

2  
3-7-11

**Jackie Henderson**

**From:** Bea Porter <beatrice.a.d.porter-gruel@saic.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2011 12:10 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; delpepper@aol.com; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Jefferson-Houston Elementary School  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Tue Mar 08, 2011 12:09:50] Message ID: [28317]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Bea  
**Last Name:** Porter  
**Street Address:** 1727 Cameron Street  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** Virginia  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 571-228-0326  
**Email Address:** [beatrice.a.d.porter-gruel@saic.com](mailto:beatrice.a.d.porter-gruel@saic.com)  
**Subject:** Jefferson-Houston Elementary School

**Comments:** Hello. Thank you for hearing everyone that spoke at the City Council meeting yesterday, March 7. I did not sign to speak as I was not sure how much would be about Jefferson-Houston. I know the City has agreed to budget for a new building for our school. I think that is great, but I must add, I do not see the need for this school to increase from K-5 to K-8. My grandson is attending Jefferson-Houston and is in the 1st grade. He has told me that the older kids pick on the younger/smaller kids. My girls attended J-H when they were in elementary school and did well there. I am not sure that a new school on this location will guarantee better grades or scores for the school. I feel we really need to watch and see how the school improves itself. With Mrs. Graves at the helm, the school is improving. She has a good team. Until there is a new building, please have the school continue with needed repairs, this poor building has been put on the back burner for years now and does need some help. Again, thank you for your continued support.

2  
3-7-11

**Jackie Henderson**

---

**From:** Danielle Romanetti <danielle@fibrespace.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2011 11:00 AM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; delpepper@aol.com; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: BPOL and commerical add on tax  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Tue Mar 08, 2011 10:59:56] Message ID: [28312]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Danielle  
**Last Name:** Romanetti  
**Street Address:** fibre space  
102 N Fayette Street  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703-664-0344  
**Email Address:** [danielle@fibrespace.com](mailto:danielle@fibrespace.com)  
**Subject:** BPOL and commerical add on tax

I own a small business in Alexandria VA and am also a resident and home owner here. I wanted to share with you how the add on tax would specifically affect my business here. I opened in 2009, during an economic recession. With the lack of credit available to small businesses right now, my business was started with credit cards and a line of credit on the family house. We will still be paying off our debts for another three years. My gross sales last year were 901,000, an amazing number considering the economy and the product that I sell. However, more than half of that number is my cost of goods sold. While the antique store next door might have 300% or more mark up on their product, mine is much lower.

I have to pay five employees because my business is essentially the equivalent of selling books but having to teach each customer to read first. We provide a huge amount of help and tutoring to our customers for each yarn sale. My monthly rent is 3500. I pay 1300 a month in loan repayments. With all of this, we showed a profit of a mere 15,000 in 2010,

yet my BPOL tax is based on gross receipts. I paid taxes on 901,000. The City of Alexandria is the only jurisdiction that taxes me on gross receipts, rather than net – a system incredibly unfair and flawed. It places an unfair burden on retailers, whose gross receipts are higher than many of our services counterparts, yet our rents are higher. Now you want to add a commercial add on tax and are considering a break on BPOL in exchange – but only for businesses with gross receipts under 750K. How does

this help my business, whose gross receipts look amazingly high yet our expenses and cost of inventory result in a net profit of only 15,000? The commercial add on tax will have two results on our business.

1. Our rent

will increase. The tax will simply be passed down to me. My landlord, an Alexandria resident himself, will not pay this. He will pass it on to me as part of my rent.

2. It will contribute to even more empty storefronts on

King Street. We are located within two blocks of 7 empty storefronts and more are coming. Banana Tree is now closing its doors as well. When entrepreneurs consider the location for their next venture, why would they locate in Alexandria where the BPOL tax and now the commercial real estate

tax makes the cost of doing business here higher than our counterparts in Arlington, yet our retail sales per square foot remain well below that of Arlington. Why would anyone choose Alexandria?

Lastly, last night I

heard a lot of questions from council to the business community regarding our ideas for alternatives. It is not the job of the business community or any of your constituents, for that matter, to provide you with your alternatives for paying for transportation projects. I wonder if the same challenge was made to the police unions that showed up to the meeting last

night. It is your job as council members, with city staff and accountants and attorneys at your disposal, to come up with options, hear the reactions from various constituents and then make an educated decision on how to move

forward. You and I both know that you have other options to pay for these transportation projects and to raise dedicated funds. You have done it in

the past. The Vice Mayor's assertion that we add this commercial tax and fix transportation issues or we don't and "have congestion" is ridiculous. This issue is not that black and white. In addition, I have serious concerns as to the ability of the city to continue to sustain these projects in the future. Will we simply raise the commercial real estate tax in future years?

Please drive or walk King Street. We are losing small businesses owned by your own citizens. Those of us that are here are struggling to get our bills paid in this economy while paying an unfair tax on our GROSS profits, something that the state and federal government don't even do. Please realize the impact that your decisions have on the business climate in this town, which is already quite unfriendly to small business.

2  
3-7-11

**Jackie Henderson**

---

**From:** donna bryant <donna.bryant@dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 07, 2011 12:26 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; delpepper@aol.com; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Alexandria - Special Tax  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Mon Mar 07, 2011 12:26:22] Message ID: [28270]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** donna  
**Last Name:** bryant  
**Street Address:** 710 Day Lane  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 7032990230  
**Email Address:** [donna.bryant@dhs.gov](mailto:donna.bryant@dhs.gov)  
**Subject:** Alexandria - Special Tax  
I live in Potomac Greens and are very concerned about the special tax that  
  
we are being proposed to start paying for the new metro planned for  
**Comments:** Potomac Yards. I don't understand why we are being singled out to pay  
these taxes when all citizens in Alexandria, Delray, Old Town Greens,  
Crystal City will benefit from this metro. Please do not increase our  
taxes.....vote no to this increase for me and the rest of Potomac Greens.

2  
3-7-11

**Jackie Henderson**

---

**From:** Stacey Swartz <stacey@delraypharmacy.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 07, 2011 1:09 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; delpepper@aol.com; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Commercial Add-On Tax  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

**Time:** [Mon Mar 07, 2011 13:09:15] **Message ID:** [28272]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Stacey  
**Last Name:** Swartz  
**Street Address:** 2204 Mt. Vernon Ave  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:** 7038361700  
**Email Address:** [stacey@delraypharmacy.com](mailto:stacey@delraypharmacy.com)  
**Subject:** Commercial Add-On Tax

Good afternoon -

My name is Stacey Swartz and I'm the co-owner of

Neighborhood Pharmacy in Del Ray. We have been in business for nearly two

years and serve as one of only 2 independently owned community pharmacies

in the City of Alexandria. My business partner and I choose Alexandria, and

Del Ray in particular, because we are residents of the city and wanted to

**Comments:** provide a service to our neighbors that fulfills a previously unmet need in the community.

I'm writing today because we are deeply concerned about

the proposed commercial add-on tax. While we are not currently commercial

property owners, this tax will affect us. It is estimated that property

owners will see a 20-25% increase when you factor in the increase in

property assessment. This will have direct ramifications on our rent and

other property expenses. As a growing business, increases in fixed

expenses can limit our ability to grow and hire new employees.

It is

important for the Council to know that we support transportation

enhancements - it will only benefit our business and us as city residents -

but there has to be a better way that doesn't put the burden on funding on

the backs of Alexandria's small businesses.

Sincerely,  
Stacey Swartz,

PharmD  
Co-owner, Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray

2  
3-7-11

**Jackie Henderson**

**From:** Carolyn Griglione <carolyn.griglione@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 07, 2011 1:14 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; delpepper@aol.com; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Ft. Ward Park funding  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

**Time:** [Mon Mar 07, 2011 13:14:06] **Message ID:** [28273]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Carolyn  
**Last Name:** Griglione  
**Street Address:** 1416 N. Ivanhoe St.  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22304  
**Phone:** 703 370-0653  
**Email Address:** [carolyn.griglione@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn.griglione@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Ft. Ward Park funding  
3.7.2011

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Donley, and Council Members

I

am writing to encourage you to include at least \$75,000.00 in the pending budget for an archaeological study of Ft. Ward Park. This money is needed

to get the ball rolling for necessary improvements to Ft. Ward Park. The archaeological study must be completed before the Master Plan for the park

**Comments:** can be created and the storm water management corrections constructed to

prevent further water damage to the park as well as to the surrounding properties.

A wise approach might be to have Recreation, OHA and transportation & Environmental Services put \$300,000 in a Fort Ward Historic Park Fund to: 1) complete the archaeology; 2) begin pre-planning for the master plan; and 3) complete planning for storm water management



and take a number of low-impact development actions to stop runoff from eroding the graves and grave stones and causing subsidence. This would allow the three departments to work together to make Ft. Ward Park a major focal point for residents of our city.

As you well know the longer the necessary improvements are put off the more costly they will become.

Usage, safety, and appearance of the park will be greatly impacted without

the necessary plans and corrections made. It is imperative that monies be budgeted to be sure these fundamental issues are underway promptly.

The

Fort Ward Park Advisory Group has worked tirelessly to assess needs and make recommendations for the park. The City needs to value these recommendations with the necessary funding so that the important work can

begin.

Thank you.

Carolyn Griglione

2  
3-7-11

**Jackie Henderson**

---

**From:** Dori Antonetti <dorianddavid@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 07, 2011 3:49 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; delpepper@aol.com; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Charles Barrett Road Safety Improvements  
**Attachments:** 56e9381aabc651987e5824d411ddbc8a.docx; ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Mon Mar 07, 2011 15:48:46] Message ID: [28287]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Dori  
**Last Name:** Antonetti  
**Street Address:** 3348 Martha Custis Drive  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22302  
**Phone:** 7038926634  
**Email Address:** [dorianddavid@comcast.net](mailto:dorianddavid@comcast.net)  
**Subject:** Charles Barrett Road Safety Improvements  
**Comments:**  
**Attachment:** 56e9381aabc651987e5824d411ddbc8a.docx

David and Dori Antonetti  
3348 Martha Custis Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22302

March 6, 2011

Dear Mayor, City Council Members, and City of Alexandria Traffic and Parking Board:

As residents of Parkfairfax and parents at Charles Barrett Elementary school, we are writing to express our deep support for the safety improvements and redesign of the Martha Custis Drive and Valley Drive intersection.

***Intersection Safety for Vehicular Traffic and Pedestrians.*** As Parkfairfax and City of Alexandria residents, we drive through the intersection in front of Charles Barrett many times each week. Not only is the current intersection confusing, it is also dangerous because of the poor geometric design, unusual length of crosswalk, and lack of visibility. Even when drivers are trying to be cautious and courteous to other drivers and pedestrians, there is still uncertainty as to who has the right of way. As mentioned in several testimonies at last month's public hearing, there have been many near misses at this intersection, and anyone who passes through it can see why.

As a Charles Barrett family who resides within 1 mile of the elementary school, like many families, we are mandated *by the City* to provide our child with transportation to and from school. When the weather is tolerable, we walk. Other times, we drive. Either way, there are hundreds of times during the school year that we and our children pass through that intersection by foot because we drop off *and* pick up and cross the intersection twice at each visit. As mentioned previously, the intersection is dangerous for all who cross it, and especially for children who are small in stature and unpredictable in path. For the City to mandate that parents bring and pick up their children from school and *not provide a safe environment for parents to do so* is unacceptable.

Fortunately, there is a plan in place to address the problem. The proposal is perhaps most impressive because it offers a clear, simple, modest solution to the safety problems. By creating a T-intersection instead of a Y-intersection and by defining and shortening the length of the crosswalk, there will be much better visibility and clarity as to who has the right of way.

***Arguments Against the Proposal.*** At the public hearing, we heard two main arguments against the proposal: parking issues and notice issues. It is our understanding that the City is working to address the potential loss of just 5 parking spaces by refining the parking restrictions in these areas, and we believe these plans are a large part of the 70% of the project that has yet to be confirmed. Additionally, within 2 short blocks of the intersection at issue, there is a large parking lot reserved for Parkfairfax

residents, and in our 7 years as Parkfairfax residents, we have only seen that parking lot being used by a handful of cars.

At the meeting held on February 28, 2011, some Traffic and Parking Board members also cited the lack of notice to Parkfairfax residents as a reason to delay their support for the plan. We are very concerned that this delay – and any further delay – will jeopardize implementation of the project as the federally procured funds are set to expire in November 2011. Also, we must note that on the front page of the Parkfairfax Forum (our monthly newsletter), there is a prominent article about the proposal. That article states: “The Parkfairfax Transportation and Land Use Committee and the Board of Directors *have been monitoring the proposal closely and providing Association input to the City* (emphasis added).” Not only has there been notice, but also substantial involvement, on the part of Parkfairfax. Indeed, one member of the Parkfairfax Transportation and Land Use Committee *also sits on* the City of Alexandria Traffic and Parking Board. In addition, by this point, there have been multiple meetings and opportunities for public input. Clearly, there has been notice. Clearly, there have been opportunities to be heard. Clearly, there has been input and collaboration. The notice argument *falls flat on its face* and should not be used to sidetrack this discussion any further.

**Conclusion.** As we all know, Charles Barrett’s population is slated to increase significantly over the next few years, and coupled with commuter traffic in which drivers use the streets of Parkfairfax to bypass congestion on I-395, the safety issues in front of the school will only grow. The safety problems have been outlined and identified; a modest, reasonable solution has been developed; and the project has been funded. Further delay or refusal to approve the plan would be a real disappointment for all Alexandrians who pass through this intersection. But the real travesty would be if one, five, or ten years from now an accident happens that could have easily been prevented by implementing this plan. The decision is yours, but we urge you to vote in favor of supporting the traffic and safety improvement proposal.

Sincerely,

David and Dori Antonetti  
3348 Martha Custis Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22302

2  
3-7-11

**Jackie Henderson**

---

**From:** Eric Nelson <enelson22304@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 07, 2011 3:55 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; delpepper@aol.com; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Commercial Real Estate Add-on Tax  
**Attachments:** effbb673c978b59d5ba7b81185bebef7.doc; ATT00001..txt

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

**Time:** [Mon Mar 07, 2011 15:55:07] **Message ID:** [28288]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Eric  
**Last Name:** Nelson  
**Street Address:** Del Ray Business Association  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:** 703-635-7917  
**Email Address:** [enelson22304@yahoo.com](mailto:enelson22304@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Commercial Real Estate Add-on Tax  
Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Council Members,  
  
Attached is a letter  
  
from the Del Ray Business Association regarding the subject proposal.  
DRBA  
  
**Comments:** is appreciative of the opportunity to comment on such an important  
proposal.  
  
Regards,  
  
Eric Nelson  
**Attachment:** effbb673c978b59d5ba7b81185bebef7.doc



March 7, 2011

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

RE: Proposed Commercial Real Estate Add-on Tax

Dear Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Council Members:

The Del Ray Business Association (DRBA) would like to offer its views on the referenced proposal. DRBA has recently adopted a position statement on the matter that reads ***“DRBA does not support an add-on tax to commercial real estate. Any additional taxes should be moderate and applied to commercial and residential properties alike.”***

DRBA is currently evaluating the impact on its members of the proposed reduction in the business license tax, intended to offset the impact of the commercial add-on tax, particularly on small businesses. As we conduct our analyses and have further views on the matter, DRBA may provide City Council with additional advice.

DRBA would like to emphasize that it does understand the position of City Council as it deliberates transportation priorities and budgetary constraints and opportunities. Nevertheless, we believe that it is important to restrain from putting undue tax burdens on the Alexandria business community.

Sincerely,

Eric Nelson, President  
Del Ray Business Association

2  
3-7-11

**Jackie Henderson**

---

**From:** Parent Leadership Training Institute <info@plti-alex.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 07, 2011 3:59 PM  
**To:** Del Pepper; Frank Fannon; Jackie Henderson; Kerry J. Donley; Paul Smedberg; Rob Krupicka; Rob Krupicka; William Euille; Wm Euille  
**Cc:** Jackie Henderson; PLTI; Beth Temple; Elizabeth Jones; Jerad Ferguson; Joanne Pyle; Judy Stack; Nancy LaValle; Sharon Annear; Beth Temple  
**Subject:** PUBLIC HEARINNG REMARKS  
**Attachments:** City Council FY12 Budget public hearing March 7 2011.doc

Dear Mayor, Members of Council and Clerk:

I have attached my remarks that I intend to present this afternoon at the Budget Public Hearing.

Thanks for considering them. If you would like any additional information, I'd be delighted to talk to you.

Fay

Fay D. Slotnick, Executive Director  
Parent Leadership Training Institute of Alexandria  
PO Box 26294  
Alexandria, VA 22313  
703-739-0233  
703-409-6872 (cell)  
[info@PLTI-ALEX.org](mailto:info@PLTI-ALEX.org)  
[www.PLTI-ALEX.org](http://www.PLTI-ALEX.org)

 Please click or search for Parent Leadership Training Institute of Alexandria on Facebook

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.



2  
3-7-11

**Jackie Henderson**

**From:** Katherine Walker <jazykat2@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 07, 2011 6:42 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; delpepper@aol.com; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Today's City Council Public Hearing  
**Attachments:** 7a8473060956c46f6e426be309f347cc.rtf; ATT00001..txt

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

**Time:** [Mon Mar 07, 2011 18:42:17] **Message ID:** [28297]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Katherine  
**Last Name:** Walker  
**Street Address:** 5125 Heritage Lane  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22311  
**Phone:** 202/746-2668  
**Email Address:** [jazykat2@mac.com](mailto:jazykat2@mac.com)  
**Subject:** Today's City Council Public Hearing  
Mr. Mayor, Mr. Vice Mayor and Distinguished Members of the City Council

-  
I was at today's public hearing on the City Manager's Budget for 2012.  
I was prepared to give a statement in support of ACPS. I regret that I had to leave. I will attach my statement to this e-mail.  
I respectfully request that you all read my statement, and I apologize for leaving. As a

**Comments:** mother of three, childcare is always an issue, and my sitter could not accomidate time past 5:30 pm.  
I hope the Coucil will fund ACPS' budget requests fully. A shortfall in the education of our children is not acceptable. They are the future of Alexandria.  
I got married in Old Town, gave birth to my son at Alexandria Hospital, and am happy to be a property

owner in Alexandria. I invest much of my time in my children.

I urge the City to do the same.... for all children. Alexandria should

be the best place to live for families!!

Thank you.

**Attachment:** 7a8473060956c46f6e426be309f347cc.rtf

**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 City 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.

2  
3-7-11

**Jackie Henderson**

---

**From:** Judy Noritake <jnoritake@nka-arch.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 28, 2011 2:10 PM  
**To:** Jackie Henderson  
**Subject:** Letter to Mayor and Council  
**Attachments:** Ft. Ward FY 2012 funding.PDF

Jackie:

Could you please distribute to the Mayor and Members of City Council the attached letter about FY 2012 funding for Ft. Ward Park from the Park & Recreation Commission? Thanks so much!

Judy Noritake

Judy Guse-Noritake, AIA, LEED AP  
Principal

**NORITAKE**  
associates

605 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314  
[t.] 703.739.9366 x.105 [f.] 703.739.9481  
[www.noritakeassociates.com](http://www.noritakeassociates.com)  
[jnoritake@nka-arch.com](mailto:jnoritake@nka-arch.com)



DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS  
AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

1108 Jefferson Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3999

Phone (703) 746-4343

Fax (703) 838-6344

James B. Spengler  
Director

## Park and Recreation Commission

February 25, 2011

The Honorable William D. Euille  
Vice Mayor Kerry J. Donley  
Councilman K. Rob Krupicka  
Councilman Frank H. Fannon, IV  
Councilwoman Redella S. Pepper  
Councilman Paul C. Smedberg  
Councilwoman Alicia R. Hughes

Re: Funding for Further Fort Ward Archaeological Study

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

At our February meeting the Park and Recreation Commission received the draft of the Ft. Ward Stakeholders Advisory Committee Report and had a brief discussion with the group's Chairman, Tom Fulton. While the Commission will provide comments at a later date on the full scope of the report, we wanted to weigh in at this time to support additional funding in the City's FY 2012 budget so that further archaeological work, particularly sub-surface work, can proceed at Fort Ward Park.

Included in City Manager proposed FY2012 operating budget for Historic Alexandria is the following: *"Unfunded Fort Ward Archaeological Study \$75,000 Activity FTE FY 2012 This funding requested by the Office of Historic Alexandria would continue the multi-year Fort Ward Archaeological Survey, first authorized in FY 2010 and projected to continue over three to four years. Phase 1 of the Survey began in 2009 with Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) analysis of select locations within Fort Ward Park covering an area of approximately two acres. In October 2010, an archaeological consultant contract was signed to survey and confirm 38 potential burial sites identified in the earlier GPR analysis. This new phase of the project would extend GPR surveying, and subsequent archaeological "ground truthing" to additional areas of the 45 acre park, seeking to locate additional burial areas, as well as subterranean Native American, African American, and Civil War cultural resources that must be incorporated into park management planning initiatives and protected from future park development projects."*

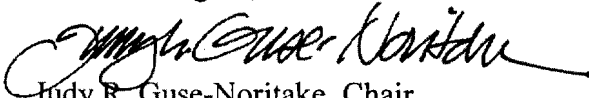
[alexandriava.gov](http://alexandriava.gov)



As has become clear, while significant archeological and cultural resources at Ft. Ward have been known for some time and are prominent park features, others are being uncovered for the first time. The allocation of the \$75,000 would allow for the completion of a substantial portion of unfinished exploratory work. Director Spengler has indicated to the Park and Recreation Commission that much of the necessary work in the park that will be required for RPCA to conduct over time cannot proceed until areas are identified where subsurface archeological and cultural resources are located or when they do not occur. We understand that this course of investigation must also be complete prior to T&ES undertaking a necessary storm water runoff mitigation plan and the subsequent work in the park.

In closing, the Park and Recreation Commission supports the recommendation that an additional \$75,000 be allocate as a part of the FY 2012 budget to allow the Fort Ward Archaeological Study to move forward. This investment is critical to allow the completion of the subsurface investigation prior to undertaking other substantive work in the park.

With kind regard,



Judy R. Guse-Noritake, Chair  
Park and Recreation Commission

Cc: Jim Hartmann, City Manager  
James Spengler, Director, RPCA  
Lance Mallamo, Director, OHA  
Park & Recreation Commission  
Tom Fulton, Chair, Ft, Ward Stakeholders Advisory Committee

2  
3-7-11



**COA Contact Us: Commercial Add-on Tax - Just Say NO**

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,  
**Robert Bell** to: alicia.hughes, delppepper, paulcsmedberg, rose.boyd,  
jackie.henderson, elaine.scott, rob.krupicka,  
linda.owens, elizabeth.jones

02/18/2011 05:08 PM

**Please respond to Robert Bell**



**Time: [Fri Feb 18, 2011 17:08:49] Message ID: [27817]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Robert  
**Last Name:** Bell  
**Street Address:** 909 N Washington St  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703-549-4455  
**Email Address:** bbell@afba.com  
**Subject:** Commercial Add-on Tax - Just Say NO

Dear Mayor and Member of Council,  
  
As an Alexandria resident and employee  
  
of a company with significant commercial property in this city, I am  
  
writing in opposition to this unfair tax. The notion that we should do it  
  
- because other jurisdictions are doing it is not a rational business  
  
case.

My company is a not-for-profit association and along with the  
  
other 400 associations headquartered in this city, we gain no  
  
"retail" value from increased "local" traffic along  
  
bike paths and alternate transportation projects as described on your web  
  
pages.

Raising taxes on organizations who do not rely on local sales  
  
to sustain our organizations - will create the opportunity for us to

**Comments:** "vote" on your proposals by simply relocating to jurisdictions  
  
who value the practically service-free taxes that you receive.



I would

submit, there are other more equitable methods of raising funds which must be explored FIRST before simply adding to the commercial real estate owners. As an example are the special tax districts proposed to fund specific (and timely) infrastructure improvements along with new development.

A number of other ideas have been proposed over the course of the past three years that this debate has existed and yet, you and the council simply return to this one idea as the "solution".

Respectfully  
Robert Bell

2  
3-7-11



**COA Contact Us: commercial add-on tax**

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,  
Sandra Levy to: alicia.hughes, delpepper, paulcsmedberg, rose.boyd,  
jackie.henderson, elaine.scott, rob.krupicka,  
linda.owens, elizabeth.jones

02/21/2011 08:44 AM

Please respond to Sandra Levy



Time: [Mon Feb 21, 2011 08:43:59] Message ID: [27853]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Sandra  
**Last Name:** Levy  
**Street Address:** 106 W. Walnut St.  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:** 703-683-1587  
**Email Address:** sslevy@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** commercial add-on tax

I am a resident of Alexandria and the co-owner of the 26-year-old Alexandria Myotherapy, Inc., a massage therapy clinic that is one of the 85% of Alexandria businesses that employ fewer than 10 people (we currently have 8 employees), but that contribute enormously to the tax revenues of the city. As you surely know from the 2005 report of the Alexandria Small Business Development Center:

"Of Alexandria's approximate 10,000 businesses – 9038 (91%) have less than 20 employees 8422 (85%) have less than 10 employees 7537 (76%) have less than 5 employees.

Businesses with fewer than 20 employees generated 55% of the

**Comments:** City's 2005 gross receipts.  
By comparison, the gross receipts of those

small businesses with fewer than 20 employees were 13.65 times the aggregated 2005 gross receipts of the businesses in Potomac Yard.

"

In recent years, as you also must know, we small businesses have struggled to maintain ourselves, and so it is disturbing to learn that Council wants to fund transportation improvements through an add-on commercial property tax that would bring our costs up dramatically. Please reconsider this strategy.

Sandra Levy



**COA Contact Us: 2011 City budget**

**Edwin Krafzur** to: william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,  
alicia.hughes, delpepper, paulcsmedberg, rose.boyd,  
jackie.henderson, elaine.scott, rob.krupicka,  
linda.owens, elizabeth.jones

02/13/2011 05:47 PM

**Please respond to Edwin Krafzur**

2  
3-7-11

**Time: [Sun Feb 13, 2011 17:47:11] Message ID: [27670]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Edwin  
**Last Name:** Krafzur  
**Street Address:** 710 Chetworth Place  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 7038693878  
**Email Address:** ekrafzur@gmail.com  
**Subject:** 2011 City budget  
Included with the 2011 notice of real estate assessment was a news letter  
proclaiming a projected 4%  
increase in the general fund budget. Since I  
bought my house in 2007, you've raised my taxes and use fees  
every year.  
You project taking a bigger cut of my income again in 2011.  
Instead of  
spending more money, year after year, I suggest the city adopt the new  
course of spending the  
same, or even less. How to do this? Instead  
of a blanket hiring freeze, determine which programs and  
employees are  
**Comments:** most efficient and necessary, eliminate those which are not. Over the last  
ten years the city  
budget has exploded. A back of an envelope  
calculation indicates one city employee for every 32 residents!  
Last  
election, I was very happy to help elect two new members to the city

council. I hope the city council  
understands that I prefer to determine

how I should spend my own money. In other words, stop raising my  
taxes

and fees!



**COA Contact Us: Personal property tax**

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,  
**Thomas C Lewis** to: alicia.hughes, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,  
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott,  
rob.krupicka, linda.owens, elizabeth.jones

2  
3-7-11

02/12/2011 10:26 AM

**Please respond to Thomas C Lewis**

**Time: [Sat Feb 12, 2011 10:26:13] Message ID: [27646]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Thomas C  
**Last Name:** Lewis  
**Street Address:** 513 Robinson Ct  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22302  
**Phone:** 860-689-3309  
**Email Address:** thoschas@earthlink.net  
**Subject:** Personal property tax  
I have a neighbor who has parked his car in front of his house for a year  
and a half with a Mississippi license  
plate and no Alexandria sticker on  
the windshield. He is a renter. It annoys me that i pay a personal  
property tax on three cars to the City of Alexandria plus license and  
registration fees to the Commonwealth  
of Virginia while he pays nothing.  
Last night, I called the City non-emergency number to complain. I was  
**Comments:** told the City will not send an officer  
because it cannot be ascertained  
if the owner of the car is in the military. I said, Give the owner a  
ticket and  
let him prove it to a judge. The representative of the City  
told me the City would not act.  
It is appalling to be told that the  
City will not act to enforce its own tax law or the laws of the

Commonwealth.

I'll remember this the next time i get a tax bill.

2  
3-1-11



**COA Contact Us: 2012 Budget**

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley, alicia.hughes,  
**J.J. Smith** to: delpepper, paulcsmberg, rose.boyd, jackie.henderson,  
elaine.scott, rob.krupicka, linda.owens, elizabeth.jones

01/28/2011 03:00 PM

Please respond to "J.J. Smith"

---

1 attachment



2f2fa13e887e42f110817a34d38faf2f.pdf

---



**Time:** [Fri Jan 28, 2011 15:00:39] **Message ID:** [27195]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** J.J.  
**Last Name:** Smith  
**Street Address:** 401 Wilkes Street  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703-299-1725  
**Email Address:** jossmith@mba1962.hbs.edu  
**Subject:** 2012 Budget  
**Comments:**  
**Attachment:** 2f2fa13e887e42f110817a34d38faf2f.pdf



**Joseph Judson Smith III  
401 Wilkes Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314**

January 28,2011

To the Mayor of Alexandria and Members of the City Council

I encourage the city council and staff to look for ways to reduce the city's spending, cut taxes, and refund last year's unnecessary tax increase.

Last year the City Council approved a property tax increase to cover a projected \$44.2 million dollar deficit. The increase was unnecessary. Based on the latest figures available from the city (November 2010), and adjusting for seasonal variation based on FY2010 patterns, I project the city will have a \$36 million surplus in FY2011. The final surplus for 2010 was \$42 million. Somehow the Council panicked and imposed an unnecessary 8% tax increase.

Examination of the City's Annual Report, the School Board's budget submission, the Comparative Report of Local Government Revenues and Expenditures published by the State of Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts, reveal several areas in which to focus investigation:

- Payroll
- Education
- Pension
- Transit
- Boards and Commission
- Commerce
- Debt

**City Payroll - The Elephant in the Room**

The city payroll, adjusted for inflation, has risen at almost double the rate of population growth and more than double the increase in households. In 2001, city payroll was \$258 million; today it is \$340 in 2001 dollars. Are the city's employees overpaid? Are we overstaffed? Do we really need more staff in light of lower demand brought about by the poor economy and efficiencies created with better technology?

From the city's November report, average weekly wages in Alexandria for the second quarter of 2010 are:

Accommodations	\$ 451
Professional Services	1,789
Retail	653
Other Services	1,181
<b>Public Administration</b>	<b>1,988</b>
All Sectors	1,245

Public sector employees are paid 60% more than all sectors and 11% more than professional services - accountants, doctors, lawyers. However, it should be noted that public sector employees include Federal government employees.

City payroll has risen 63% over the last ten years and 32% after an adjustment for inflation. Last year, after adjusting for inflation, the corresponding figure was a 41% increase in city payroll over the prior ten years; thus, there appears to be a slowing down of the rapid rate of increase we have seen over the last 10 years.

Nevertheless, there is still room for considerable savings. Were we to pay the same percentage of revenues in payroll as in 2001 and as in the following jurisdictions, the annual savings would be:

City in same proportion of revenue as in 2001	\$5 million
All municipalities in Virginia	\$26 million
Virginia independent cities	\$42 million
Fairfax! Arlington Counties combined	\$103 million

Clearly there are savings to be had in a more realistic staffing and payroll structure. A reasonable target would be 60% to 62% of total revenues, assuming no change in the revenues. This would create savings of \$44 to \$56 million. About \$8 of this can come from the school board as described below.

## **School Budget**

Administrative overhead in the school system must be cut back. Were our school system to reduce its overhead payroll to be in line with Fairfax County and the overall Virginia average, savings would be \$8.3 million and \$8.4 million respectively. It makes one wonder how the school system in good conscious can ask for a \$12 million increase in compensation: a 6.6% salary increase and a 8.8% benefits increase.

And are we getting good value for our money from the school system? Cost per student is up 46% from 2001, or 12% adjusted for inflation. Recent years show a reversal of this trend; cost per student peaked in 2008 at more than \$18,000 per student. Are our metrics of a successful program up 12%? According to the school board, only 30% of the metrics that measure student achievement are being met.

Are there other savings in the school system? Probably. Here is an example: fifty-five percent of students qualify for free and reduced meals. This is about double neighboring jurisdictions despite the city having a 28% higher per capita income than the Washington DC MSA and 3% more than Fairfax County. Should our qualifications for free or reduced meals become more rigorous? With over a million free meals a year, there are likely some savings to be found.

## **Pension Costs and Its Potential Threat**

The total assets of the Employee Retirement Plan Trust are \$291.6 million. Of that \$291.6 million, \$17 million is a Defined Contribution component. In a nutshell, the advantage of the a defined contribution plan is that city employees share risks with the taxpayer; with a defined benefit plan, the taxpayer bears all the risk.

In 2003, unfunded pension liabilities totaled \$18 million. At the end of June 2009, the latest report available from the city, the liability totaled \$193 million, a ten times increase, with no growth in number of employees. Year-end averages for the years 2006 - 2008, were \$145 million and rising. To put this unfunded liability in perspective, the unfunded pension liability is 31% of total city revenues and 58% of net assets of the city. The good news is we are better off than Illinois where the ratio of unfunded pension liabilities to total revenues is 60%.

The city has taken steps to arrest this threat before it gets out of hand by offering only a defined contribution plan to new employees and having city employees pay 20% of their health care coverage. That is a good start, but more needs to be done. I suggest the city move towards 100% of all retirement plans be converted to and become defined contribution plans. I suggest that the city, like most private businesses, pay a significant share of the employees' health care coverage and the employee pay for any family participation in health care coverage.

## **Transit**

Transit subsidies from the taxpayer in FY 2010 were \$13 million. DASH had an operating loss of \$9.6 million in FY 2010 on revenues of \$3.7 million. Operating cost per mile in 2005, the last year the city kept that metric, was \$5.72 and growing at a compound rate of 8%; I estimate that operating costs per mile now are likely to be about \$9.00. Fares average \$1.50; clearly we cannot make it up on volume.

Net assets of DASH are \$14 million; it has 63 vehicles and land and construction in progress of \$6.5 million.

Would the city be better off privatizing the system or selling it to Metro? If not, what are the economic cost and benefits of the City of Alexandria being the sole shareholder of the Alexandria Transit Company? By making the transit system a taxpayer instead

of a tax taker, we can eliminate the \$13 million subsidy and receive tax revenue from the enterprise.

We certainly do need to compound our problem in our transit system by building an inflexible light rail system.

## **Boards and Commissions**

There are 73 boards and commissions. I cannot determine the expense associated with each, but from a random review I observe a city staff person assigned to each board or commission. That implies to me there is a cost associated with each board and commission.

Has the Councilor staff done an audit of these 73 entities to determine their true costs and resulting benefits or the return on investment to the taxpayer? Are some more important to enhancing life in Alexandria than others? Does the Council have the courage to stack one against another in "payoff elimination brackets" to see which consistency lose out without regard to political pressures?

## **Business Friendly**

Alexandria does not seem to be alluring to businesses. Retail sales tax revenue, adjusted for inflation, has fallen 11% since 2001, while restaurant and food collections are up about 43%. In combination the collection from these two sources is up only 4% over the ten-year period. Is this a reflection of either or both: people do not want to shop here or business people do not want to open a business here? The decline in business licenses issued over the last ten years would indicate that business people do not find Alexandria a hospitable environment.

## **City Debt**

Although the city's interest on debt has tripled in the last ten years, the city appears to be in good financial position with a AAA rating and a lot of headroom to borrow additional money. Future borrowing should only be for capital projects. "Soft" investments in "our future" for services, training, etc., are not to be confused with capital projects. I do not fully understand the city's policy on funding capital projects from current sources or debt financing, but the criteria should be that if the project is a depreciable asset benefiting future generations, then let future generations help pay for some portion of the project by using long-term debt. But more importantly, can such a project show a reasonable return or enough return to make a hefty contribution to the amortization of the debt over the life of the project?

January 16, 2011

Ms. Judy Guse-Noritake  
Chairperson  
Park and Recreation Commission  
City of Alexandria

Dear Chairperson Guse-Noritake:

I am writing on behalf of the Alexandria Lacrosse Club. We would like to voice our strong support for lighting the field at Francis Hammond Middle School. Not only is the shortage of field space in the city a concern for us, but our lack of volunteer coaches hinders the amount of children we can accept into our program. Only by accommodating working coaches can we supply a sufficient number to maintain a strong program. This requires practicing into the evening. You can clearly see the benefits of field lighting to our program.

Lighting Francis Hammond Middle School's field would not only help our club, but we strongly feel it would benefit the Alexandria community as a whole. Adult leagues would be able to make use of this field at night, as well.

As you know, technological enhancements have dimmed the impact of extraneous light on surrounding communities. As the city plans to implement such technology at Francis Hammond's field, we applaud such efforts to minimize any negative effects. We likewise applaud the city's stated intent to closely regulate the fields use.

Sports enhance Alexandria city life. However, with continued growth, field space is increasingly limited. Any effort we can make to lengthen a field's useful day will cost-effectively increase field space for all Alexandrians.

Sincerely,

Eva Shea  
Commissioner Alexandria Lacrosse Club

2  
3-7-11



**COA Contact Us: Armistead L Boothe Park**

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,  
**John Steiner** to: alicia.hughes, delpepper, paulcsmedberg, rose.boyd,  
jackie.henderson, elaine.scott, rob.krupicka,  
linda.owens, elizabeth.jones

01/25/2011 10:21 PM

**Please respond to John Steiner**

1 attachment



99f1b0af470493178394a6449cfa8384.jpg



**Time: [Tue Jan 25, 2011 22:21:28] Message ID: [27121]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** John  
**Last Name:** Steiner  
**Street Address:** 174 Barrett Place  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22304  
**Phone:** 703-473-1292  
**Email Address:** jpsteiner2@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Armistead L Boothe Park  
Dear City Council,

I met Councilwoman Pepper at a YMCA Fitness Day at Samuel Tucker Elementary School. She suggested I email the City Council to solicit support to get the playground equipment at Armistead L Boothe Park renewed. I have lived in Cameron Station for over five years, and in that time little has been done in the way of updating the equipment in the park. Several of the pieces of equipment are broken (and have been so for over a year). The park is heavily used by students from Tucker and by children from the surrounding neighborhoods. Tucker does not have its own dedicated playground for kids in grades 1-5. It only has a small playground for

**Comments:** Kindergarten children. Anything that can be done to refresh, repair, and replace equipment in the park would be greatly appreciated.

I made a  
short slide show and posted it on YouTube, which you can see

at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b22WezePvOc>

Thanks for

listening.

Very Respectfully,

John "Jack" Steiner

**Attachment:** 99f1b0af470493178394a6449cfa8384.jpg



**COA Contact Us: Budget**

**Micheline Eyraud** to: william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,  
alicia.hughes, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,  
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott,  
rob.krupicka, linda.owens, elizabeth.jones

01/23/2011 10:14 AM

**Please respond to Micheline Eyraud**

2  
3-7-11

**Time: [Sun Jan 23, 2011 10:14:26] Message ID: [27060]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Micheline  
**Last Name:** Eyraud  
**Street Address:** 2181 Jamieson Ave #509  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 7035678896  
**Email Address:** michye00@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Budget

On Thursday I received an email from Alexandria E-new announcing some sort of seminar on Housing which stated that lunch would be provided free of charge (the open invitation to all of Alexandria is also on your web site). I immediately sent an email asking exactly who was paying for lunch and did not receive a response. I called the City Managers office that afternoon to tell them of the situation later on in the day and mentioned that I had not received a response. On Friday afternoon I called the City Manager's office again saying that I had not received a response to my question and then called back a third time to ask what the problem was. Midrielyn Davis then called me later that day and said that she had important things to do (as opposed to providing a response to me which apparently is not important) and after I insisted on getting the answer to my question, she reluctantly admitted that City money would be used to pay for this lunch as she considers it compensation for participating in the seminar.



In the Gazette this week there is a letter from a woman who lives in Del Ray who is finding it increasingly difficult to afford the expenses to maintain housing for herself (mortgage payment, taxes, etc.) because she lost her job and the one she got pays \$30,000 less than her previous job. She questioned the need to spend money like there is no tomorrow which are forcing up taxes which will make it difficult for her to keep her home.

**Comments:**

This is a good example of the impact that people are feeling because you refuse to let up, cut down extraneous expenses and make it affordable to live here. You ultimately will drive people out of the city and once it becomes more difficult to sell so home prices will go down and so will your revenue.

The City Manager and Council has done little to curb the demand for spending, even in the midst of the most severe recession since the Great Depression. One good example is that the office Midrilyn is in charge of which largely duplicates the function of the public housing authority. Why do we need this duplication other than to serve as another form of welfare? Abolish her agency -- I guarantee you that no one will miss them. You also need to demand that public funds are not used to provide personal expenses. I would like to see a concerted effort to trim down the budget (10-15% decrease across the board) when you debate next year's budget. This should not be too difficult -- after all, if you have the money to invite all of Alexandria to lunch, then you have too much money. Start living like most people live, within a budget which does not include frivolous expenditures.

Also, if Midrilyn is using lunch as a form of compensation, the IRS requires that you provide 1099 forms to people who receive this food (meals are considered taxable income). She scoffed at the notion that she needed to do this even though she said she did not possess a familiarity with the Tax Code, but I assure you that the IRS will not scoff at the idea.

2  
3-7-11



**COA Contact Us: Ben Brenman**

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

**Eva SHEA** to: delppepper, paulcsmedberg, rose.boyd, jackie.henderson,  
elaine.scott, rob.krupicka, linda.owens, elizabeth.jones

01/20/2011 11:13 AM

**Please respond to Eva SHEA**

1 attachment



d7d8f812cad2c3a0013b6a05ece897e9.docx



**Time: [Thu Jan 20, 2011 11:13:48] Message ID: [27000]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Eva  
**Last Name:** SHEA  
**Street Address:**  
**City:** ALEXANDRIA  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:** 703 299-0717  
**Email Address:** jns-rshea@comcast.net  
**Subject:** Ben Brenman  
**Comments:** Please read attached letter on behalf of the Alexandria Lacrosse Club.  
**Attachment:** d7d8f812cad2c3a0013b6a05ece897e9.docx

2  
3-7-11



**Re: COA Contact Us: Proposed tax increase on businesses in Alexandria**

**Kerry Donley** to: Laurie Wirth

01/19/2011 11:01 AM

Cc: Jackie Henderson

Ms. Wirth,

Thank you for your comments. The proposed commercial tax is part of the 2011-2012 budget discussion for Alexandria which will be voted on by the City Council in early May. There will be an opportunity for public input on this matter on March 7, 2010 starting at 4:00pm at City Hall in the Council Chambers. I will make sure your concerns are part of the record.

Again, thanks for taking the time to share your concerns with me.

Vice Mayor Donley

Laurie Wirth

COA Contact Us: Councilman Kerry Donley Time: [...

01/11/2011 02:08:36 PM

From: Laurie Wirth <lwirth@abfprs.org>  
To: kerry.donley@alexandriava.gov  
Date: 01/11/2011 02:08 PM  
Subject: COA Contact Us: Proposed tax increase on businesses in Alexandria



**Time: [Tue Jan 11, 2011 14:08:35] Message ID: [26800]**

**Issue Type:** Kerry Donley  
**First Name:** Laurie  
**Last Name:** Wirth  
MOCOA  
**Street Address:** 115 C South Saint Asaph St.  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** (703) 549-3223  
**Email Address:** lwirth@abfprs.org  
**Subject:** Proposed tax increase on businesses in Alexandria  
On behalf of the Morrison Office Complex Owners Association, Inc. (MOCOA),  
I urge you to vote against any "piggyback" tax on commercial properties.  
It is simply unfair to impose such a tax on a small segment of the  
population to fund what is commonly understood to be a "Common Good."

I also have grave concerns about the wisdom of creating a new business tax while our economy is so weak. This proposed tax will damage small businesses which make the heart and soul of our local economy and community. Most of the occupants of our Association represent not-for-profit organizations, as such, you will be taking money out the budgets of some very good causes.

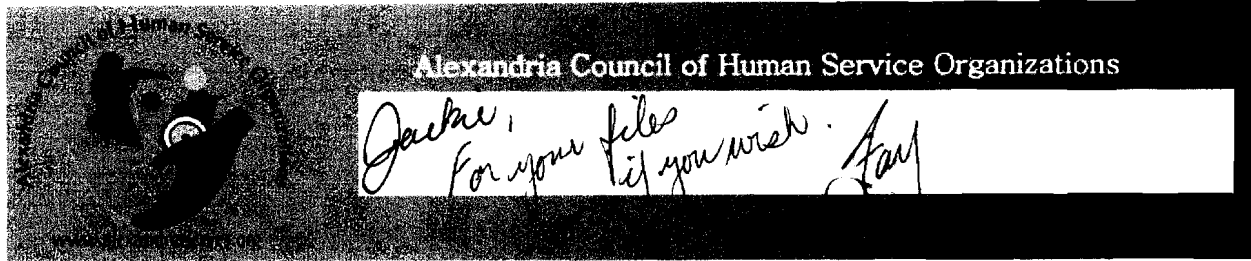
**Comments:**

Members of City Council have repeatedly rejected this unfair tax, please follow your own precedent and reject it again. Please do what is right, not what is wrongly perceived to be expedient.

Sincerely,

Laurie Wirth

2  
3-7-11



January 4, 2011

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

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

We believe the changes recommended below can enable the City and the nonprofit organizations that provide human services to Alexandria residents to better deliver needed services in our community. Decreased revenues at a time of increased needs is a plight both ACSHO member organizations, as well as the City, face. While the need for our services has grown during this time of reduced revenues, many of our organizations have drawn down on our reserve funds to increase our service delivery, and, as you know, some are having significant financial difficulties which may affect their ability to serve the community at all. Of course that trend will not be able to continue indefinitely if we want to remain a vibrant and caring City.

With funding restored at least to FY09 levels, it can have a significant payoff for our clients. Our ability to leverage private resources means our City's residents have even more benefit because of the City's investment.

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

- Restore the funding for each of the three City funds that grant funding to nonprofits to carry out needed human services in the City of Alexandria to their FY09 level. ACHSO appreciates that Alexandria maintained FY10 levels of funding for FY11, but the increased need combined with reduction from FY09 level, has stressed both organizations and the services delivered, while the need for services has increased. During these especially difficult economic times, both the challenge and need for services for our vulnerable population, are at an all-time high. According to a survey of our members, all have increased need. Thus, we are asking for at least a restoration of the FY09 funding level for the Alexandria Fund for Human Services.

- As we requested last year, return to the practice of funding nonprofit organizations (for whom they provide grants for City human services) for a two-year cycle. We strongly recommend this approach even if during this challenging economic climate, the City wishes to include as part of a two-year cycle, a stipulation that the grants are contingent **on each City budget year's status**. A percentage reduction could be made for each grantee if needed. This enables an organization to do more effective planning – on a two year cycle. A two year cycle would enable both the City and nonprofit staff to focus on the mission of providing needed services to Alexandria residents. We appreciate that you agreed last year to reconsider this proposal for FY12. *Now is the time to make this happen.*
- We greatly appreciate the change of notification to May 31st last year, which enabled nonprofit organizations to have a little more lead time critical to effective planning and budgeting.
- Change the method of application for all AFHS grants from paper to online. The application is already online. The submission could be online as well. It is understood that some documents may need to be submitted by paper copy, but much is available electronically and could be submitted online. This would be in keeping with Alexandria's other Eco-friendly efforts. This should save time and expense for both the nonprofits and the City.
- Change to a common grant application and deadline for submission for all three AFHS funds would also decrease the burden to those organizations applying to more than one fund.

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

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

Sincerely,



Fay D. Slotnick

Chair, ACHSO's Education & Advocacy Committee

**....on behalf of the** Over 50 Members of Alexandria Council of Human Service Organizations

Please reply to: Fay D. Slotnick, Executive Director, Parent Leadership Training Institute of Alexandria  
 PO Box 26294, Alexandria, VA 22313  
 703-739-0233 or 703-409-6872 (cell)  
 fay@PLTI-ALEX.org

2  
3-7-11

**Jackie Henderson**

**From:** Patricia Brown <p.brown@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 28, 2011 12:55 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; delpepper@aol.com; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Alexandria City Public School (ACPS) request for \$372.6 million capital budget  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Mon Feb 28, 2011 12:54:40] Message ID: [28057]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Patricia  
**Last Name:** Brown  
**Street Address:** 503 Woodland Terrace  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22302  
**Phone:** 703-549-5304  
**Email Address:** [p.brown@comcast.net](mailto:p.brown@comcast.net)  
Alexandria City Public School (ACPS) request for \$372.6 million capital

**Subject:**  
budget  
Mayor and Council Members:  
  
I urge you to look closely at the ACPS  
  
request for capital budget funding beyond the currently allotted \$158.1  
  
million.

In the last 2 years the school system has spent thousands of  
  
precious taxpayer dollars on consultants with questionable payback for:

**Comments:** -curriculum changes to "improve" teaching  
-implement schedule  
  
changes  
-a public relations consultant to "determine teacher and parent  
attitudes towards ACPS" that has never been released  
  
In addition the  
  
school system has proposed programs with little planning, analysis of  
impact, or cost of implementation:  
-division of middle schools into five

separate entities  
-development of Jefferson Houston Elementary into a

business+school site  
-expansion of school-day and school-year

It is

possible that the superintendent's figures are correct, but given the past lack of thoughtful planning in ACPS, I hope you will not commit Alexandria's limited resources without a very careful independent professional analysis done by financial experts who are cognizant of our resources, history, and future educational needs.

Patricia Brown



2  
3-7-11

**Jackie Henderson**

**From:** Brenda D'Sylva <brendadsylva@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 01, 2011 9:19 AM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; delpepper@aol.com; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: 1% Pension Payment  
**Attachments:** 424d02243442f6c613d712997411007b.doc; ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Tue Mar 01, 2011 09:18:44] Message ID: [28086]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Brenda  
**Last Name:** D'Sylva  
**Street Address:** 181 E. Reed Avenue #111  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** Virginia  
**Zip:** 22305  
**Phone:** 703-329-6761  
**Email Address:** [brendadsylva@yahoo.com](mailto:brendadsylva@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** 1% Pension Payment  
Good Morning Mayor Euille and Members of City Council.  
  
I, along with my  
  
fellow union and association leaders, am sending you a letter to voice our  
  
**Comments:** concern regarding the City Manager's proposal to charge the employees  
1%  
  
toward our retirement plans.  
  
Thank you for your consideration in this  
  
important matter.  
**Attachment:** 424d02243442f6c613d712997411007b.doc

City of Alexandria, Virginia

---

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 28, 2011

TO: Jim Hartmann, City Manager  
Bill Euille, Mayor, City of Alexandria  
Members of City Council

From: Sworn & Civilian Union and Association Presidents

Re: 1% Pension Increase

---

As Presidents of the sworn and civilian employee unions and associations in the City, we would like to voice our concern and disapproval of the City Manager's proposed FY2012 budget. We stand united in our belief that employees should not pay any additional money into their respective pension plans.

This item, along with the increases to healthcare payments, will cause employees to lose money in their paychecks. In addition, employees have not received a Market Rate Adjustment (MRA) in four years. Granting employees a merit increase, if they are eligible, will not completely offset these rising costs. According to OMB's own acknowledgement, 49% of our employees will bring home less pay than they did last year. That is half the workforce!

Alexandria City employees continue to fall behind area comparators for pay and compensation. All of you have an opportunity to correct years of compensation decisions that would allow us to be properly paid according to your own compensation philosophy. In light of this history, forcing employees to pay more into their pension plans is unfair and underserved.

We respectfully ask that you remove the 1% increase for all pension programs in the FY2012 budget. Thank you.

Brenda D'Sylva	Michael Kochis	David Denardo	David Woodson	Chris O'Dell
AGEA	PBA	Alex Fire	Alex Sheriff	Alex Sheriff

2  
3-7-11

**Jackie Henderson**

**From:** Kathleen Pepper <archaeology@alexandriava.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 02, 2011 3:08 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; delpepper@aol.com; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Funding for Fort Ward  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

**Time:** [Wed Mar 02, 2011 15:07:51] **Message ID:** [28138]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Kathleen  
**Last Name:** Pepper  
**Street Address:** Alexandria Archaeological Commission  
105 N. Union Street, #327  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703-746-4399  
**Email Address:** [archaeology@alexandriava.gov](mailto:archaeology@alexandriava.gov)

**Subject:** Funding for Fort Ward  
Mayor Euille and Members of City Council:

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission urges City Council to appropriate \$75,000 in the proposed FY 2012 budget for Fort Ward Archaeological Study planning purposes. This funding has been listed as a "high priority" by the City Manager.

**Comments:** The City Council adopted as a goal the creation of a master plan for the Fort Ward Historical Park. The development of a master plan is required before other issues, such as the soil erosion problem, can be resolved. The \$75,000 will complete enough historical and archaeological work that the development of the Fort Ward Historic Park and Museum Master Plan can begin. Thus, this funding is a necessary pre-cursor to the development of that master plan. The Archaeological Commission recommends that the \$75,000 allocation for planning be separate from any funding which may be needed

for environmental assessments or mitigation of soil erosion plans; any

archaeological work required in the future; and other areas identified in the Fort Ward Master Plan, as those areas will need their own budgets as future needs arise.

Moreover, this funding for Fort Ward will further

Goal 7 of the City's strategic plan which has as an objective the collection of histories of diverse peoples in Alexandria. The

African-American community at "The Fort" was established around the time of

the Civil War and additional research may pinpoint whether that settlement occurred before, during, or after the war. It is the longest known

continuous neighborhood of families in Alexandria and deserves thorough study and interpretation. The unmarked graves of these community members

must be identified, marked, protected, and honored. This \$75,000 is the next step.

In addition, funding the continuation of the Fort Ward

project will provide the City with a visible, tangible, and lasting project

as part of the Civil War Sesquicentennial. Fifty years ago, the City

commemorated the 100th Anniversary of the Civil War by purchasing and reconstructing Fort Ward. Today, the City has the opportunity to

commemorate the 150th Anniversary by returning to Fort Ward to expand our

understanding of the Fort's African-American community and protecting significant cultural resources in the park.

The Archaeological

Commission appreciates your consideration of our request for allocating \$75,000 in the FY 2012 budget for planning purposes as discussed above.

Sincerely,

S. Kathleen Pepper, Chair  
Alexandria

Archaeological Commission

2  
3-7-11

**Jackie Henderson**

---

**From:** Kathleen Pepper <archaeology@alexandriava.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 02, 2011 3:11 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; delpepper@aol.com; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Fort Ward Stakeholder Advisory Group Report  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Wed Mar 02, 2011 15:10:32] Message ID: [28139]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Kathleen  
**Last Name:** Pepper  
**Street Address:** Alexandria Archaeological Commission  
105 N. Union Street, #327  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703-746-4399  
**Email Address:** [archaeology@alexandriava.gov](mailto:archaeology@alexandriava.gov)  
**Subject:** Fort Ward Stakeholder Advisory Group Report  
Dear Mayor Euille and members of City Council:

The Alexandria

Archaeological Commission (AAC) supports the recommendations made by the

Fort Ward Stakeholder Advisory Group in its January 2011 final report. The

Advisory Group recommendations balance the need for passive recreational

use of the park and proper stewardship of this unique and valuable

**Comments:** historical site.

In particular, the Archaeological Commission supports

the recommendations regarding completion of the archaeological

investigation, the creation of a Fort Ward Master Plan, and the

establishment of a Citizens Advisory committee to advise in the stewardship

of Ford Ward. Completion of the archaeological investigation is

particularly important for Fort Ward to more fully document and understand

the post-Civil War African-American community which lived there until the mid-20th century, to respect the members of that community who are buried

at Fort Ward, and to recognize the contributions of all who lived and worked at Fort Ward. City Council has already approved the creation of master plan for Fort Ward. The Advisory Group's recommendations regarding

the development of the master plan integrate the various needs and uses for

the park and provide Alexandrians with input into the planning for Fort Ward. This ensures that the differing needs and activities at Fort Ward will be not be viewed in isolation, but rather as part of an integrated whole.

The AAC also commends the Advisory Group for its work, which represents a tremendous amount of time and effort, at no expense to the City, by Alexandria citizens. The Advisory Group's report is an example of the interest that Alexandria residents have in history and preservation, their respect for the past, and their dedication to making the City a quality place to live.

The Archaeological Commission appreciates your consideration of our support for the final report from the Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group.

Sincerely,

S.

Kathleen Pepper, Chair  
Alexandria Archaeological Commission

2  
-----  
3-7-11

**Jackie Henderson**

**From:** Nancy Jennings <nrijennings@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 06, 2011 11:32 AM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; delpepper@aol.com; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Fund Fort Ward Park Recommendations  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Sun Mar 06, 2011 11:31:36] Message ID: [28222]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Nancy  
**Last Name:** Jennings  
**Street Address:** 2115 Marlboro Drive  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22304-1013  
**Phone:** 7038206930  
**Email Address:** [nrijennings@comcast.net](mailto:nrijennings@comcast.net)

**Subject:** Fund Fort Ward Park Recommendations  
Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Donley, and Members of the City Council:

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  
**Comments:** 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.  
  
Sincerely yours,

Nancy R. Jennings



2  
3-7-11

**Jackie Henderson**

---

**From:** Gary Griesmyer <oildrop@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 06, 2011 1:07 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; delpepper@aol.com; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: No Tax Increases On Businesses  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Sun Mar 06, 2011 13:07:21] Message ID: [28229]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Gary  
**Last Name:** Griesmyer  
**Street Address:** 5611 Tremont Drive  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** Virginia  
**Zip:** 22303  
**Phone:** 7035699858  
**Email Address:** [oildrop@cox.net](mailto:oildrop@cox.net)  
**Subject:** No Tax Increases On Businesses  
**Comments:** I'm a member of the Tea Party! I thank you for helping my membership grow.

2  
3-7-11

**Jackie Henderson**

---

**From:** Jennifer Smith <jsmith@smithfairfield.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 07, 2011 9:18 AM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; delpepper@aol.com; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: New Business Tax  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

**Time:** [Mon Mar 07, 2011 09:18:10] **Message ID:** [28250]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Jennifer  
**Last Name:** Smith  
**Street Address:** 101 1/2 South Union Street  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703 684-5100  
**Email Address:** [jsmith@smithfairfield.com](mailto:jsmith@smithfairfield.com)  
**Subject:** New Business Tax

Dear All:

I am writing to express my complete and total opposition to the city of Alexandria imposing yet another tax against small businesses residing in Alexandria, VA. Right now, my business is barely surviving. I have been working 7 days a week, 18 hours a day just to keep my doors open.

**Comments:** I want to be very clear. If this proposed tax is adopted, I will be moving my small business from the city of Alexandria to another location that values and appreciates my business and the jobs it creates. I know from speaking with other business leaders that I'm not the only business you are going to lose if you implement this tax.

Jennifer  
Smith  
President  
Smith Fairfield, Inc.

2  
3-7-11

**Jackie Henderson**

**From:** Tina Leone <tleone@alexchamber.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 07, 2011 11:53 AM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; delpepper@aol.com; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Alexandria Chamber FY2012 City Budget Comments  
**Attachments:** 00f7c6c6665f0a3873ea020644933fe6.doc; ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Mon Mar 07, 2011 11:53:26] Message ID: [28262]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Tina  
**Last Name:** Leone  
**Street Address:** Alexandria Chamber of Commerce  
801 N Fairfax St  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703-549-1000  
**Email Address:** [tleone@alexchamber.com](mailto:tleone@alexchamber.com)  
**Subject:** Alexandria Chamber FY2012 City Budget Comments  
Dear Mayor, Vice-Mayor and City Council Members,  
  
Thank you for the  
  
opportunity to comment on the City's FY2012 Budget. Our written  
comments  
  
are attached for your review. We appreciate the transparency of the  
budget  
  
**Comments:** process and thank you for considering the impact of budget decisions on  
our  
  
business community.  
  
Sincerely,  
  
Tina Leone  
President/CEO  
Alexandria  
  
Chamber of Commerce  
**Attachment:** 00f7c6c6665f0a3873ea020644933fe6.doc



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Alexandria City Council

**FROM:** Alexandria Chamber of Commerce

**DATE:** March 7, 2011

**RE:** Alexandria Chamber Comments to FY 2012 City Budget

---

### **I. Introduction:**

- The Chamber appreciates the opportunity to provide a formal response to the proposed FY 2012 Budget, submitted to the City Council by the City Manager. This memorandum supplements our oral testimony to be presented on March 7, 2011. In presenting the Chamber's position on the proposed FY 2012 Budget, we will address our comments through a series of commitments that the Chamber holds to be essential to this year's budget process.
- In addition, given that public comment on the proposed FY 2012 Budget has been scheduled to occur before the completion of many budget work sessions, the Chamber may supplement this memorandum as necessary due to new information derived from future budget work sessions.
- We again encourage you to have a greater emphasis on economic forecasting by the City and the development of a multi-year budget both for City operations and capital improvement projects. A multi-year budget will serve as a roadmap to achieve future goals with fiscal certainty, fostering private growth and development.

### **II. Commitment to Business Process Improvement:**

- In the past three budget cycles, the City has examined how it conducts business, and it has done an admirable job of cutting costs, without impairing the delivery of services. This same philosophy will be needed for FY 2012 and beyond, and the Chamber encourages the City to further consider how it may maximize its existing resources, implementing greater efficiencies in its operation which may in fact preclude the need for implementing higher tax rates. In particular, The City should seek cost savings through improved utilization of existing planning staff and resources in lieu of hiring outside

consultants for planning projects that can be staffed in-house. Moreover, consistent with the City's "eco-city" initiative, the City should explore methods of automating workflow through internet-based filing procedures that will reduce paperwork requirements and increase efficiencies.

- While the Chamber urges the City to continue its attempts to increase operational efficiencies, the Chamber also warns against negative impacts on core principles of public education, public safety, sound infrastructure and expansive economic development.
- There comes a time for any business to determine that it can no longer cut expenses while meeting its core mission. In those times, sound businesses also look to the revenue side of their balance sheet to determine how to meet operational needs and future expansion.
- The Chamber acknowledges that the FY 2012 Budget as much as the last several years, presents an instance in which the City Council must make difficult decisions. If the City Council determines that increased revenue is essential to the City's fiscal and civic stability, the Chamber urges the City Council to act in a manner that is fair and equitable to all of the City's constituents, including the businesses that provide the backbone to the City's economy.
- Many of Alexandria's businesses have completed the same exercise as the City government has with cutting excess and eliminating inefficiencies. They are also seeking new means of generating revenue and are still struggling to survive. These businesses and the rest of Alexandria's citizens will justifiably want to know how City services will improve or expand under any tax increase.
- Finally, as part of an effective self-assessment, the City should examine the economic benefits of streamlining its decision-making processes. There are countless hours dedicated to various task forces and study groups that impose on the valuable time of City staff, as well as the civic and business representatives who attend these meetings. The Chamber wishes to see more efficient planning sessions with greater emphasis on funding and implementing ideas.

### **III. Commitment to Economic Development**

- Funding for economic development remains critical for the survival of small business in Alexandria. The Chamber is pleased that the City Council has continued to foster programs that promote business and that generate or increase revenue for the City. A strong, viable business community is central to the City's success. We support the City's proposed increases in funding for

the economic development partners of Alexandria- the AEDP, ACVA and SBDC.

- In recent years, the City has taken steps to be more business-friendly; however, there is still a long way to go. The Chamber will continue to work with the City and our economic development partners to identify means of improving the business environment.
- Over the last couple of years, many white collar workers who found themselves unemployed started new businesses and small consulting firms. These emerging businesses are seeds in our community that, with care and nurturing, will yield growing businesses that will lease office or retail space and hire employees. These entrepreneurs need access to the tools to success provided routinely by the SBDC. Continued funding of the SBDC is essential, and the Chamber supports the budget line item to fund the SBDC in FY2012.
- Tourism continues to drive a substantial portion of Alexandria's economy. Continued funding of the ACVA is essential to bringing customers to our City's retail stores and restaurants, and the Chamber supports the budget line item to fund the ACVA in FY2012.
- Given the role in the City's economy of tourism, which is focused primarily on the Old Town Historic District, the Chamber continues its support for funding of the King Street Trolley and encourages the Council to consider its expansion of service to Del Ray. The King Street Trolley has been an unqualified success based on ridership numbers, its ability to move visitors and residents along Alexandria's major retail corridor, and the ambiance that it brings to the area. Free-ridership is a critical component to the continued use and operation of the King Street Trolley. We remind the City that the King Street Trolley is funded by the City's 1-cent tax on the hospitality industry which generates twice the amount of revenue than the annual cost of the King Street Trolley.
- The City is lagging far behind its neighbors in attracting large, established businesses to Alexandria. The AEDP has shown rapid improvement in its operations but it needs tools to compete with. The Chamber encourages the City Council and the City Planning Staff to become more involved in providing common sense solutions, such as fast-track rezoning and tax incentives, that will encourage development of office and mixed-use facilities and entice businesses to move to Alexandria, thereby increasing the City's tax base.
- The waterfront remains the showcase for our City. Developing the Waterfront Plan has been an interminable process that was supposed to conclude in calendar year 2010. The City now plans to approve the plan somewhere

around mid-2011. The Chamber cautions that the City will need to make sure that this plan for a world-class waterfront does not sit on a shelf with no implementation and therefore no purpose. The City must fund waterfront improvements, provide incentives and create a culture that will encourage developers to take the lead in revitalizing Alexandria's waterfront in a manner that generates more revenue for the City to fund passive uses such as preserving and improving its existing parks.

- Alexandria's Metro stations are among the most under-utilized stations in the Metro system. This is due to a lack of density, a lack of adequate parking and a lack of an integrated public transportation system that efficiently transports people to the Metro stations. The City will benefit from having more density at its Metro stations. The City needs to implement its Transportation Plan and encourage development around these potential transportation nodes.

#### **IV. Commitment to Uniform Tax Rates to Fund Transportation Needs**

- The Chamber strongly supports the City's commitment to fund the much needed major transportation projects of Alexandria in order to sustain the existing and future traffic loads expected from future increased development both within and around our City. We disagree, however, on how to fund these needs.
- The proposed commercial add-on tax is not right for Alexandria. We are different than our neighbors, Arlington and Fairfax County. We agree that Alexandria must be a party to such a regional transportation system in concert with our neighbors to alleviate traffic congestion, to introduce new modes of eco-friendly transit and to foster future growth to and along commercial corridors. However, we are unlike our neighbors who have many large, national and international corporations to help shoulder the burden of transportation costs. Our business tax base is predominantly comprised of small, locally owned and operated businesses that subsist on narrow profit margins. Over 90% of the City's 9,000+ businesses have fewer than 20 employees. To expect small business owners to bear tax burdens in a manner similar to the way our neighbors tax their businesses is unrealistic. It is also potentially crippling to the businesses that foster the unique charm we have in Alexandria which is craved by residents and promoted by the City.
- Commercial properties also make up a smaller portion of our tax base- relative to residential properties- about 45% of the total number of parcels in Alexandria. And when you remove apartments (since this tax won't apply to them), the percentage is much smaller. Instead of harming the small businesses that make up our commercial tax base, the City should focus on the Economic Sustainability Task Force Report recommendations to expand our tax base through thoughtful development and diversify business uses so that there is an adequate complement of larger businesses that can then pay their

proportionate, larger share of taxes. Imposing a commercial add-on tax now will merely hurt existing businesses and discourage new businesses from relocating to Alexandria.

- The City should embrace the fact that our community is different from our neighbors by not imposing such a commercial add-on tax and seize this opportunity to market our City as a tax haven for businesses and a more attractive option to locate a business as compared to our neighbors.
- Transportation is a core public service provided by the City. It is well-established that commercial properties require substantially less services from the City than do residential properties. Yet under the City's current taxing structure, commercial and residential properties are taxed at an equal rate. Thus, commercial property owners pay proportionately equal taxes for fewer services than residential property owners. Residents and businesses alike will benefit from transportation improvements, and thus, the funding of such improvements should result from a uniform tax rate.
- The commercial add-on tax is an inequitable method to fund transportation improvements that will benefit all Alexandrians. With the continuing economic uncertainty, Alexandria's businesses are not prepared to bear a disparate tax burden, particularly in light of other taxes and fees that have been imposed on businesses in recent years. We understand that transportation improvements, in the form of roadway improvement projects, new public transit systems and roadway maintenance, represent one of the most critical needs facing the City. We support these improvements and we are willing to pay our fair share. However, funding these needs cannot be borne solely by the business community.
- The Chamber recognizes the City's need to generate sufficient revenue to solve its transportation problems. However, the imposition of a commercial add-on tax cannot be supported by Alexandria's small business base. Rather, transportation improvements should be funded through general fund revenue or in connection with new developments.
- Commercial properties utilize a fraction of the City services used by residential properties. Thus, imposing a differential tax rate, such as the proposed 12.5-cent commercial add-on tax, will merely impose a higher tax on constituents who use less service.
- A 12.5-cent commercial add-on tax is expected to yield approximately \$12,000,000 in revenue for the City. By contrast, a 3-cent tax increase across the board for both residential and commercial properties will yield about the same amount of revenue for the City.
- The City has established a precedent for dedicated funds raised through the general real estate tax base in its creation of an open space fund. A similar



dedicated allocation of general revenue funding may be established for transportation infrastructure improvements. The City also has the ability to issue general obligation bonds using that dedicated fund for transportation improvement projects.

- The Chamber does not favor tax increases. However, to the extent that the City Council determines that it must raise revenue for 2012 to meet the City's core principles, then the Chamber posits that a tax increase for all properties is a fair and equitable solution that will provide such revenue without unduly singling out commercial properties.
- Care needs to be taken, however, to ensure that we avoid the overlay of too many tax alternatives. Increasing the overall tax rate and imposing other particular fees would be unduly burdensome and would discourage growth and development.
- The BPOL tax should be reformed and considered as a separate issue. The City's current proposal to offset the affect of the proposed commercial add-on tax by reducing BPOL would not go far enough to provide relief to our businesses as they fund the transportation bill. Further, any relief to businesses in this form should be shared equally in the same way that we pay the tax burden equally. Moreover, the tax rates for service industry professionals are among the highest in the region and serve as yet another barrier for professional service firms and other businesses wishing locate corporate headquarters in the City.

## **V. Commitment to Public Education**

- The Chamber applauds the City for the City maintaining its contribution to public education.
- This again presents an opportunity for Alexandria to promote the improvements to its public education programs and infrastructure, as a new leader in this region.
- The Chamber specifically encourages the City to invest in its school infrastructure, which is lagging behind the anticipated needs to serve our community.
- We are pleased that the City adopted a ten year capital improvement project budget. This means of projecting and prioritizing the City's CIP needs is critical to sound management. We encourage keeping our school infrastructure high on this list.

- Quality public education systems are a high priority for corporate America. Alexandria should be a beacon of excellence in this regard, both to benefit residents and their families and to attract new business to Alexandria.

## **VI. Commitment to Public Safety and Public Services**

- Public safety must remain a high priority for us to maintain an overall high quality of life for Alexandrians.
- Fire safety remains a major concern, as the City relies too heavily on support from neighboring jurisdictions and its own antiquated facilities and equipment. As the City continues to grow, it must meet its need for new fire stations and the replacement of obsolete facilities. This must be a CIP priority in the short term.
- Competitive compensation packages for City employees, especially in areas relating to public safety, also are important to maintaining a high quality work force. The Chamber supports merit-based pay raises to the City's best employees.
- The Chamber encourages the City to utilize efficiently existing staff resources in lieu of hiring outside consultants at additional cost to the City. Our City staff is made up of bright and competent professionals who know the City's needs better than a third party consultant, and the City can achieve significant savings by relying on our existing staff resources.

## **VII. Commitment to Excellence (Conclusion)**

- Our City has unique challenges and opportunities. The Chamber has very strong positions with respect to the direction that our City should take to ensure its fiscal stability and future prosperity. Many of our positions are consistent with those that we have heard from time to time taken by the current City Council.
- However, with respect to imposing disparate tax rates that have an inequitable impact on commercial properties or business operators, the Chamber must, and will, object strongly to such actions.
- In conclusion, the Chamber respects the difficult decisions faced by the City Council, and we urge you to focus on public education, public safety, economic development and fair and equitable tax rates that do not single out commercial properties and business owners.

2  
3-7-11

**Jackie Henderson**

---

**From:** donna bryant <donna.bryant@dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 07, 2011 12:26 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; delpepper@aol.com; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Alexandria - Special Tax  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Mon Mar 07, 2011 12:26:22] Message ID: [28270]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** donna  
**Last Name:** bryant  
**Street Address:** 710 Day Lane  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 7032990230  
**Email Address:** [donna.bryant@dhs.gov](mailto:donna.bryant@dhs.gov)  
**Subject:** Alexandria - Special Tax

I live in Potomac Greens and are very concerned about the special tax that we are being proposed to start paying for the new metro planned for Potomac Yards. I don't understand why we are being singled out to pay these taxes when all citizens in Alexandria, Delray, Old Town Greens, Crystal City will benefit from this metro. Please do not increase our taxes.....vote no to this increase for me and the rest of Potomac Greens.

2  
3-7-11

**Jackie Henderson**

**From:** Stacey Swartz <stacey@delraypharmacy.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 07, 2011 1:09 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; delpepper@aol.com; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Commercial Add-On Tax  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

**Time:** [Mon Mar 07, 2011 13:09:15] **Message ID:** [28272]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Stacey  
**Last Name:** Swartz  
**Street Address:** 2204 Mt. Vernon Ave  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:** 7038361700  
**Email Address:** [stacey@delraypharmacy.com](mailto:stacey@delraypharmacy.com)  
**Subject:** Commercial Add-On Tax

Good afternoon -

My name is Stacey Swartz and I'm the co-owner of

Neighborhood Pharmacy in Del Ray. We have been in business for nearly two

years and serve as one of only 2 independently owned community pharmacies

in the City of Alexandria. My business partner and I chose Alexandria, and

Del Ray in particular, because we are residents of the city and wanted to

**Comments:** provide a service to our neighbors that fulfills a previously unmet need in the community.

I'm writing today because we are deeply concerned about

the proposed commercial add-on tax. While we are not currently commercial

property owners, this tax will affect us. It is estimated that property

owners will see a 20-25% increase when you factor in the increase in

property assessment. This will have direct ramifications on our rent and

other property expenses. As a growing business, increases in fixed

expenses can limit our ability to grow and hire new employees.

It is

important for the Council to know that we support transportation

enhancements - it will only benefit our business and us as city residents -

but there has to be a better way that doesn't put the burden on funding on

the backs of Alexandria's small businesses.

Sincerely,  
Stacey Swartz,

PharmD  
Co-owner, Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray

2  
3-7-11

**Jackie Henderson**

**From:** Stacey Swartz <stacey@delraypharmacy.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 07, 2011 1:09 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; delpepper@aol.com; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Commercial Add-On Tax  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt

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

**Time:** [Mon Mar 07, 2011 13:09:15] **Message ID:** [28272]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Stacey  
**Last Name:** Swartz  
**Street Address:** 2204 Mt. Vernon Ave  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:** 7038361700  
**Email Address:** [stacey@delraypharmacy.com](mailto:stacey@delraypharmacy.com)

**Subject:** Commercial Add-On Tax  
Good afternoon -

My name is Stacey Swartz and I'm the co-owner of  
Neighborhood Pharmacy in Del Ray. We have been in business for nearly  
two  
years and serve as one of only 2 independently owned community  
pharmacies  
in the City of Alexandria. My business partner and I choose Alexandria,  
and

**Comments:** Del Ray in particular, because we are residents of the city and wanted to  
provide a service to our neighbors that fulfills a previously unmet need in  
the community.

I'm writing today because we are deeply concerned about  
the proposed commercial add-on tax. While we are not currently  
commerical  
property owners, this tax will affect us. It is estimated that property  
owners will see a 20-25% increase when you factor in the increase in  
property assessment. This will have direct ramifications on our rent and  
other property expenses. As a growing business, increases in fixed

expenses can limit our ability to grow and hire new employees.

It is

important for the Council to know that we support transportation

enhancements - it will only benefit our business and us as city residents -

but there has to be a better way that doesn't put the burden on funding on

the backs of Alexandria's small businesses.

Sincerely,  
Stacey Swartz,

PharmD  
Co-owner, Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray

2  
3-7-11

**Jackie Henderson**

**From:** Carolyn Griglione <carolyn.griglione@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 07, 2011 1:14 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; delpepper@aol.com; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Ft. Ward Park funding  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt

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

**Time:** [Mon Mar 07, 2011 13:14:06] **Message ID:** [28273]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Carolyn  
**Last Name:** Griglione  
**Street Address:** 1416 N. Ivanhoe St.  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22304  
**Phone:** 703 370-0653  
**Email Address:** [carolyn.griglione@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn.griglione@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Ft. Ward Park funding  
3.7.2011

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Donley, and Council Members

I

am writing to encourage you to include at least \$75,000.00 in the pending budget for an archaeological study of Ft. Ward Park. This money is needed

to get the ball rolling for necessary improvements to Ft. Ward Park. The archaeological study must be completed before the Master Plan for the park

**Comments:** can be created and the storm water management corrections constructed to prevent further water damage to the park as well as to the surrounding properties.

A wise approach might be to have Recreation, OHA and transportation & Environmental Services put \$300,000 in a Fort Ward

Historic Park Fund to: 1) complete the archaeology; 2) begin pre-planning for the master plan; and 3) complete planning for storm water management



and take a number of low-impact development actions to stop runoff from eroding the graves and grave stones and causing subsidence. This would allow the three departments to work together to make Ft. Ward Park a major focal point for residents of our city.

As you well know the longer the necessary improvements are put off the more costly they will become.

Usage, safety, and appearance of the park will be greatly impacted without

the necessary plans and corrections made. It is imperative that monies be budgeted to be sure these fundamental issues are underway promptly.

The

Fort Ward Park Advisory Group has worked tirelessly to assess needs and make recommendations for the park. The City needs to value these recommendations with the necessary funding so that the important work can

begin.

Thank you.

Carolyn Griglione

2  
Brenda D'Sylva  
3-7-11

Honorable Mayor, Members of City Council, Mr. Hartmann, Ms. Evans, Citizens of Alexandria. Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Brenda D'Sylva; I've been a City employee for 21 years and am president of the Alexandria Government Employees Association.

I stand before you today representing employees who are deeply troubled by certain aspects of the proposed FY2012 budget. Many will come before you this afternoon to argue for or against their needs as employees and citizens in this city. We have been and continue to be responsible stewards of the public trust in these very difficult economic times. For over two decades, we have endured reductions in pay, reductions in paid benefits, reduction in our workforce, and a reduction in our value as employees. I ask that you reverse this trend and move towards fair and equitable consideration of our current compensation needs.

Over the last four years, we have waited patiently, and with great anticipation, while the City went through numerous phases in an effort to establish the bench-marking of all City jobs. This effort would help determine just how far the City of Alexandria falls below the market and would guide the decision to rectify this disparity by raising employee salaries to meet the current market rate, or so we were led to believe.

In an effort to meet this 7% deficiency, the City has proposed changing our pay scales without adjusting the employee salaries accordingly. The planned process of adding additional steps and subtracting others is a method to artificially change the mid-point of current employees to give the appearance that we have improved our pay position with our competitors, while neglecting to compensate the majority of the employees fairly.

Equally of concern to all of us is the proposed 1% increase in the employee contribution towards the employee pension plan. This sounds reasonable on face value; however, for a workforce that is already being paid thousands less for the work we do, this is an enormous burden on our families. This sudden and unexpected proposal if approved amounts to a further reduction in pay for all employees.

We are sensitive to the prevailing national sentiment and concern for the cost of public pensions. However, these benefits in Alexandria have been negotiated, promised and enacted over preceding years in lieu of pay increases which were received by other employee groups and other jurisdictions. If you renege now you will have broken a trust that each and every employee had with its leadership and violate an agreement going back several years. I urge you to keep your promise. Now is not the time to regress and unnecessarily take back benefits that we have worked for and deserve to retain.

The proposed 1% increase in the employee contribution to the pension plan should not be enacted as it is underserved and unconscionable as it betrays past compensation agreements you made with your employees. A pension is a promise to reward and take care of an employee for their years of hard work and commitment. It should not be leveraged to close the gap on a temporary budget shortfall. I ask that you demonstrate

your support of all these hard working employees by removing the 1% pension payment from the budget.

Finally, I issue the following challenges to Council:

- 1) Give the deserved 7% MRA to the employees,
- 2) Remove the 1% increase in the employee contribution to the pension plan, and
- 3) Implement the bench-mark study for 100% (not 1/3) of all employees in the upcoming fiscal year.

We value this City. We ask that you value us, your employees.

Thank you.