon for several generations of one family to be employed at VTS and EHS. Some men lived in the makeshift dormitory in the rafters above the gymnasium until they married local women. One, Douglas Johnson, a laborer, was allowed to live at VTS after being transferred by his former employer, a private school in Facquier County.

Black labor at VTS has a long history since its founding in 1823. George Washington's slaves were dispatched for construction at VTS. During the Civil War, "contrabands" worked as laborers in The Seminary

Hospital. Later, "Mr. Charlie," "Uncle Busey" and the Randall men were hired as cooks. Others tended the grounds or fields. Men and women worked in the laundry. Some women served as household maids and nannies. Belle Bailey, who cooked for Rev. Drs. Walker, Packard and Massie, having arrived "two years after the (Civil) war," according to neighbor Searles McKnight.

When we stand on the earthen fort walls and look beyond the cannons, we take pride that our ancestors, too, fought in the War Between the States to win our freedom. For only a stone's throw away at Menokin, the home of Cassius Lee, first cousin of Gen. Robert E. Lee, our ancestors had once been slaves or indentured servants. Descendants of U.S.C.T.s William Wood, James Montgomery Peters and possibly Thornton Wanzer (?) have lived in and around Ft. Ward for generations. We know that that African American patriotism continued in successive military conflicts as our grandfathers and fathers enlisted in the armed forces to fight in WWI, WWII, the Korean War and Vietnam. We understand that the Civil War was a seminal moment in the nation's, as well as our peculiar history. And without the U.S.C.T. and the contraband labor contributions to the Union Army, including around the Defenses of Washington, victory may have been denied and our liberty delayed. And when that freedom was in hand, we know that Burr Shorts was one of the first black men to cast a ballot in 1867.

As African Americans living in a Southern city, which was once a major port in the slave trade and a military hub for the Civil War, our families should not have survive the many formidable challenges from outside forces that repeatedly chipped away at their hard-earned landholdings. However, they did. And they thrived through an insulated communal system, incorporating an exacting moral and social code, as documented in the 1909 Bailey v. Bailey divorce case, which afforded many of those original family bloodlines the ability to remain as the intact African American Seminary community today.

When visitors view an arboretum, a maintenance yard, an amphitheater or a row of cedar trees aligning an old road, the descendants see Miss Jessie working in her garden, Aunt Clara's grave, or Uncle Johnny feeding his hogs, or Miz Elizabeth as a child walking down that cedar lined path to the first Seminary School.

While we will never reclaim the valuable land that was confiscated by outside public and market forces, we are determined to reclaim our legacy and recant our history as we know it; not as others would revise it. That is our birthright alone. There is no higher authority or authenticity than the lineage of those who experienced life at "The Fort" and "Seminary" and live to tell those rich tales.

We vow not to have our history discounted or diminished.

Therefore, we honor and hold up our collected memories and

"qualitative historical data" in the form of oral histories and artifacts with pride alongside any "quantitative historical data" that completes the full history of Ft. Ward Park to include its longstanding African American inheritance.

What does Ft. Ward mean to us? It means blood, land and life. It models faith and morality. It conveys endurance and excellence. It speaks of our struggle but trumpets our survival.

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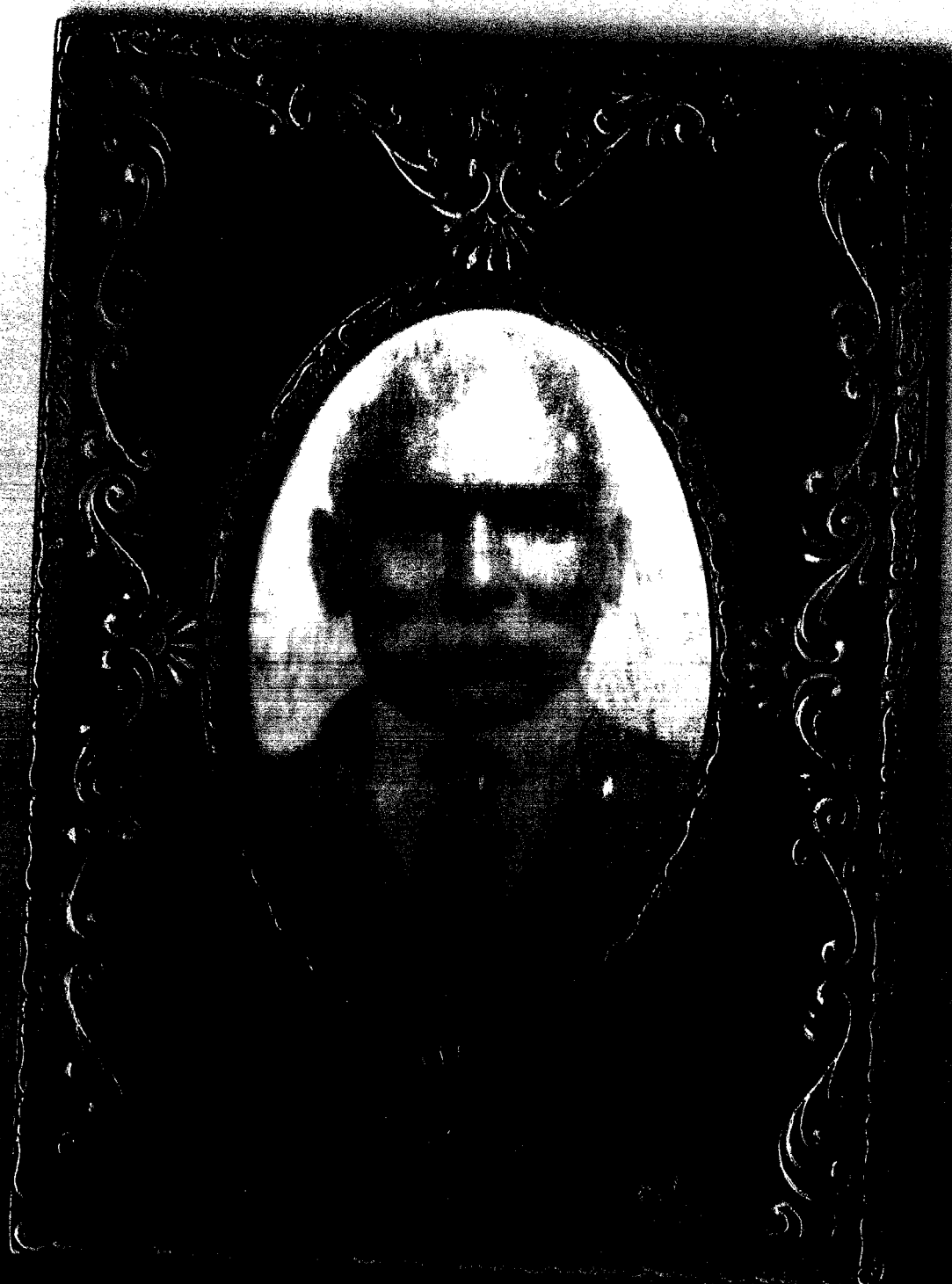
J. Glenn Eugster, Alexandria, Virginia

James Montgomery

Peters

U.S. C.T.

1st Colored U.S.
Infantry
Co. E



Descendants
of James
Whitman
Peters
(USCT)

Four Generations
lived in Alex. Va.
Ft. Ward +
Seminary
Communities

1. John Peters
2. Beatrice M.
Terrell
3. Juanita Peters
3. Guendolyn Johnson
3. Lois Terrell
Torrey
4. Adreene Terrell
Washington



#1. John Peters

Peter

#2. [unclear]

#3. Guendolyn
(Terrell)
Johnson

#3. Lois Terrell
Torrey

#4. Adreene
Washington



Juanita Peters
daughter

John Peters
"Uncle Johnny"

Ft. Ward residents

(homestead next to St. Stephens today)
on west side of park

Old musket stirs history

Metropolitan
life

By Adrienne T. Washington

Freed slave fought in Civil War

Black History Month took on a very real persona for me this year when I discovered my great-great-grandfather's Civil War musket displayed prominently at the Manassas Museum as part of the "Realizing Freedom's Promise" exhibition.

Born in Loudoun County, James Montgomery Peters escaped from his Prince William County owner, James Carter, when he overheard talk of his impending sale. He subsequently joined the Union Army on June 17, 1863, enlisting at Mason's Island, now Roosevelt Island, in the Potomac River.

He was my grandmother's grandfather. His musket, with "JMP" carved in its stock, was



Photo by Ross D. Franklin/The Washington Times

Alfonzo Terrell, a retired police detective from the District, examines his relative's musket and artifacts.

■ I always knew that I came from a long line of fighters.

Briefly

Man jailed in beating of 16-day-old daughter

A Northeast man was arrested early yesterday and charged with beating his 16-day-old infant girl.

The man, identified as Ray Kemp, 27, is accused of striking his daughter on the head with his closed fist, causing severe trauma to the brain.

The attack occurred about 3:40 a.m. in an apartment in 1200 block of Queens Street NE. The baby was taken to Children's Hospital, where she was listed in fair condition last night, a hospital spokesman said.

Mr. Kemp was charged with assault with intent to commit murder.

Historic hotel reopens for needy clientele

The largest hotel to provide accommodations to blacks in Washington during segregation has reopened as a dwelling for low-income residents.

Renovations at the former Whitelaw Hotel on 13th Street NW were completed Saturday with its former ornate suite designed as apartments.

The Whitelaw, built by black architect John S. ... in 1919, lost some of its pre-

... require the deployment of

given to her cousin, Raymond Peters, when he was a small boy.

"Grandpa gave it to me when I was no more than 6 or 7 years old," remembers Raymond of Warrenton.

"He said he didn't need it anymore because he'd fought his battles. He wanted me to have something to remember him by."

That was 70 years ago. The musket languished in the corner of a Manassas barn and then in the closet at the home of Raymond's father, Montgomery James Peters.

A farmer, "Uncle Montgomery," was born right on the Manassas battlefield and later sold his homestead to the government as part of what is now known as the Manassas Battlefield Park.

But it took Raymond's sister, Georgia Goodwin, to recognize the historical value of her grandpa's musket and to lend it to the Manassas Museum.

I learned a great deal about my grandmother's family from cousin Georgia, who now lives in Bethesda. Like her, I am a history buff, especially when it comes to tracking down my lineage.

I've known for years that my maternal grandfather's family has lived since before 1865 in the same Alexandria neighborhood where they founded the Oakland Baptist Church. But the Civil War — beyond the

Emancipation Proclamation — was of little interest to me until I was made aware of the active role that "Grandpa" had in it.

Most blacks have been taught that our ancestors were responsible for the War Between the States, as it was known in the South. But a lot of us have since discovered that the War of the Rebellion — as Northerners knew the war — was more about commerce and federal dominion than about the injustice and inhumanity of slavery.

Now I realize why my grandmother, Beatrice Nash Terrell, encouraged me to find out more about her mother, Ruth Peters Nash Johnson, and the Peters' side of the family.

According to federal records in the Manassas display, James Montgomery Peters, "a dark mulatto," was a 20-year-old, unmarried farmer when he was assigned to Company E of the 1st Colored U.S. Infantry. His enlistment papers indicate he was freed as of April 17, 1861, the day Virginia seceded from the Union.

The 1st Colored Infantry was attached to the 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, 18th Corps, which was part of Gen. Benjamin Butler's Army of the James. It participated in the Siege of Petersburg and the ill-fated Battle of the Crater in front of Petersburg.

It participated in the capture of Fort Fisher, N.C., and was at-

tached to Gen. William T. Sherman's army in the Carolinas until the end of the war. James Peters was wounded at the Battle of Fair Oaks, Oct. 27, 1864.

Mustered out with the rest of his regiment on Sept. 29, 1865, he returned to Manassas, where he reared his family and continued farming. He died in 1923 and was buried at the Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Catharpin, Va., near Culpeper.

The news of Grandpa's gun reached me by way of a note from another cousin, Juanita Peters of the District. It contained a copy of the exhibition flier. My great-great-grandfather's regal face stared out from the front cover.

Curious, my first cousin, retired D.C. homicide Detective Alfonso Terrell, drove out to Manassas to get a first-hand look at the weapon Grandpa chose to fight for our freedom. To gaze upon his musket is to gather strength and inspiration.

I always knew that I came from a long line of fighters. Fighters against injustice. Fighters for freedom and human dignity. The rabble-rouser's blood runs deep through my veins. My ancestry includes the scrappy spirit of native Americans and Irish farmers as well as that of African slaves.

We must fight our own battles now. But today's confronta-

tion is more sophisticated, nonviolent weaponry.

It's still the same war: The campaign for black equality and empowerment continues. Thank goodness — and thanks to those like my great-great-grandfather — we now have laws to protect us.

Grandpa picked up a musket. I picked up a pen.

Even so, I also learned that I am not the first journalist in the Peters line-up. My great aunt, "Dovey" Peters Brooks, was a reporter for the Washington Afro-American and the Washington Tribune in the 1940s and '50s.

Manassas Museum Curator Scott Harris, a historian with an impressive grasp of his subject matter, says he has received three calls from descendants of James Montgomery Peters since the exhibition's opening earlier this month.

Cousin Georgia hopes the museum's display of Grandpa's musket will reunite the scattered Peters family. Grandpa and his wife, Josephine Sanctuary Peters, had 10 children. I learned that cousin Georgia's daughter is a woman I've had as a social acquaintance for more than a decade.

What's the value of Black History Month? Ask the descendants of James Montgomery Peters. We'll tell you.

after other Washington hotel began providing lodging to blacks in the 1960s.

It was closed in 1977 and into disrepair.

Among its notable guests were entertainer Cab Calloway, research scientist George Washington Carver and heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis.

Two homicides under investigation

The killings of two persons that occurred Saturday night and early yesterday morning are under investigation by Metropolitan Police Department.

On Saturday at 11:30 p.m. police found an 18-year-old seated inside a vehicle in 1100 block of Eaton Road, SE with multiple gunshot wounds.

The unidentified man taken to D.C. General Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Shortly after 4 a.m. yesterday a woman, possibly in her mid-20s, was found lying in a parking lot in the 2600 block of Stanton Road SE. She had been shot several times and was officially pronounced dead at the D.C. Medical Examiner's Office.

<p>8:00- MOVIE My Girl ** (1991, Drama) Anna Chumsky. (CC) (Stereo) PG (1:42)</p>	<p>8:00- MOVIE Paper Lion *** (1968 Comedy) Alan Alda, Lauren Hutton. G (1:47)</p>	<p>8:30- MOVIE Tales From the Crypt ** (1972, Horror) Ralph Jackson, Jon Lovitz. (CC) (Stereo) PG-13 (1:23)</p>	<p>9:00- MOVIE State of Emergency (1994, Drama) Joe Mantegna, Lynn Whitfield. Doctor's decision could cost his career. (CC) (Stereo) NR (1:36)</p>	<p>9:00- MOVIE Home Alone 2: Lost in New York *** (1992, Comedy) Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci, Daniel Stern. Left-behind boy battles same two burglars as before. (CC) (Stereo) PG (2:00)</p>	<p>9:00- MOVIE National Lampoon's Loaded Weapon 1 (1983, Comedy) Emilio Estevez, Samuel L. Jackson, Jon Lovitz. (CC) (Stereo) PG-13 (1:23)</p>	<p>9:00- MOVIE Intimate Stranger (1991, Suspense) Deborah Harry, James Russo. Policeman helps singer stalked by phone-sex killer. (Stereo) R (1:36)</p>	<p>9:00- MOVIE Damage *** (1992, Drama) Jeremy Irons, Juliette Binoche. English MP has ruinous affair with son's girlfriend. (CC) (Stereo) R (1:42)</p>	<p>9:00- MOVIE Ghostbusters ** (1984, Comedy) Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd, Ernie Resner. (CC) (Stereo) PG (1:23)</p>
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Cashing Out Their History

Descendants of Slave Settlers Sell Prince William Enclave

By NIKITA STEWART
Washington Post Staff Writer

An acre of land in Gainesville wasn't worth much in 1865.

It was worth so little, in fact, that white landowners were willing to rent it to freed slaves who had traveled there in search of land. In a flurry of sales during the 1880s, many of the former slaves bought property for \$10 an acre or even less.

They called the land, which lies roughly along Routes 29 and 15, the Settlement. It became one of Northern Virginia's most significant, and most stable, black communities.

The original settlers believed land was power. They held on to it tightly, parting with bits only when they were desperate for cash. They educated their children on the value of a dollar and the greater value of land.

But time and circumstance have altered those lessons.

Pursued by developers offering as much as \$300,000 an acre, dozens of families — many of them descendants of those original pioneers — are opting to sell their property, and a part of Prince William County's African American history is being transformed into hundreds of luxury houses.

For the sellers, there are regrets, but there is also a con-

See SETTLEMENT, A17, Col. 1



BY TRACY A. WOODWARD — THE WASHINGTON POST

Frankie Long, Elizabeth Irby and Phyllis Williams Powell visit the Strother home at the Settlement, which their extended family is selling to make way for new houses.



An undated photo shows Frankie Strother and three of her great-grandchildren. Her descendants are selling the family homestead and 15 acres for \$4.5 million.



Phyllis Williams Powell, left, Maxine Thomas, Frankie Long and James Powell puzzle over an old family photo at

Families Cashing In on the S

SETTLEMENT, From A1

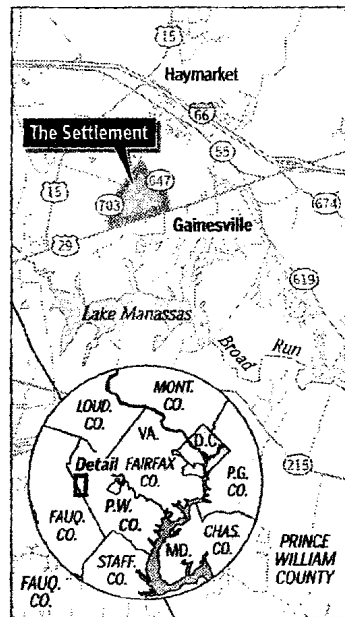
viction that they are being true to their ancestors' original purpose: to provide economic security for their families.

The founders "probably wouldn't be very happy that the land was being sold and great big houses were going on it," said Maxine Thomas, descendant of an original resident whose family has 15 acres under contract with a \$4.5 million price tag.

"What would I tell them? Well, I would just tell them that we have to move on," she said. "We can't hold on to it forever."

Old Homes for New

The land deals that have conveyed more than 160 of the 383 acres of the original Settlement mark the community's death, but residents said its history had already faded. The Shady Inn dance hall, a hot spot that



BY NATHANIEL WALGREN KELSEY — THE WASHINGTON POST



Clayton Powell and family members

weekend getaway. Aunt Georgia, the family historian, liked to survey the thick woods. "When I was little girl ... I would say, 'That's a good house spot,'" Watson said of the place where he built the cabin. "I b

Land was important in the



Cousin
"Ship"

BY TRACY A. WOODWARD — THE WASHINGTON POST

OUSE.



Great Grand Mommy Dad

FAMILY PHOTO

Frankie Peters Strother and her husband, Alfred H. Strother, built their house at the Settlement near Gainesville about 1901. His father founded the community's Baptist church.

A-17
Sun;
May 15
2005

ement's Development



BY TRACY A. WOODWARD — THE WASHINGTON POST

century-old home.

hilltop ranch house, she also plans to sell some property to a developer.

But as residents pack and homes are torn down and new ones go up, Willetta Wilson Grayson, 77, said she gets an odd feeling.

"It's strange," she said as she sat in a dining room of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. "It's something to look around and remember all the black people. Now, you look up and see white people."

The church sits on Lee Highway. Most parishioners drive from out of town, and even those who live close by cannot take the scenic shortcuts through woods to the church. Those dirt paths, worn by the feet of their ancestors, have been replaced by houses and blocked by bulldozers plowing land to build more houses.

Unlike its longtime parishioners, the church isn't going anywhere.

"We got all these bodies back here," said deacon Nimrod Dade, 64.

The cemetery is a history lesson.

Whole families are buried side by side like royalty. Some graves have no tombstones, no names. They are marked only by large rocks that, because of their size and distinctive shapes, somehow seem appropriate tributes to now-nameless freed slaves.

The church and its cemetery will remain as a reminder of what once was. And there's one more remnant: The sign for the subdivision under construction by DR Horton reads "Hopewell's Landing."

"I insisted," Loretta Watson said. The Settlement that never had a real name now has one as a tribute to Eliza Brooks's roots, she said.

The Powells hope to follow suit by lending their ancestors' name to the Equity Homes luxury development, even though they worry that the walnut tree will be knocked down when their 100-year-old home is razed.

"Maybe we'll call ours Strother's Glen," Thomas said.

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Amaya, a real estate agent who pulled together a pending deal for Equity Homes to buy 30 acres from seven families. Fifty to 70 houses will be squeezed onto the land, she said. Another development already underway will include 233 houses.

Amaya said she had to do a lot of talking and, in some cases, begging.

"They've had their land since the 40-acres-and-a-mule era," she said, referring to Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's order that gave each free black family on the Georgia coast 40 acres of abandoned plantation land and an Army mule.

To some residents, selling their land for millions pays true homage to their ancestors.

"They were aggressive people. You come from slavery, and what do you have? Nothing," said Loretta Martin Watson, 78. "I can sell my land. . . . They allowed me that privilege."

In 1865, when those original settlers arrived in Gainesville, it was a mere speck on the map, miles from the hustle and bustle of Washington. The land, owned by defeated and now poor Confederate planters and yeoman farmers, was thin-soiled and scrubby.

"The soil wasn't any good. In many cases, these pieces of land were woods," said historian Eugene Scheel.

Yet about 15 families who had little more than the scars of slavery and the new taste of long-sought liberty were able to coax enough wheat and corn out of the red clay to build a solid community.

Soon the Settlement boasted a church, a country store, two midwives, a bordello and a reputation as a place where moonshine and deep religion coexisted harmoniously. In the community's heyday, Duke Ellington and the International Sweethearts of Rhythm played at the music hall.

There were other black enclaves in Prince William County, but few thrived as the Settlement did. While racism and Jim Crow laws blocked many African Americans from owning property elsewhere in the country, the Settlement expanded to include holdings bought by the core families' cousins and friends. Relatively isolated, they bartered among themselves without interference from whites or local government — an unusual freedom that likely contributed to the enclave's longevity, experts said.

Virginia State University historian.

In the three decades after slavery, blacks accumulated land more rapidly than whites, said Vanderbilt University economist Robert A. Margo. By 1900, about 22 percent of black male heads of household owned their homes.

But some all-black communities became targets of white backlash, and government policies deprived many black landowners of their property, Edwards said. One of the most common ways was to delay notice of overdue taxes and then confiscate the land, he said.

The Settlement survived. Even in 2000, when whites had begun to move into the Gainesville area, the Settlement was still 66 percent black, whereas the county was 19 percent black.

Walking Into Freedom

In the den of Loretta Martin Watson's home in the Settlement, a small spotlight hangs over a painting of a white planter standing on a porch, holding a document. Slaves are gathered around him.

"You know what this is? This is the Emancipation Proclamation," she said. "He's reading the paper, and they're kneeling down crying."

Watson's ancestor Eliza Brooks learned of her freedom as she and other slaves gathered around a woodpile on a Hopewell, Va., plantation, or so the family history goes.

"When they called them to the woodpile, they said, 'You're free to go.' Well, free to go where?" she said. "Eliza Brooks, she's the person who was the slave; the small children, she gathered them up and started heading north."

From Hopewell, Brooks found her way to the Settlement, and the family sank its roots there. One of Watson's great-uncles was the blacksmith. A great-aunt owned the country store.

Even though they are selling the land today, the feelings Watson and her brother Marvin Martin, 74, have for it run deep.

Martin, a retired printer who lives in the Settlement full time, said he's holding on to four acres. "I don't plan to sell, but money talks," he said, saying that he's going to wait for a better price.

Watson, a District resident for 41 years, sold three acres to developer DR Horton in 2003 but still owns a log cabin she built on her aunt Georgia Barnes's property in 1983 as a

The Family Tree

Alfred Powell, 75, recalled how passersby admired a walnut tree that still sits in the yard of the family's circa 1901 home up a gravel road off Lee Highway. Those passersby made offers, but Alfred H. Strother, Powell's grandfather, wouldn't budge. "Granddaddy refused to sell the walnut tree," he said.

"That walnut tree has to be 400 or 500 years old," said Clayton Powell, 59. "That distinguished that property."

The fact that their grandfather wouldn't so much as sell a tree causes the family, which is now selling the land, some anguish. Six of seven remaining Powell siblings gathered recently at the Arlington home of sister Maxine Thomas to talk about the pending \$4.5 million sale of 15 acres. They were jovial, reflective and guilt-ridden.

The family can trace its ancestry to the Rev. Moses B. Strother, a founder of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, who they believe adopted their grandfather, and to James Montgomery Peters, a runaway slave who fought with the Union Army. They have memories from the Settlement of picking blackberries and strawberries, getting eggs from hens, raising hogs and milking cows.

In Thomas's sunroom, paintings of scenes from the Underground Railroad adorn the walls. They also keep photographs, newspaper clippings and deeds, the latter holding more sentiment these days.

Land sales and property values in the Settlement rose after a brief yet bitter fight in 2001 between the landowners and an environmental group that wanted to preserve the land as an African American heritage park. The group's plan would have allowed the land to remain with the families for one more generation, after which they would have been required to sell it to the county for the park. The land never would have realized its true market value, residents said.

"They were almost disenfranchised," Supervisor W.S. Covington III (R-Brentsville), who represents the area, said of the Settlement's residents. "I'm glad they're getting something for their land."

Patricia Lightfoot, 69, considered an outsider because she moved from Fauquier County to the Settlement in 1966, rounded up her neighbors to fight the proposed park. She has made the Settlement and its history

