3b
5-7-12

Jackie Henderson

From: Pamela Smith <naksmith@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 06, 2012 9:10 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: School Budget
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Sun May 06, 2012 21:09:31] Message ID: [39148]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Pamela
Last Name: Smith
Street Address: 1206 Stonnell pl
City: Alexandria
State: va
Zip: 22302
Phone: 703 933 0609
Email Address: naksmith@aol.com
Subject: School Budget

Comments:

Dear Council Members,

I have been a volunteer, tutor and parent of ACPS

students for the past 12 years, and while I certainly agree that the school

system is not perfect, making punitive yet stealthy budget cuts is unlikely

to create improvement. After all, ACPS used the same auditor as the city

and perhaps it is the auditor who should be disciplined and replaced. But

there are broader issues.....

Heated campaign rhetoric about only 15

percent of families having current students in ACPS minimizes the impact of

schools on all residents. Perhaps we plan to send our children in the

future, perhaps we work for or employ TC graduates. Perhaps we would just

like our fellow Alexandrians to be educated and self supporting, which in

the long run saves tax dollars! Or maybe we'd like our houses to maintain

the value that would be lost if schools go downhill. A strong community

works together and everyone gains. The opposite is true when communities

are subdivided and polarized.

Finally, whatever you may think of the current school superintendent, it is the students and teachers that will bear the cost of these financial games, so please think carefully and act wisely when you meet on monday to set the school budget.

Sincerely,

Pam Smith

Jackie Henderson

From: Priscilla Goodwin <goodwinpriscilla@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 06, 2012 8:28 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: cutting school budget?
Attachments: ATT00002.txt

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

Time: [Sun May 06, 2012 20:28:11] Message ID: [39146]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Priscilla
Last Name: Goodwin
Street Address: 306 Mansion Drive
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22302
Phone: 703-549-6139
Email Address: goodwinpriscilla@gmail.com
Subject: cutting school budget?
Comments: Dear Mayor Euille and Members of the City Council:

I am concerned that

you are considering cutting the ACPS budget at your add-delete work session

on
Monday. As President of the T.C. Williams High School

Parent-Teacher-Student Association I am very
aware of both the current

state of the schools and what our parents feel about our schools. Contrary

to
the opinion of the few loud critics currently running for City

Council, all of the parents I have talked to in
our PTSA, serving both

the King Street and Minnie Howard campuses (that's 3,000 students), are

happy
with their children's education. It's not perfect but there is a

decided improvement in the TC curriculum,
faculty, principal, discipline

and student expectations since Dr. Sherman began working in ACPS. To
we

parents, those are the most important aspects of education along with

facilities and we were already
blessed with a wonderful building.

Our

PTSA spends a great deal of time communicating with our community
through

our weekly email
newsletter, our Facebook page, our website and our

monthly meetings. I often get questions or
comments about many topics

but I have not received a single mention of Superintendent Mort Sherman

or the CIP problem or the Adult education problem. In fact, we widely

advertised for several weeks that
Dr. Sherman was coming to our April

meeting and we solicited requests for discussion topics. This is
what

was submitted by parents: building tennis courts at TC Williams, the

state waiver for No Child Left
Behind legislation, how TC will deal with

the loss of the $1 million transformation money next year, and the
new

satellite campus. Not one person at our meeting said a negative thing to

Dr. Sherman and all were
grateful he took the time to come to our

meeting. You are too busy reading letters to the editor and are
out of

touch with what parents really think. Parents know that ACPS Central

Office started both the
investigations of the CIP accounting and the

Adult Ed program and we are happy with the resulting
improvements in

these areas. If more parents of ACPS students were unhappy with the

superintendent
the School Board would hear about it. Parents are not shy

about testifying there on topics that matter to
them.

My husband and I

went to Alexandria public schools and we both graduated from TC. Our
older

two
children are TC graduates now in college and our youngest is in 10th

grade. So I have a long history of

involvement with our schools and

since my children have been in ACPS we have had three
superintendents.

Dr. Sherman is by far the best superintendent I've seen here in terms of

student
academic achievement. If you cut the budget my 10th grader will

be ok. I am more concerned for my little
brother's son who is starting

kindergarten at Lyles-Crouch this fall. I am concerned that the

family-
friendly Alexandria I have loved for so long is developing an

anti-child bias, and that just as more and
more children are entering

ACPS you are entertaining the false notion that since only 15% of

households
in Alexandria have children you don't need to cover the cost

of educating them. Arlington and Fairfax
both spend a bigger chunk of

their budget than Alexandria and Dr. Sherman has brought the cost per
pupil

down!

Please know that although parents are often too busy with their

children to write letters to the editor or
come to City Council meetings,

we do vote and T.C. Williams parents will be informed of council actions

regarding school budget cuts.

Thank you to those of you who do care

about our kids.

Priscilla Goodwin

Jackie Henderson

From: Lee Ann Lynch <lee.lynch@edelman.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 06, 2012 3:51 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Please restore childcare funding assistance in Alexandria s FY13 Budget
Attachments: ATT00002.txt

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

Time: [Sun May 06, 2012 15:50:38] Message ID: [39141]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Lee Ann
Last Name: Lynch
Street Address: 23 W Masonic View Ave
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703-299-0893
Email Address: lee.lynch@edelman.com
Subject: Please restore childcare funding assistance in Alexandria's FY13 Budget
Comments: Mr. Mayor and Members of Council:

I am writing you because the City Manager has recommended in this FY13 Proposed Budget, elimination of $519,680 in funding for early childhood programs in the City. Because I see the difference quality early childhood programs are making in the lives of my children and their fellow students, I write to urge you to set aside $500,000 in funding to address the unmet childcare needs in the City.

There are over 400 children currently on the City's waiting for childcare tuition assistance. These are the children of low-income, working parents – our City's most vulnerable families. Without the City's help, they will not have access to childcare and will likely enter kindergarten under-prepared for achievement in school and success beyond.

All three of my children are in school at Hopkins House. We pay full tuition for my children but we know that a number of their fellow students benefit from the City's past funding of early childhood learning

programs in that they can also attend Hopkins House even though their

parents may not be able to afford it. We think it is wonderful that they

are also being given a great educational start in life, because of the

City's funding, when they otherwise may not be.

Guided by you, as our

elected representatives, Alexandria has had a longtime and strong

commitment to the early care of the City's children, particularly those of

our low-income, working families. Abandoning this commitment to the State,

which has not evidenced the same commitment to our children, would be a

grievous error.

I understand the City has a $9.2 million budget surplus.

I hope that some of this money could be used for the benefit of our City's

future and most precious resource: our children.

I urge you not to

abandon our children and to support the recommendations of the City's newly

formed Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission to set aside

$500,000 in the FY13 Budget for childcare in the City.

Thank you for

your consideration of this. Lee Ann Lynch, Alexandria resident

Jackie Henderson

From: Cynthia and Charles Evans <cynthiaevans52@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 05, 2012 7:30 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: schools budget cut
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Sat May 05, 2012 19:30:24] Message ID: [39133]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Cynthia and Charles
Last Name: Evans
Street Address: 1211 Saint Stephens Road
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 7033703113
Email Address: cynthiaevans52@gmail.com
Subject: schools budget cut
Comments: Although we have no children attending Alexandria City Schools, we are opposed to any plan to cut the school budget. The quality of life here in Alexandria has deteriorated greatly in the last 15 years due to out-of-control development and poor transportation planning that has turned a lovely town into a highly urban city. One thing that helps any area attract and keep residents is a strong school system. In order to build strong schools, we need to attract and hire excellent teachers and provide them with enough staff development to keep the schools moving in the right direction. We need to be sure to provide our teachers with the salary and benefits including pensions that allow them to live here where they teach (since commuting in this area gets worse by the minute with Seminary Road/BRAC a case in point). It is short-sighted to take away funds from our schools. We do not resent paying taxes when it is for the benefit of the children of Alexandria. In fact, we are happy to do so. It is your job to use that money wisely and investing in our future through the schools is one way of doing that.

Very truly yours,
Cynthia and Charles

Evans

Jackie Henderson

From: Arden Levy <levyab@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 05, 2012 6:35 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Proposal to cut 1.23 MIllion or more from ACPC
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Sat May 05, 2012 18:34:35] Message ID: [39131]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Arden
Last Name: Levy
Street Address: 3805 Griffith Place
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703-850-0145
Email Address: levyab@hotmail.com
Subject: Proposal to cut 1.23 MIllion or more from ACPC
Comments: I urge the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members to do everything possible

NOT to cut any part of the ACPS budget. It was shocking to learn that in

these tough times, when ACPS already has had to cut staff at my child's

school - Macarthur Elementary school - that there is an undebated proposal

on the table to cut money from the budget. I realize that ACPS has

received more money from the State than expected, but that money will not

cover certain parts of salaries, such as payroll, and will end up hurting

ACPS. Moreover, I understand that at least Councilman Fanon has proposed

cutting even more, maybe up to $250,000 because the majority of

Alexandrians do not have children in the school system. Again, this is

shocking. Just as ACPS has made great strides, such that more parents are

choosing public school over private, the Council has acted in a way to

prevent further strides. I also understand that some of this is due, in

part, to somehow punish ACPS for the facilities problems.
I have been

uninterested in council member elections until now. And now, rest assured, if all the council members do not act in the best interests of ACPS and keep the full $1.23 million in the budget, I will do everything in my power to ensure that council members without children in the school sytem are voted out of office in November. Act as responsible representatives; not as petty individuals uninterested in the best interests of our schools.
Than you.

Jackie Henderson

From: Alys Hart <chart90033@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 05, 2012 12:40 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Children and Seniors
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Sat May 05, 2012 12:39:47] Message ID: [39128]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Alys
Last Name: Hart
Street Address: 4604 Newcomb Place
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703 370 3977
Email Address: chart90033@gmail.com
Subject: Children and Seniors

Comments:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would hope you would consider the most vulnerable in the City when you work on your budget for this upcoming fiscal year. Cutting funds from preschool programs and anything for Seniors would be detrmental to both children and Seniors. How can you spend money on other things and forget these, I repeat, most vulnerable citizens of Alexandria?

Also the plan for the Metro Station at King Street leaves something to be desired. The lack of parking for those of us who live on the West End and have little access to Metro (one station that you have to drive to) is not right. Maybe you could delay the redecorating of this area and have money for the children and seniors.

The balanced budget for this City should not be made on the backs of those most vulnerable. Early child education has been proven to give children a boost and your "moms and dads" need to be remembered when they are no longer able to help themselves. Don't we have a moral obligation to help

them?

Alys Hart

Jackie Henderson

From: Eileen Brady <ebrady4@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, May 05, 2012 8:09 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: ACPS budget
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Sat May 05, 2012 08:08:38] Message ID: [39126]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Eileen
Last Name: Brady
Street Address: 323 Helmuth Ln
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 9375271625
Email Address: ebrady4@comcast.net
Subject: ACPS budget
Comments: Alexandria keeps sending the message to its citizens that the local public schools are not a priority. The sad thing is that neighboring districts make sure their schools ARE a priority, so people with the means are leaving Alexandria all the time. I personally have made a list of children my daughter has met over the past four years around our Cameron Station neighborhood. More than 45 of those kids have moved for better schools or are attending private schools! That is appalling, and it has made the rest of us feel like total chumps for continuing to send our children to ACPS schools.

Jackie Henderson

From: Gwen Day-Fuller <gwen_dayfuller@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, May 05, 2012 12:44 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Support for the RARE Program(Reach and Rise for Excellence
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Sat May 05, 2012 00:43:42] Message ID: [39125]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Gwen
Last Name: Day-Fuller
Street Address: 4017 Fort Worth Avenue
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 7033703199
Email Address: gwen_dayfuller@comcast.net
Subject: Support for the RARE Program(Reach and Rise for Excellence
Comments:

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Donley and City Council Members,
I

encourage you to include the RARE Program in your current budget.
Some of

you have attended our
Community Forums and our past Fund Raisers and you

are aware of the very important work we are
doing in the community.

Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria is a broad based

organization
focused on the improvement of the educational experience of

low achieving students in the Alexandria
community. At the moment, our

primary vehicle to accomplish our goal is the RARE Program which is
held

as Hammond School. Our Co Chair and Executive Director, has outlined
in

past correspondence our
very lofty and attainable goals. We want to

encourage and support our students to Reach and Rise for
Excellence.

I am appealing to you to support us financially so that we, as a

grassroots and community based
organization , will be able to bring our

wrap around services to all struggling students in the middle
schools.

We want to continue to engage and support the parents of our students so

that they can support us as we
continue to build and disseminate

meaningful and productive programs to their children.
Our work cannot

be completed without necessary financial assistance. We have struggled
to

keep
afloat with the limited resources we have received but in order to

continue ,we need the support of the city
and your confidence and

financial encouragement. We are asking for at least $20,000 to help us

provide
for the children who are so deserving. We don't want to have to

look back and say we had an opportunity
to make a difference and did not

take it. This has happened so many times in the lives of so many of our

children. We want to be the change agent that stays the course and
makes

the difference. Thank you for
your consideration. I hope that you will

all support our efforts.

Jackie Henderson

From: LINDA JIMENEZ <lindasgi@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, May 05, 2012 12:03 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Alexandria City Public School
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Sat May 05, 2012 00:02:41] Message ID: [39124]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: LINDA
Last Name: JIMENEZ
Street Address: 2501 9th Road s. #263
City: Arlington
State: va
Zip: 22204
Phone: 7032835940
Email Address: lindasgi@comcast.net
Subject: Alexandria City Public School
Comments: Good Morning, just read email from the PTA, regarding cutting the budget for Alexandria schools. I would like to know with the budget cut how will the City take care of the mold/fungus in the classrooms. Please consider the students and the teachers who are trying so hard to keep healthy and still teach the students who are experiencing health issues due to the ever present mold/fungi in the school. The ACPS facilities, I am sure are working as hard as they can to fix the situation however, this is a very serious life changing event for everyone involved in Mac Arthur Elementary School. The school is very old and the board members should come and visit the schools to see the conditions. If you so kindly honor the school with your presents, you may understand the need for a budget that will provide a safe environment. Thank you so much for your time and attention to this matter.

Jackie Henderson

From: Julie Rocchio <jrocchio2@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 11:04 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Please do not cut the ACPS allocation by $1.23 million
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 23:04:07] Message ID: [39123]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Julie
Last Name: Rocchio
Street Address: 5052 Kilburn Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703-824-8763
Email Address: jrocchio2@comcast.net
Subject: Please do not cut the ACPS allocation by $1.23 million
Comments: I understand that the State is providing ACPS with $1.23 million to partially offset a new State salary mandate. This is obviously not "found" money for ACPS. Yet, I further understand that you are considering taking that same amount away from our City's schools. I cannot imagine a fiscally sound reason to penalize ACPS for receiving State funds to partially pay for new expenses required by the State. At least the State is sharing in the cost of its new mandate. If what I am hearing from other parents and PTAs is accurate, it appears that our own City government is about to turn a partially funded State mandate into a truly unfunded mandate.

Please do not cut the ACPS allocation by $1.23 million. My children need your continued support of their school system. Thank you.

Jackie Henderson

From: Karma Brown <Karma_b_brown@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 7:49 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: No cuts to ACPS budget
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 19:49:14] Message ID: [39121]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Karma
Last Name: Brown
Street Address: 610 Oakley place
City: Alexandria
State: Va
Zip: 22302
Phone:
Email Address: Karma_b_brown@yahoo.com
Subject: No cuts to ACPS budget
Comments:

I urge you not to cut the school budget. The schools are already in

jeopardy and the teachers and students deserve
better. What message are

you sending to your citizens if you do not support the public schools,

which already have a
horrible reputation in this area. We hope to stay

in the City and send our children to public school, but are evaluating

given the current dynamic. I do not think the City would be wise to move

forward with this cut, especially given how
minimal it must be in the

overall City budget.

Sincerely, Karma Brown

Jackie Henderson

From: Kristen Gullott <kmpal@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 6:58 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: ACPS Budget Cuts
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 18:58:10] Message ID: [39120]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Kristen
Last Name: Gullott
Street Address:
City:
State:
Zip:
Phone:
Email Address: kmpal@hotmail.com
Subject: ACPS Budget Cuts
Comments: THANK YOU for finally cutting the ACPS budget! It is nice to know that you

finally understand that
increased funding does not result in higher test

scores or better outcomes. We live down the street from
a special

education teachers that brags she only has to work 3 days a week
because no

one knows what
she is doing, has summers off and makes over $90,000 a

year. She also complains that she is FORCED
to pay for healthcare...I

guess like those of us common taxpayers that actually have to work for a

living.

ACPS pay is one of the highest in the area, yet Arlington County

blows us away in terms of test scores
and performance. As a fluent

spanish speaker, I had no choice but to send my daughter to private
school

as the "spanish" being taught at our neighborhood school, Mt

Vernon Community, would get me thrown
out of any boardroom or courtroom

in Mexico.

The children of Alexandria deserve better than to be taught

by people more focused on their pay than
their students. If Alexandria

was a county, we would be one of the top 10 wealthiest in the country, yet

our
schools rank near the bottom nationally.

Please continue to cut

expenses, and staff, until outcomes improve. Less than half of all

students eligible
to attend public school in Alexandria actually attend,

we as parents won't risk out children's future to
make a social

statement.

As a hispanic woman I can say that after living in NYC,

Boston and Texas, it is only in Alexandria that I feel
the city makes a

statement that minority equals poor. Please know that ethnicity has

nothing to do with
success, if it did Barack Obama would not be

president.

Jackie Henderson

From: Shelli Vasser Gilliam <ShelliVG@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 6:41 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: City of Alexandria Support for CCNA and RARt
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 18:41:08] Message ID: [39119]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Shelli
Last Name: Vasser Gilliam
Street Address: 5240 Tancreti Lane
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone:
Email Address: ShelliVG@aol.com
Subject: City of Alexandria Support for CCNA and RARt
Comments:

Hello, I am writing in support of a much needed after-school program

currently operating in the City of Alexandria. CCNA manages the RARE

program, which is making an incredible difference in the lives of many

middle school children in the City.

As adults, I am sure we all

understand and remember the profound, life-cycle effect education and

after-school programs had on us as children. These programs will continue

to positively impact today's youth, if we make them a priority.

Children today need opportunities to learn, develop and prosper in a

caring, uplifting environment. The RARE program accomplishes this

objective, and is desperately needed by those who are already being served.

As a City resident (of 17 years), I expect my taxpayer dollars to go

toward necessary programs such as RARE.

I respectfully ask Mayor

Euille and the City Council to support CCNA with funding in FY 2013, so

that it can continue to educate and provide learning opportunities for our children. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Shelli Vasser Gilliam

Jackie Henderson

From: Heidi Parsont <bulowheidi@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 6:39 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: School budget cuts
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 18:39:08] Message ID: [39118]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Heidi
Last Name: Parsont
Street Address: 838 Fontaine St.
City: Alexandria
State: va
Zip: 22302
Phone: 7035671960
Email Address: bulowheidi@comcast.net
Subject: School budget cuts

Comments:

I was very distressed to hear the news that the City Council wants to

further cut the ACPS budget by removing the exact amount of money that the

school system is receiving from the state. Our teacher salaries are not

competitive with neighboring jurisdictions and this will further exacerbate

the problem and give the impression that the city does not support our

teachers.

ACPS is heading in the right direction. Please do not derail

these efforts by removing $1.23M from the budget. I will happily pay

higher taxes if the money is going to education. I beg you to reconsider

your actions. It is extremely short-sighted and doesn't address the larger

problem of improving student learning in the classroom.

I trust that the

City Council will do the right thing and restore this money to the budget.

It is critical for our children to learn from the best teachers possible

and this will allow us to attract an even higher caliber of

teachers.

Thank you.

Jackie Henderson

From: Jacqueline S. Walker <Jacquesandi@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 5:52 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: FY13 Proposed Childcare Set Aside Request
Attachments: 9073b5646d01aa4d0a00b33cd2fe739c.docx; ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 17:51:32] Message ID: [39117]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Jacqueline S.
Last Name: Walker
Street Address: 1301 Princess Street
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22314
Phone: 202.306.0801
Email Address: Jacquesandi@comcast.net
Subject: FY13 Proposed Childcare Set Aside Request
Comments:

Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council,

Attached find my request

for a FY13 Childcare set aside of $500,000 to assist our most needy

children for unmet childcare needs.

Your fervent consideration is most

appreciated.
Very Sincerely,
Jacqueline S. Walker

Attachment: 9073b5646d01aa4d0a00b33cd2fe739c.docx

May 4, 2012

1301 Princess Street
Alexandria, Virginia

William D. Euille, Mayor
Alexandria City Hall
301 King St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council:

I am a resident of Alexandria, Virginia and a home owner for over eight (8) years. I have been privileged to serve as a member of the Hopkins House Preschool Academy Committee. In that capacity, I write to request your support for a FY13 budget set aside for the children of Alexandria in need of tuition assistance.

The City Manager has recommended in the FY13 Proposed Budget, elimination of $519,680 in funding for early childhood programs in the City. I strongly urge you to set aside $500,000 in funding to address the unmet childcare needs in the City.

There are over 400 children currently on the City's waiting for childcare tuition assistance. These are the children of low-income, working parents – our City's most vulnerable families. Without the City's help, they will not have access to childcare and will likely enter kindergarten under-prepared for achievement in school and success beyond.

Guided by you, as our elected representatives, Alexandria has had a longtime and strong commitment to the early care of the City's children, particularly those of our low-income, working families. Abandoning this commitment to the State, which has not evidenced the same commitment to our children, would be a grievous error.

I understand the City has a $9.2 million budget surplus. Certainly, some of this money could be used for the benefit of our City's future and most precious resource: our children.

I urge you and Members of our City Council to not abandon our children. I request your unwavering support for the recommendations of the City's newly formed Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission to set aside $500,000 in the FY13 Budget for childcare in the City.

Very Sincerely,
Jacqueline S. Walker
Jacqueline S. Walker
Hopkins House Preschool Academy

Cc: Council Members
J. Glenn Hopkins

Jackie Henderson

From: Jennifer and Gordon Lubold <jenniferlubold@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 5:48 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Removal of $1.24M from ACPS BUDGET
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 17:48:15] Message ID: [39116]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Jennifer and Gordon
Last Name: Lubold
Street Address: 2716 Sycamore St
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22305
Phone: 703 5199889
Email Address: jenniferlubold@yahoo.com
Subject: Removal of $1.24M from ACPS BUDGET
Comments:

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members,

We do not support the

removal of $1.24M from the ACPS school budget which would be used to

increase and
compensate teachers. Let's not send the best and brightest

teachers running to Arlington and Fairfax to
teach -- please help keep

them in Alexandria.

Thank you,
Jennifer and Gordon Lubold

Jackie Henderson

From: Sherry Delaney <sherrykd@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 5:36 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: ACPS Funding
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 17:35:49] Message ID: [39115]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Sherry
Last Name: Delaney
Street Address:
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22302
Phone: 7038380390
Email Address: sherrykd@comcast.net
Subject: ACPS Funding
Comments:

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor and Council Members:

My PTA president seems to

think that I should oppose your consideration of a cut in ACPS's allocation

to
match an unexpected state windfall. I disagree. Under normal

circumstances I would support providing
every penny we can to our public

school students.

ACPS finances, however, have been grossly mismanaged

and we have a publicly available audit to prove it. I
am deeply offended

that Dr. Sherman thinks he should not be held both accountable and

responsible for an
incompetent financial reorganization that he approved.

I am incensed at his temerity in threatening to raid
pension funds if

Council cuts the allocation.

Dr. Sherman's destructive mismanagement

must stop. If the School Board lacks the will to rein him in,
Council

must do so using the only weapon at its disposal. Please send him a message

that someone in City
leadership is taking his mismanagement seriously.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,
Sherry Delaney

Jackie Henderson

From: Leslie Kostrich <lkostrich@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 5:25 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Funds in 2013 budget for Traffic Calming
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 17:25:15] Message ID: [39113]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Leslie
Last Name: Kostrich
Street Address: 410 Skyhill Road
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703-751-1882
Email Address: lkostrich@gmail.com
Subject: Funds in 2013 budget for Traffic Calming
Comments: I live in the Clover-College Park area. The last few years have brought notable increases in cut-through traffic in our neighborhood streets. We are getting over-flow traffic from the major arteries near us -- King St, Duke St, and Quaker Lane. I walk in the neighborhood several times a day, and Janneys Lane is very difficult to cross during rush hour because of heavy traffic. Many of these vehicles cut over to Duke through Clover and College Park using streets such as Skyhill, Taylor Run, Cambridge, and Yale. Much of this traffic is headed to the Beltway and reflects the efforts of drivers determined to minimize their time on Duke St.

We need measures to not only reduce the volume of traffic through our neighborhood but to slow it down. It is imperative that the city approach the problem in a holistic way; piecemeal solutions have the unfortunate impact of pushing cut-through traffic from one residential street to another. I urge you to include funds in the 2013 budget for the Traffic Calming Program including a coordinator who will look at our entire

neighborhood and help come up with long-term and effective solutions to this problem.

Thanks for the opportunity to make my opinion known to you through the Alexandria website.

Jackie Henderson

From: Christian Bowers <cbowers23@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 4:46 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Traffic Calming Funds for 2013
Attachments: 34040a0e2976ac6092970f2e1a14b2fd.docx; ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 16:46:07] Message ID: [39112]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Christian
Last Name: Bowers
Street Address: 602 W Taylor Run Parkway
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone:
Email Address: cbowers23@hotmail.com
Subject: Traffic Calming Funds for 2013

Comments:

Dear Council Members,

We reside with our 18 month old son on West

Taylor Run Parkway between Janneys Lane and Duke Street. In 2003 a set of

three speed tables were installed on our street between Janneys and

Dartmouth in an attempt to reduce considerably high traffic speeds, and

subsequently improve pedestrian safety on the street. Since then, the

number of households on the street with young children has risen

considerably.
In the fall of 2009, West Taylor Run between Janneys and

Duke was repaved. However, the speed tables were not also repaved at this

time along with the main road. West Taylor Run receives a considerable

amount of through traffic on a daily basis. A study performed by the city

in 2011 found that the volume on the street exceeded 5,000 vehicles daily.

This study was performed during the summer months, and the volume is much

higher during the remainder of the year. With the opening of the Mark

Center, traffic volumes have increased further. In addition, the cut-through traffic problem is not limited to our street but is a problem throughout the Clover College Park neighbourhood, which sits in between King and Duke street.

Specific to West Taylor Run, eight years of heavy traffic volume has taken its toll on the speed tables and they have deteriorated significantly since being installed. Additionally, they now sit much lower relative to the main road as a result of the 2009 repaving. The combination of general wear and tear and the repaving has rendered all three relatively ineffective. In fact, a majority of the vehicles travelling down West Taylor no longer slow down, but rather just drive right over them. Our home is right off Janneys Lane and it is not uncommon to witness cars to turn onto West Taylor off Janneys and drive right over the speed tables while increasing speed.

The speed tables were originally installed in order to make the street a safer place for those living on it as well as pedestrians and cyclists using the street. Their deterioration has made it much more dangerous along the length of the street compared to when they were originally installed. This is particularly true for the many young children who now live along the street.

We understand that for the past several years there have been no funds allotted for traffic calming initiatives. We would like to request that the council please reconsider this as they are determining the budget for the next fiscal year. We have hopes that there may be funds available not only to perform the required maintenance on the speed tables on West Talyor Run in order to return them to the condition needed for them to be effective, but also for additional efforts to help make our street, as well as those in the Clover College Park area safer for those living here. The current volume of cut-through traffic and the high speeds that most vehicles are travelling at is especially for the young children living in our neighbourhood.

It would be a tragedy if an accident were to occur where a child is seriously injured, or worse, killed as a result of a car

travelling too fast because the proper safety measures were not maintained.

We know that we are not alone in our feelings on this issue as a large

number of our neighbours on West Taylor have also expressed their concern.

The allocation of funds for neighbourhood traffic calming measures will

enable the city to do what is needed to ensure the safety of those living

in Alexandria, most importantly the our children and other pedestrians and

cyclists using our neighbourhood streets on a daily basis.
We look forward

to your response to this issue and hope that the council sees the

seriousness of this issue and will allocate sufficient funds for this

program in the upcoming year. If you have any questions or would like to

discuss this matter with us personally, please do not hesitate to call at

the number below.

Kind Regards,
Christian Bowers & Nicole

Veri
602 W Taylor Run Parkway
Alexandria, VA
202-414-1334

Attachment: 34040a0e2976ac6092970f2e1a14b2fd.docx

Jackie Henderson

From: Susan Willis <shwillis76@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 4:41 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Funding for Community Lodgings
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Tue May 01, 2012 16:41:26] Message ID: [38990]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Susan
Last Name: Willis
Street Address:
City: Alexandria
State:
Zip: 22304
Phone:
Email Address: shwillis76@gmail.com
Subject: Funding for Community Lodgings
Comments:

To Whom it May Concern:

It has come to my attention that City

Council has taken steps to drastically reduce funding for Community

Lodgings. As a long-time supporter of this outstanding organization, and

as someone familiar with the success of their program, I find it

inexplicable that you would threaten their ability to survive by

discontinuing your financial support. Unlike many organizations that serve

Alexandria citizens, Community Lodgings doesn't just feed them and send

them on their way, rather, they provide the necessary training and

education to equip them to feed themselves and become productive members of

our community. While Community Lodgings certainly acts as a temporary

bridge for the formerly homeless, their high level of success lies in their

ability to provide unique, one-on-one services, while demanding commitment

and performance on the part of everyone accepted into their program. If

anything, Alexandria needs more such programs; we can ill afford to lose

this one.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter, and I urge you to make the correct decision and restore all funding to Community Lodgings.

Jackie Henderson

From: Michael Caison <mcaison@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 8:40 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: FY 013 Budget Housing
Attachments: f3a3243048293b1718e8eab29c08ac0b.pdf; ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Mon Apr 09, 2012 20:40:20] Message ID: [38362]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Michael
Last Name: Caison
Street Address: 3104 Montrose
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22305
Phone: 703-624-1830
Email Address: mcaison@comcast.net
Subject: FY 013 Budget Housing
Comments:

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of City Council

During the April 5th

meeting of the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, we held a lively

discussion
of the City Manager's Proposed FY2013 Budget for the Office of

Housing. While we recognize the
competing demands for a limited amount

of federal and local funds for affordable housing, we are very
concerned

about the proposed, and effective elimination, of the City's
Homeownership

Assistance
Program and the Employee Homeownership Incentive Program.

The Committee unanimously supported a position that the City should
seek

to restore funding to these
critical programs as soon as additional funds

become available. It was noted that only about 15 percent
of City

employees actually live in the City of Alexandria and the importance of

increasing the number of
employees who live locally is critical to the

City's ability to respond to emergencies.
While these programs

were considered the highest priority for restoration, other housing

assistance
programs should also be considered and recognized for their

importance to Alexandria residents and
workers. This is particularly

true of the City's homebuyer counseling and training programs. Such

programs are routinely cited as the most effective means of preventing

future foreclosures and creating
sustainable and affordable homeownership

opportunities.
The Committee also noted that the timing of these

reductions is particularly troubling given that lower
income residents

and workers may have more affordable purchase opportunities as a result
of

foreclosures and short sales.
The restoration of funding is

considered an urgent issue because of the many partnerships and

leveraging opportunities that the City has developed over the 30 plus

years history of the HAP. We ask
that City Council direct staff to

explore other funding options to preserve these services. (As one of the

longer term members of AHAC, I would argue in some respects these

programs were the early lead in
Northern VA in providing assistance, and

the cornerstone programs of the City's affordable housing
initiatives

when I first started volunteering back in the late 90s, and I'm sure Kerry

will correct me if I'm
wrong.)
To date, more than 1100 households

have been assisted through the City's down-payment assistance
programs.

Given ever increasing rents and the possibility of mass displacement from

redevelopment
within the City, affordable homeownership should not be

overlooked as a means of providing long term affordable housing for the

City's lower income residents.

Sincerely,
Michael Caison
Chair,

AHAC

Attachment: f3a3243048293b1718e8eab29c08ac0b.pdf

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of City Council

During the April 5th meeting of the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, we held a lively discussion of the City Manager's Proposed FY2013 Budget for the Office of Housing. While we recognize the competing demands for a limited amount of federal and local funds for affordable housing, we are very concerned about the proposed, and effective elimination, of the City's Homeownership Assistance Program and the Employee Homeownership Incentive Program.

The Committee unanimously supported a position that the City should seek to restore funding to these critical programs as soon as additional funds become available. It was noted that only about 15 percent of City employees actually live in the City of Alexandria and the importance of increasing the number of employees who live locally is critical to the City's ability to respond to emergencies.

While these programs were considered the highest priority for restoration, other housing assistance programs should also be considered and recognized for their importance to Alexandria residents and workers. This is particularly true of the City's homebuyer counseling and training programs. Such programs are routinely cited as the most effective means of preventing future foreclosures and creating sustainable and affordable homeownership opportunities.

The Committee also noted that the timing of these

reductions is particularly troubling given that lower income residents and workers may have more affordable purchase opportunities as a result of foreclosures and short sales.

The restoration of funding is considered an urgent issue because of the many partnerships and leveraging opportunities that the City has developed over the 30 plus years history of the HAP. We ask that City Council direct staff to explore other funding options to preserve these services. (As one of the longer term members of AHAC, I would argue in some respects these programs were the early lead in Northern VA in providing assistance, and the cornerstone programs of the City's affordable housing initiatives when I first started volunteering back in the late 90s, and I'm sure Kerry will correct me if I'm wrong.)

To date, more than 1100 households have been assisted through the City's down-payment assistance programs. Given ever increasing rents and the possibility of mass displacement from redevelopment within the City, affordable homeownership should not be overlooked as a means of providing long term affordable housing for the City's lower income residents.

Sincerely,
Michael Caison
Chair, AHAC

Jackie Henderson

From: Gay Pasley <glpasley@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 27, 2012 9:24 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Senior Taxi
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Fri Apr 27, 2012 09:23:35] Message ID: [38878]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Gay
Last Name: Pasley
Street Address: 411 Jackson Place
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22302
Phone: 703 6834346
Email Address: glpasley@gmail.com
Subject: Senior Taxi
Comments: Having studied the recently publised 5 Year Strategic Plan for Alexandria's Service to Seniors, I know you are well aware of impending growth in the Senior Population with the aging of the Baby Boomer generation. As a member of the first decade of the Baby Boomers who has spent many hours in the care of my parent's and their siblings, I volunteered to support the work of Senior Services of Alexandria and eventually joined its board where I am currently a member of the Executive Board. Without exception I am a strong supporter of all the senior programs which SSA provides through its partnership with the city. The need for Meals of Wheels is clearly established. However, in recent years I have been reviewing studies of what services seniors view as most essential to their desire to remain independent and self-sufficient. One result of senior surveys that appears over and over is the importance of transportation services to seniors. In the current economy most seniors are going to remain in their homes for more years than they may have originally planned and so it is important

that the city leaders recognize that the need for senior transportation will grow significantly in the coming years. One study I read concerning the Washington area indicated that transportation was not only a need but over 80 % of those interviewed indicated it to be by far their most important need.

While your knowledge of Senior Taxi may start in the mid 1980's when the city first asked SSA to take over the reservation's portion of the service, SSA actually approached the City Council in 1974 with the request to initiate the Senior Taxi Program for medical appointments and grocery store visits. Transportation for Seniors is not simply calling a service for a scheduled ride. Seniors have understandable needs for guidance in determining how long it will take to get to the doctor's, is the doctor's office accessible by the transit system, etc.

For that reason Yellow Taxi has made it clear to city officials that their staff do not have the time to give such supportive care to clients who call them with such special needs as medical visits and food shopping.

As you consider the city's need for $70,000 in the coming budget, please recognize that among all the many services the city is reviewing as candiddates for budget cuts, the Senior Taxi is clearly one where the city's residents have few alternatives and therefore their dependence makes any decision to reorganize senior transportation particularly harmful to senior well-being.

Jackie Henderson

From: Jay Thomas <jaythomas@alphagraphics.com>
Sent: Friday, April 27, 2012 9:44 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: 2013 Budget and the Senior Taxi program
Attachments: 51bde1e9ccf1502783abd46b492f0c38.docx; ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Fri Apr 27, 2012 09:43:42] Message ID: [38881]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Jay
Last Name: Thomas
Street Address: 1001 N Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Va 22314
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22314
Phone: 7035492432
Email Address: jaythomas@alphagraphics.com
Subject: 2013 Budget and the Senior Taxi program
Comments:

Council Members,

I am contacting you about the upcoming 2013 Budget and

the Senior Taxi program. I am on the Board at SSA
and our President,

Barbara Anderson, wrote a letter that explains the situation best so I have

attached it. I
would hope that you would consider SSA's request for

funding in 2013.

Respectfully,

Jay Thomas
Alphagraphics of

Alexandria

Attachment: 51bde1e9ccf1502783abd46b492f0c38.docx

Dear Mayor Euille and City Council Members:

All of us in the nonprofit world recognize the difficult budget decisions you face in containing costs while retaining and providing needed services to the citizens of Alexandria. The City Council has worked diligently through the years to enhance the experience of life in Alexandria for our citizens, children to elders, and those efforts have made Alexandria one of the finest places to live. As a 34-year resident I thank you for your continued funding of programs to make this possible.

The 2010 U.S. Census data was clear about the size of the cohort that is beginning to turn 65 now, the "Baby Boomers." We know the Council is well aware of the potential impact of the sheer numbers of aging citizens, and commend Council on adopting the Division on Aging and Adult Services Strategic Plan just a few weeks ago. The bottom line is that demand for limited services will only increase in the coming years. Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) is an active partner in the effort to help seniors age with dignity in this community through the services we administer on behalf of the City or those we provide through fundraising. SSA is the only nonprofit that serves the needs of ALL seniors in Alexandria, regardless of ability to pay for that needed support.

As part of that effort, SSA provides monthly informational meetings through its speaker series, daily money management services, senior employment services, and general information referrals and resources through the Resource Center. As a contractor with the City, SSA administers the five-day Meals on Wheels program, and independently raises grant funds to supply meals on holidays and Saturdays. We were recently advised by City staff that funds will be available beginning in July to pay for those meals two Saturdays each month, and we applaud the news! Now we are focusing on providing this critical service on Sundays. We are close to announcing a pilot program to meet this need in the near future, and we encourage the City Council to consider assisting in the process. No citizen should go hungry in Alexandria, especially those vulnerable seniors and disabled adults who are homebound.

SSA also administers the reservation system for the DOT Paratransit system and for Senior Taxi as a contractor with the City, and has done so capably for several years. SSA fields calls from seniors and disabled citizens who need transportation to medical appointments and grocery stores, and we relay those requests to the taxi service. Frequently those citizen requests require confirmation of physician appointment dates, times and locations, or significant efforts to understand what the citizens are trying to communicate. Sometimes the calls take more than 15 minutes to complete a single reservation! SSA's reservationists know the population, the physicians and grocery stores and understand the requirements of the program and the taxi company so they can facilitate this process and keep it running smoothly. Demand is rising, and the

reservationists continue to accurately process the calls. Administrative costs to the City have not increased even with the increased ridership.

The City's proposed FY 2013 budget eliminated the funding for SSA to continue to administer this program, a line item of about $70,000. This would be a radical, abrupt change in the delivery of this service, and would result in considerable confusion for the population it serves. Alexandria Yellow Cab is the taxi service provider for Senior Taxi, and has made it very clear that they are not willing to take on the additional responsibility of handling reservations for Senior Taxi because of the difficulty in accurately obtaining information quickly from riders. Their staff simply is not suited to this job, according to the company, and their owners and officers support SSA's continued management of this service.

Earlier this year the Office on Aging's Transportation Committee initiated conversations about changes that might be made to the Senior Taxi program to help to contain costs. Among the many possibilities for discussion are increasing the age for eligibility from 60 to 65, increasing the fare from $2.50 to $3.00, including a means test for program eligibility, moving to a coupon based system, and others. It is imperative that the discussions and research be permitted to continue so that the City and all affected parties together can formulate a workable plan that will support the program and the citizens of Alexandria while it contains, or at least minimizes, the costs associated with operation.

Senior Services of Alexandria is proud of the relationship with the City, other nonprofits, the faith-based community, Alexandria Yellow Cab, and the citizens of Alexandria. We ask that you restore the line item funding for administration of the Senior Taxi program in the FY 2013 budget at the full amount of $70,000 as part of the add/delete process.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. I would be happy to discuss this further if you would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Barbara S. Anderson
President, Senior Services of Alexandria

Jackie Henderson

From: Lonnie.Phillips@www3a.alexandriava.gov
Sent: Monday, April 30, 2012 4:48 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: 2012 Add/delete esp Career Ladder
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Mon Apr 30, 2012 16:47:48] Message ID: [38953]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Lonnie
Last Name: Phillips,
Street Address: 221 Randolph Ave
City: Front Royal
State: VA
Zip: 22630
Phone: 540-270-7842
Email Address: alexandriamedics@yahoo.com
Subject: 2012 Add/delete esp Career Ladder
Comments:

Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor and Council Members,

As President of the

Alexandria Medics Association I want to thank you for the recent support

you have shown in correcting some of the deficiencies that have existed in

our Department for years or decades. I am encouraged by recent discussions

with City Manager Young and by seeing potential funding to address pay

compression and career ladder problems.

As you enter into tonight's

add/delete session I respectfully request that you consider adding more to

the career ladder funds so that we can be assured to correct an alarming

deficiency shown in the Fire Department in general and especially with the

medics. We have lost our ability to compete with surrounding jurisdictions

due to the pay, benefits and opportunities given by our surrounding

jurisdictions. During last year's budget discussion, I spoke to Council

regarding retention and losing our employees to neighboring jurisdictions.

This is still an alarming issue as shown by our retention of less than 47%

of those medics hired the last 14 years. At an average training cost of over $60,000, it is not only detrimental to maintaining a trained and experienced work force but it is not cost effective. Major contributing factors to this attrition are lack of promotional opportunities and deficient pay and benefits. This deficiency is magnified with our Medics, but is also seen with our Firefighters.

Since the City currently has a total pay and compensation group investigating Firefighter and Medic compensation, I believe it is imperative that the City provide the funds so that this problem can be corrected as soon as validated by the City. I realize that for years Council has been told that Alexandria is either at benchmark or just a bit behind, but a detailed comprehensive analysis of the TOTAL PAY will show that there is a significant inequity. For example: We are told that we are about equal to Fairfax County for a starting Firefighter. However, when one factors in the certification pay, "riding pay", holiday pay and shift differential, a Fairfax FF/Paramedic will earn more than $24,000 per year over our Firefighter/Paramedics after being on the department ONE year. This significant difference grows over the course of one's career. If Councilman's Krupicka's lead of funding career ladders at $750,000 was followed and an appropriate percentage was earmarked for the Fire Department, we could sufficiently address these issues. Not only is it the right thing to do for the employees, but it is the fiscally responsible thing to do in order to correct the growing retention issue and allow us to plan for staffing our future stations.

Thanks again for your recent support and your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Lonnie

Phillips, President Alexandria Medics Association

Jackie Henderson

From: Joseph Judson Smith III <jossmith@mba1962.hbs.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 8:19 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: 2013 Budget
Attachments: 3fbb212ad675a8a80df760bfd9150c8b.doc; ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Tue May 01, 2012 08:19:25] Message ID: [38969]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Joseph Judson
Last Name: Smith III
Street Address: 401 Wilkes Street
City: Alexnadria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703-299-1725
Email Address: jossmith@mba1962.hbs.edu
Subject: 2013 Budget
Comments:
Attachment: 3fbb212ad675a8a80df760bfd9150c8b.doc

To: City Council, Mayor, and City Manager
Date: May 1, 2012
From: Joseph Judson Smith III

General property tax revenue has increased 9 times faster than population growth over the last ten years indicating a government gone wild looking for ways to spend the taxpayers' money.

There are several areas of opportunity for the City Council to reduce the cost of government and reduce taxes.

And where might be the best areas to look for savings? **Payroll** stands out. The city has increased payroll at 7 times the rate of increase in our population.

If our payroll in proportion to revenue were the same as ...		Savings to the city would be:
All Virginia Independent Cities		$102,000,000
All Virginia Municipalities		$90,000,000
Fairfax and Arlington Counties		$80,000,000
Alexandria 2001		$50,000,000

The City of Alexandria's workforce can and should be reduced to give the taxpayers of the city a tax cut and to diminish the size of the city government on the community. It is doable without affecting services.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, non-farm business productivity, which excludes manufacturing, was up 24.6% from 2001 to 2011. Had the city government realized these kinds of productivity gains, the number of city employees would have dropped from 4,334 to 3,579 even after allowing for our population increase.

Assuming the government services sector is inherently less amendable to productivity increases, cut in half the BLS figure, and we could be at 4,163 employees.

America's Protected Class III, a 1994 study, estimated that state and local government employee counts could be reduced by 19.2 percent without reducing public services. Bill Clinton's initiative "Reinventing Government" aimed to reduce the Federal workforce by 12%.

The City Council, working with the city staff, can seek:

- Reduction in the size of the staffing of the city government
- Bring the pay scales to more realistic levels
- Continue its efforts to increase the productivity of the city work force
- Use of contract labor for some functions the city performs. Privatize these functions

- Consolidate or eliminate some of 76 boards and commissions that absorb staff time
- Continue efforts to move all employees to defined contribution plans

A part of this effort should focus on why Alexandria cannot be more business friendly. Thriving businesses produce jobs and tax revenues. Evidence would point to a hypothesis that the city is not business friendly. Over the last ten years:

- Sales tax revenue, excluding restaurants, down 9.3% adjusted for inflation
- Restaurant sales tax revenues down 16% after adjusting for inflation and for the 4% surcharge levied beginning in 2009.

The **school budget** appears to also offer opportunities for savings.

The school is top heavy with administration. These positions and the pay scales can be reduced. According the Auditor of Public Accounts of Virginia, Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) spends, as proportion of total revenues, 40% more than the average school district on administration and overhead. One would think we could spend less than the average as the city has 4 times the density of population of all cities in Virginia. Were the administrative costs of the ACPS in line with the average of all schools, the city could save over $8,000,000 a year.

Disturbing reports over the last several months provide antidotal evidence, as revealed by the press, indicates that more savings are possible in the ACPS system.

After repeated inquiries of the ACPS superintendent's staff, it was unable to provide any evidence of or reasoning for its projected increase in student population over the next five year, thus, their projections are suspect and likely made up out of whole cloth.

I have a concern about the proposed **Potomac Yards Metro** stop. Based on figures provide to me by the city, the discounted cash flow to the beginning of 2011 indicates an $18,000,000 loss to the city. The city claims a breakeven in cash flow in 2019. That date is misleading; 2019 is when positive cash flows begin to eat into the cumulative losses. The breakeven point is 2037. Of course, the breakeven date could be even further out if the staff's projections are too optimistic.

Received Fax: 05/01/12 10:55AM Fax Station: MAYOR/COUNCIL p.2
Apr. 30. 2012 10:43AM

Joan B. Mabrucki
209 Jefferson St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
april 27, 2012

Mayor William Euille
Members of City Council
301 King Street, Suite 3640
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Euille + Members of City Council,
Thank you for providing Senior Taxi for older Alexandrians. I ask that you continue to keep Senior Services of Alexandria as the reservationists. Both Rosie and Kenny are professional, patient, courteous and kind to me whenever I make my reservation. The organization is important to me and the other older Alexandrians.

Sincerely
Joan B. Mabrucki

Received Fax: 05/01/12 10:55AM Fax Station: MAYOR/COUNCIL p.3
Apr. 30. 2012 10:43AM No. 7015 P. 3/4

4/27/12

Dear Mayor Euille & Members of the City Council:

Thank you for providing Senior Taxi for older Alexandrians. I ask you keep Senior Services of Alexandria as the reservationists Both Rosie and Kenny are so professional, patient, courteous and nice to me whenever I make my reservation. The organization is important to me and to the entire community

Thank You

David Rosenfeld

April 29, 2012

Mayor William D. Euille
Members of the Alexandria City Council
301 King Street
Suite 3640
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of the City Council:

It is with pleasure and deep appreciation that I have been given this opportunity to commend to you the Senior Transportation Program and its Staff, particularly Rosie and Ken and recent addition Angie. They personify the highest level of employee performance.

As a seven year resident, formerly from the Midwest and Upstate New York, I am impressed with their courtesy, patience and knowledge, in spite of the high call volume.

The Program and its Personnel provide us with affordable transportation, but in addition convey kindness, refined listening skills and, if necessary, assist in clarifying requests; if time permits, a moment to share laughter and always wishing us a pleasant day. The aforementioned courtesies, so vital to a community, are fast disappearing.

My purpose in writing is to applaud the City of Alexandria for this Service and the Staff who provide its direction and those who man the phones. Please support and recognize them for their outstanding professionalism and reliability.

Sincerely,

Cynthia K. Rogers

Cynthia K. Rogers
203 Yoakum Parkway
Apartment 1218
Alexandria, VA 22304
703-212-8606

Senior Services
OF ALEXANDRIA

700 Princess Street, Mezzanine Level
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703.836.4414 * Fax: 703.836.1252 * www.seniorservicesalex.org

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

Date: 4/30/12

To: Jackie Henderson

Company:

Fax #: Phone #:

From: Senior Services of Alex.

RE:

Number of Pages: 4
(Including cover page)

Comment:

The information contained herein and following this cover is strictly confidential and, under penalty of law, may not be used by other than the intended party for the intended purpose; if it is received in error, please notify the sender. Thank you.

Jackie Henderson

From: Jane Foote <janefoote@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 28, 2012 12:39 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Senior Services of Alexandria funding for Senior Taxi in budget
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Sat Apr 28, 2012 12:38:46] Message ID: [38921]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Jane
Last Name: Foote
Street Address: 910 Vicar Lane
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22302
Phone: 703-823-1513
Email Address: janefoote@aol.com
Subject: Senior Services of Alexandria funding for Senior Taxi in budget
Comments:

I am writing to ask that you restore full funding to Senior Services of

Alexandria for the administration of
the Senior Taxi program in the FY

2013 budget.

My 91 year old father moved to Alexandria a couple of years

ago. His close proximity has put me in
contact with many elderly people

in our city and has increased my awareness of the plight of this

population. The elderly face tremendous challenges each day just to

survive. Their hearing and
eyesight are failing and their mobility is

usually very poor. They are confused and vulnerable and have
lost the

ability to negotiate for their basic needs. Often they find themselves

lacking sufficient money to
provide for these needs. Yet they struggle

each day to maintain their sense of independence and dignity
and to carry

on as they once did.

As a member of the SSA Board I have had the

opportunity to observe the manner in which SSA staff
administers the

Senior Taxi program. They do it with competence, compassion and
tremendous

patience. Rosie Borders and her assistants serve as angels of mercy to
the

seniors as they try to find
transportation to the doctor, grocery store

and pharmacy. Often the seniors require help even figuring
out exactly

where it is they need to go. Rosie and her staff provide a kind,

intelligent voice on the other
end of the phone. They offer so much more

than a busy cab company dispatcher ever could.

The present

administration of Senior Taxi by Senior Services of Alexandria should be a

source of great
pride for our city. Both the seniors who are served and

the Alexandria Yellow Cab Company are pleased
with SSA's role in the

process. To change this beautifully run program will be a real blow to a

population in
our city that so needs and deserves our help.

Please

restore Senior Services of Alexandria funding for Senior Taxi program to

the FY 2013 budget.

Jackie Henderson

From: Fred Parker <fredp@hardtimes.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 28, 2012 7:49 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Tree lights
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Sat Apr 28, 2012 19:48:32] Message ID: [38927]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Fred
Last Name: Parker
Street Address: 408 Jackson Place
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22302
Phone: 7038362077
Email Address: fredp@hardtimes.com
Subject: Tree lights

Comments:

Dear Mayor and members of City Council.

I support extended time of

lighting in the trees along King Street. The banners add a unique touch

which should be continued. With as much emphasis on tourism and resulting

in by the money brought in by them this is a compliment to those who we

are trying to attract to our city and creates a much more appealing

atmosphere for the city day and night. With the lighting along King

Street and at the Park will be a wonderful accent to Alexandria all the

way to the river.
Sincerely

Fred Parker

Jackie Henderson

From: Linda Kelly <LEKelly@Juno.com>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2011 1:28 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: ACPS and the FY 2013 Budget
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Mon Nov 21, 2011 01:28:18] Message ID: [34841]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Linda
Last Name: Kelly
Street Address: 17 West Mount Ida
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22305
Phone: 703-739-1546
Email Address: LEKelly@Juno.com
Subject: ACPS and the FY 2013 Budget

Comments:

Dear Mr. Mayor, Mr. Vice Mayor and Members of the City Council:

I am

writing to you on behalf of the PTA Council of Alexandria (PTAC). As the

City Council meets to consider its budget guidance for FY 2103, I wanted to

reach out to you to thank your for your ongoing support of our public

school system and to ask for your continued commitment to the success of

Alexandria's public school children.

We recognize that these are

challenging economic times, but adequate funding of our public schools

should be viewed as a vital investment not only in our present, but also in

our future. Quite simply, public schools are an essential service to the

citizens of our City and deserve our full support. In addition, quality

schools have a positive impact on our City's economy – attracting jobs,

keeping property values strong and, of course, preparing a well-educated

and skilled workforce essential to our economic success.

As you know, we

face tremendous challenges as a school system. ACPS student enrollment

continues to grow at a rapid rate. In addition, the ACPS student

population is as culturally and linguistically diverse as any system in our

region, including a significant number of English language learner students

who, for obvious reasons, require additional resources to ensure academic

success. In addition, more than half of our students qualify for free and

reduced price lunch.

Despite our challenges, ACPS is a school system on

the rise. Many of the reforms implemented by the School Board, Dr. Sherman

and, of course, the many dedicated principals and teachers, are translating

into tangible success in the classroom. In addition, ACPS leaders have

been responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars, increasing student

achievement at the same time that per pupil spending has decreased.

As

you consider the FY2013 budget, we urge City Council to set a budget target

that enables more academic progress for all students. In addition, we

encourage you reach out to PTA leadership; visit our schools; talk to

students, teachers and parents; perhaps even attend a PTA or a PTA Council

meeting. We are confident that you will be impressed by the commitment and

vision that we share. And we are confident that you will find us ready and

willing partners in this endeavor.

We look forward to working with you

in the weeks and months ahead.

Sincerely yours,

Linda

Kelly
President, PTA Council of Alexandria

Jackie Henderson

From: Hal Cardwell <HalCardwell@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2011 11:29 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: ACPS Budget Guidance
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Mon Nov 21, 2011 23:29:15] Message ID: [34860]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Hal
Last Name: Cardwell
Street Address: 2401 E Randolph Ave
City: Alexandria
State: Va
Zip: 222301
Phone: 703-739-2955
Email Address: HalCardwell@yahoo.com
Subject: ACPS Budget Guidance
Comments:

Dear Mr. Mayor, Mr. Vice Mayor and Members of the City Council:

As you

and your colleagues on the council meet to establish budget guidance for

ACPS for School Year 2012-2013, I write you to thank you for your past

support of our schools and to urge you to continue that support, even in

the face of tough budget choices.
As student in ACPS for 10 years in the

70's and 80's, a parent for the last 6 plus years in two schools, and, more

recently as President-elect and President of Mt Vernon Community School's

PTA, I have experienced ACPS from many fronts. As you know we have many

outstanding programs and staff citywide, and equally impressive challenges

and opportunities as a school system. I think you would agree that the

school system is on an upward swing, with more parents choosing to send

their children to ACPS instead of fleeing to Fairfax, Arlington, or private

schools. This progress is good news for our city, even as increased

enrollment presents capacity and budget challenges.

The presentation from

the School Board to the Council on Nov 7 was informative, both on the

successes that we are having as a system even as the majority of students

are from poverty, and on the budget challenges that we face this coming

year.

While I appreciate the desire of Council to be equitable in

meeting budget challenges, I hope you will consider increasing the

allocation to the school by more than the 2.4% that is proposed, perhaps to

the 6% or even 8% level.

Without an allocation at this higher level,

ACPS will have to cut staff and programs, even as the teachers are excited

and motivated to implement the new curriculum and the International

Baccalaureate program at primary and middle schools, and reduce the student

achievement gap. Without this higher allocation, teachers will be under

even more stress, with fewer resources and/or more students to implement

these programs. An increase of the 2.4% will have a negative impact on

programs and progress.

Secondly, the cost per pupil in ACPS has dropped

markedly over the past 4 years, indicating good stewardship of our city's

tax dollars. While an increase for ACPS of the same amount as the city may

seem equitable, does that take into account the increased efficiencies that

ACPS has demonstrated over the past few years? Likewise, if we consider

the rapid student population growth, does such an equal allocation between

ACPS and other city services make sense?

Finally, I know that you all

fully recognize the linkage between the success of the school system and

overall economic health of the city. When we were deciding where to buy a

house, my wife and I were so interested in one specific program (dual

language) that we looked at houses only in the Mt Vernon school district.

As the city continues to grow, its school system will either attract people

to the city, or deter them. If the "word on the street" (or on the preschool playground) continues to be positive, then we benefit the community.

In closing, again, let me thank you and your colleagues for your long time and continued support of public education in the school, an urge you to consider issuing budget guidance at the 6 or 8 percent level. I do not envy the choices that you all must make in these tough economic times.

-Hal Cardwell

Jackie Henderson

From: Peter Pennington <kernow01@att.net>
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2011 10:15 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: EPC Budget Letter
Attachments: 965b9ba1ba63f76f30380951a92b608c.doc; ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Tue Nov 22, 2011 10:15:10] Message ID: [34866]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Peter
Last Name: Pennington
Street Address: 1213 Prince Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 571-431-6708
Email Address: kernow01@att.net
Subject: EPC Budget Letter
Comments: The financial difficulties that prevail are recognized by the EPC but the hope is that the City Council will continue to march forward with Eco-City Alexandria.
Attachment: 965b9ba1ba63f76f30380951a92b608c.doc

ALEXANDRIA

Environmental Policy Commission

November 21, 2011

Honorable Mayor William Euille and Members of the City Council
City of Alexandria
Suite 2300, City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

FY 2013 City Budget

Dear Mayor Euille and City Council Members:

Once again the City starts the financial planning process with a forecast of a drop in tax receipts. Furthermore, there is uncertainty about the wider economic stage, be it at the global level or the federal level.

The Environmental Policy Commission has limited its budget suggestions to two key actions. Both are ultimately linked to the concept of promoting the Environmental Action Plan to the wider community. Whereas city government and the schools are doing great things environmentally, there is an urgent need to attract the interest of the wider population, the sector that produces 97% of the city's carbon footprint.

1) The EPC recommends that the City hire a **sustainability outreach person,** under OEQ, to promote the Environmental Action Plan and its constituent parts. Partial funding, it is suggested could be taken from the Storm Water Tax revenue as the current permit requires the City to have an education program. This person, however, will also need to be able to talk to people, at all levels, about the whole spectrum of environmental needs. The City is approaching the first 'checkpoint' set out in the Council of Government Climate Change Plan: there is an urgent need for a trained person to advise our citizens and businesses on the necessary steps to reduce the city's carbon footprint.

2) It is a fact that one can walk from King Street Metro rail station to the river without seeing any indication that Alexandria is an Eco-City. The EPC feels that there is an action that would do more to promote the idea of sustainability than any other single act: the installation of **public recycling bins**, along King Street and adjoining streets. This would not only be good in its own right, but it would boldly present the message of Eco-City Alexandria, and show that we can keep up with, if not forge ahead of, our neighbouring jurisdictions

As part of the longer term budgeting exercise, the Commission suggests the Council has a briefing from staff about the twin issues of combined sewers (CSOs) and surface water. Both are coming up for re-permitting in 2012 and 2013.

Other jurisdictions are already being given very strict and very expensive conditions to fulfil as requirements for their permits.

As part of the wider exercise of cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay, City staff is already wrestling with VDEQ trying to agree workable pollution levels for our streams and estuaries into the Potomac. The CSOs make the problem extremely difficult to resolve.

There may be some very expensive capital work about to be imposed on the city.

It is not all gloom: The EPC applauds the Council for the many new initiatives introduced over the past years: the transportation tax measure, hybrid DASH buses, the new trollies, Capital Bikeshare, trail improvement and many other initiatives. To this end, the Commission asks that these programs be maintained, moving forward as required. For instance, there is still much to be done to provide safe walking conditions throughout the city for our children and more could be done to create designated bike lanes.

Looking at the longer term CIP, we strongly recommend that funds be set aside for capital projects to conserve energy throughout City owned property. ACPS has shown the way at Minnie Howard and James Polk. The City has scope for renewable energy projects at such places as the Beatley Library or the Chinquapin Recreation Center. Such capital projects may have financial pay back periods longer than those normally considered but the reward for society as a whole is immeasurable. Part of the City's commitment to sustainability was to lengthen the payback period for energy projects (see Chapter 6, Goal 2, EAP)

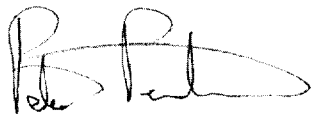
Finally, two issues of concern have come to the attention of the EPC that we would like to ensure are known to the Council.

a) When the capital cost of a project is considered, there seems to be no way that consequential savings over the life of the project can be brought into the cost analysis. An example would be the analysis of vehicle purchases without considering fuel efficiency. The EPC believes that this failure to consider project life cycle costs inaccurately skews the evaluation process.
b) The City has a program for carrying out energy surveys on its property. The EPC is concerned that sufficient funds may not be allocated to undertake the recommended actions of these surveys. These recommendations are designed to reduce future energy costs.

If only one of the EPC's suggestions can be implemented, then it would be the engagement of the sustainability outreach person. Whilst not a cost reduction measure, but the long term benefit to the citizens of Alexandria will be significant.

In closing, we would like to remind Council that the economic costs and benefits of effectively responding to climate disruption, arguably the most daunting environmental policy issue facing Alexandria, cannot even begin to be adequately evaluated over our lifetimes, let alone using traditional government budgeting processes. On this and other issues, we urge Council to act in the interests of not just today's residents of Alexandria, but those of the generations of Alexandrians to come.

Yours faithfully



Peter Pennington
Chair – Environmental Policy Commission.

Jackie Henderson

From: Nanette Davis <ndavis2502@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 8:49 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Cuts to school budget
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Mon May 07, 2012 08:49:18] Message ID: [39165]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Nanette
Last Name: Davis
Street Address: 117 Harvard Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703-836-2685
Email Address: ndavis2502@aol.com
Subject: Cuts to school budget
Comments: Please reconsider the $1.2 million cuts to the school budget. Our children are our future and deserve our city's financial investment.

Jackie Henderson

From: Jeannie Cummins Eisenhour <jceconsulting@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 8:52 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: ACPS budget
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Mon May 07, 2012 08:51:48] Message ID: [39166]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Jeannie
Last Name: Cummins Eisenhour
Street Address: 4 East Oxford Ave
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703-851-5257
Email Address: jceconsulting@comcast.net
Subject: ACPS budget
Comments:

Dear Mayor Euille and the Honorable Members of City Council:

I am

writing to request that you return the portion of the originally proposed

$1.23M in local funding needed to offset
increases in payroll taxes and

benefits for teachers that are not covered by state funding the City will

receive this year.

My family is fortunate to be part of the 15% of the

population that can afford to raise school-aged children in the City of

Alexandria. We are raising a ninth grader who wants to go into law

enforcement and a seventh grader who wants to be a
teacher. ACPS has

been the foundation for their academic education and has opened their
eyes

to what being an
upstanding citizen means.

Adequate funding to cover

basic expenses such as teacher payroll taxes and benefits is not an

"extra," it is an integral
part of doing business, especially

when producing such a high-value product for public consumption: a free,

appropriate,
quality education to all children, regardless of income or

need.

City Council has a strong history of supporting our public school

system, for which we are grateful. Please demonstrate
your continued

commitment by funding the payroll taxes and benefits that correspond with

the salary increases funded
with State monies. Our future teachers and

law enforcement officers and their parents thank you.

Best

wishes,

Jeannie Cummins Eisenhour

Best wishes,

Jeannie Cummins

Eisenhour

Jackie Henderson

From: Christine Coker <christine@cpa-coker.com>
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 8:59 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: School Budget
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Mon May 07, 2012 08:58:56] Message ID: [39168]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Christine
Last Name: Coker
Street Address: 3156 N Rosser Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22311
Phone: 703-931-3290
Email Address: christine@cpa-coker.com
Subject: School Budget
Comments: I have read with dismay the councils' intention to reduce the Alexandria City Public School's budget. As the parent of two children at John Adams Elementary School, I would prefer to see an increase in the school's budget - to better pay our teachers who work very hard to educate our children in our diverse environment. Please reconsider increasing, not reducing, the school budget. Thank You.

Jackie Henderson

From: Holly Higgins <hollyandaaronh@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 9:03 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: $1.2 Million Cut to ACPS Budget
Attachments: ATT00002.txt

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

Time: [Mon May 07, 2012 09:02:57] Message ID: [39170]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Holly
Last Name: Higgins
Street Address: 2422 Davis Avenue
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22302
Phone: 703-549-5493
Email Address: hollyandaaronh@aol.com
Subject: $1.2 Million Cut to ACPS Budget
Comments:

Please do not cut the ACPS Budget by $1.2 million due to the teacher pension funds coming from the state. This cut will only hurt our schools and our childrens' education. I have heard it bandied about that only 15 percent of Alexandrian's have school children in the city schools. That is an extraordinarily distorted view. It may sound cliched, but our children truly are our future. We MUST invest them in properly. I in no way regret the years of city taxes I paid into the school system before I had a child.

ACPS still needs lots of improvements...cutting back now on existing, sound programs and staff is a huge mistake.

Thanks for listening to my voice and the voices of many who oppose this shallowly formulated position to cut $1.2 million as an offset. It is NOT an offset...

Thanks,

Holly Higgins

Jackie Henderson

From: Bea Porter <beatrice.a.d.porter-gruel@saic.com>
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 9:12 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: ACPS funding cuts
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Mon May 07, 2012 09:11:30] Message ID: [39173]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Bea
Last Name: Porter
Street Address: 1727 Cameron Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 571-228-0326
Email Address: beatrice.a.d.porter-gruel@saic.com
Subject: ACPS funding cuts
Comments:

Hello. I have just seen you will be voting to reduce the funding for our school system. My grandson attends Jefferson-Houston and has had the same teacher for the last two years, which I am very disappointed about as he is not getting the best education, and certainly not by having the same teacher two years in a row. It is my understanding that there had been three 2nd grade teachers but with the destruction of the projects and children being moved to other parts of the city, our school was cut back to two teachers for 2nd grade. My grandson recently said he will continue with the same teacher next year. My grandson will not continue with the same teacher next year, and there needs to be money in place to provide the best teachers and enough teachers to give these children the best education they can get. A new school building is not going to better educate these kids, better teachers will. Please do not make cuts that will affect the teachers and the students. Thank you.

Jackie Henderson

From: Lora Jerakis <lorajj@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 10:06 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: May 7 Add-Delete Budget Work Session
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Mon May 07, 2012 10:05:36] Message ID: [39175]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Lora
Last Name: Jerakis
Street Address: 5 East Nelson Avenue
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703-967-7109
Email Address: lorajj@aol.com
Subject: May 7 Add-Delete Budget Work Session
Comments: Dear Mayor Euille and City Council Members:

I am writing to you as a

concerned parent of an ACPS student and resident of the City. I would like

to respectfully ask that you please consider NOT cutting and City funding

to the ACPS budget in this evening's work session. While we are grateful

that the Commonwealth of VA has provided more funds than expected, this is

no time to remove City funds from the school system because of that. I ask

that you please keep the City's commitment to fully funding the schools and

use the state money for the many additional needs.

As a member of the

T C Williams HS PTSA, I agree with our president, Ms. Goodwin, and I am in

support of Dr. Sherman's progress with the system thus far and believe that

now is not the time for any cuts in funding. On the contrary, we may lose

the momentum of recent progress and fall behind yet again. I, for many

years, have had my children in the private school system because I did not

feel confident in ACPS. Two years ago, we decided to move our daughter

into the ACPS system for high school because we felt pleased at the

progress that was being made in the schools academically, and of, course,

the visible investment in the new school building. We also plan to enter

our other children in the future, as we are feeling more confident in

ACPS's future and the City's commitment to improving the schools. Please

don't put the brakes on that.

Sincerely,
Lora Jerakis

Jackie Henderson

From: Marie Randall <randallmw@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 10:19 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: 2013 budget & ACPS
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Mon May 07, 2012 10:19:16] Message ID: [39176]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Marie
Last Name: Randall
Street Address: 2904 Cameron Mills Road
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22302
Phone: 703-888-1730
Email Address: randallmw@comcast.net
Subject: 2013 budget & ACPS
Comments: Mayor, Vice Mayor and Council Members -
It is with great concern that I am

writing this email. I have been watching the budget process and am

dismayed to learn that there is a proposal to cut the ACPS budget by $1.2

million since the state is providing that amount of funding for new,

teacher pension program. If I'm reading the budget correctly, it seems as

if the $1.2 million will then come from other ACPS budget items.
It seems

that information about our schools being over-capacity, our teachers doing

much more with less, and the fact that almost 50% of our children qualify

for free and reduced lunch is falling on deaf ears. ACPS has extremely

committed administrators and staff that are working to create a healthy,

challenging and successful learning environment for EVERYONE. ACPS
also

has very committed families who volunteer in their schools, financially

support the PTAs (which fund field trips, assemblies, etc. for
EVERYONE).

The schools, the staff and the families are committed to working very hard

so that our schools performance continues to become better.

It seems that

at every turn, we have to justify this to our elected officials. Arlington

and Fairfax have just approved INCREASED funding for their public schools -

and they are dealing with the same increase in school enrollment,

challenges with children that need extra services, and more. However, they

have decided to increase funding so that they can entice good teachers to

stay (there are 5+ teachers leaving my children's elementary school after

this school year) and therefore create consistency for the children (and

their families) attending.
Many families in Alexandria have a choice as to

where their children go to school - and then there are many that don't.

Stop penalizing both groups by ignoring us. A strong and successful school

system is highly beneficial for a community in so many ways including the

ability to generate higher tax revenue due to higher property taxes that a

community is able to raise if it is one that other folks want to move

into.
I have heard that only 15% of the families in Alexandria send their

children to ACPS and I have tried very hard to confirm that data. However,

using data to discount those families and those thousands of children and

those additional staff is wrong - it continues to divide Alexandria into

those that have and those that have not and it is destructive

rhetoric.
Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members - work with ACPS - it

will only benefit the City as a whole. There are many families who will be

watching and then reacting to how the discussion and vote occurs. Thanks

for your time.

Jackie Henderson

From: Gary Thomas <garyandchachi@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 10:20 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us:
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Mon May 07, 2012 10:19:53] Message ID: [39178]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Gary
Last Name: Thomas
Street Address: 4621 Kirkland Place
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22311
Phone: 703-575-8741
Email Address: garyandchachi@comcast.net
Subject:
Comments:

I understand that the City Council is considering reducing the ACPS budget

by over $1 million for the coming school year. I believe this step would

be a huge mistake. As a resident of the city and a voter, I urge you not

to reduce the budget. The growth in the number of students over the last

several years has been absorbed and then some since 2007. Our students

deserve the solid commitment from each and every member of the Council.

Anything less would be an abrogation of your responsibilities and will be

remembered at the next election. Please do the right thing and support our

students.
Thank you.
Gary Thomas

Jackie Henderson

From: Elizabeth Agnew <EKAgnew@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 10:20 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: ACPS Potential Budget Cuts
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Mon May 07, 2012 10:19:47] Message ID: [39177]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Elizabeth
Last Name: Agnew
Street Address: 903 Allison Street
City: Alexandria
State: Va
Zip: 22302
Phone: 7036834798
Email Address: EKAgnew@aol.com
Subject: ACPS Potential Budget Cuts
Comments:

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of the City Council,

I am writing out of

concern that you may be contemplating cutting the ACPS budget tonight. I

am asking that you do not cut ACPS funds as it will not only be a detriment

to the hard working teachers and staff, but also will be a huge detriment

to the students of the ACPS community. The funds are critical to the

programs now in place at ACPS. I have two older children and one in 7th

grade at GW 2. Each year, there is concern that two of the top programs

at GW will have some sort of cuts and if there is a vote tonight to cut

ACPS funds, I have no doubt that these two programs will feel the

repercussions of your decision. The music program and the foreign language

program at GW are two of the best parts of ACPS.

I just attended a

competition for the GW Band and jazz group in Winchester and they are a

sensational group. The music program seems always to be the first to be

hit by any budget cuts and I am asking that you not make any cuts that

could hurt this fabulous program now in place. As it stands now, the band never knows whether we will have buses available to take the students to concerts and competitions and cutting the budget for ACPS will undoubtedly affect this program. The band teachers are constantly fighting for opportunities for their students and they are dedicated and it is unbelievable to see what they do with these students and how they transform them into great musicians and lovers of music.

In addition, the foreign language program is continually mentioned as a place to make cuts when necessary and it is a top program as well. All my children have taken Latin and my older two have continued taking it through high school. A few years ago, there was discussion of cutting Latin and I do not want this to be a possibility again. Mr. Bowler, the Latin teacher at GW, is fantastic and has made the language come alive to these kids even taking them to the convention in Richmond.

In summary, I am asking that the City Council realize what damage they could do to the programs and courses in place at ACPS if they choose to make these budget cuts. Please do not take out your frustrations with the system on our students and teachers and please continue to support the school system by not making these cuts.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Agnew

Jackie Henderson

From: Christina Lytle <tinalytle@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 10:24 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: ACPS Budget Cuts
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Mon May 07, 2012 10:23:42] Message ID: [39179]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Christina
Last Name: Lytle
Street Address: 3925 Colonel Ellis Ave.
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703-217-7973
Email Address: tinalytle@aol.com
Subject: ACPS Budget Cuts
Comments:

Dear Mayor Euille and Council Members:

I strongly urge you to support

ACPS and not approve the cuts that have been recommended to you. Mayor

Euille referenced the possibility of City staff bringing a recommendation

to Council without this reduction to schools. I strongly urge you to pursue

this action further.

These cuts will result in the inability to retain

good teachers and result in the loss of good teachers based simply on

salary. It could conceivably move ACPS to the bottom of the pay scale,

comparatively in our region. This is short sighted on Council's part,

especially considering some recent academic gains. How are we to retain

and attract good teachers to our system when other school systems nearby

will pay them more?

I am not a huge fan of the Superintendent, but do

not think that this is the way to bring him to task. Cutting the ACPS

budget will affect the single determining factor to increased student

achievement which is the quality of the teacher in the classroom. Without good teachers, increasing student achievement is an impossible goal to reach. It is commonly known that one year with a bad teacher can set a child back two grade levels.

Other school districts, specifically Arlington and Fairfax, will be following the full state recommendation this year and will provide salary AND step increases in order to offset new VRS contribution requirements. Please advise and inform voters about how ACPS can be successful, how we can retain talented teachers under this scenario.

I'm genuinely curious!

Please think of our children when you are considering these cuts. There has to be a better way.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Lytle

Jackie Henderson

From: Stephen Williams <MUBETA83@GMAIL.COM>
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 10:34 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Proposed Public School Budget Cuts
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Mon May 07, 2012 10:34:28] Message ID: [39183]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Stephen
Last Name: Williams
Street Address:
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22302
Phone:
Email Address: MUBETA83@GMAIL.COM
Subject: Proposed Public School Budget Cuts

Comments:

Good morning -

Please keep in mind that one of the main reasons people

choose to live in the City of Alexandria is because of
the school system.

We cannot take away money from our children as they are our future
leaders

and as
most anyone can tell you, we are going to need them more than

ever!!! I would hope that you try and find
somewhere else to gain the

1.2 million dollars and please do not take it from the schools.

I have

been told that one of the council members made the statement that only
15%

of the residents have
children so cutting the budget by 1.2 million

dollars for the schools is not a big deal, but I would remember
that

those 15% can become very quickly organized and I am also confident
that

the other 85% would like

Alexandria to have the best schools in the state

as they would appreciate their home values staying high.

Very

respectful,
Stephen Williams

Jackie Henderson

From: Lisa Jacobs <gwmspta@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 10:33 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Proposed cuts to ACPS allocation
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Mon May 07, 2012 10:33:12] Message ID: [39182]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Lisa
Last Name: Jacobs
Street Address: 2909 Richmond Lane
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22305
Phone: 703-549-1504
Email Address: gwmspta@gmail.com
Subject: Proposed cuts to ACPS allocation
Comments:

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of City Council,

I am writing on behalf of

the George Washington Middle School PTA. We urge you to restore the $1.2

million of proposed cuts to the ACPS budget. Our hard-working staff has

worked tirelessly this year to implement a new, outstanding curriculum.

They deserve to have full salary increases and fully funded VRS benefits.

Please approve the originally budgeted ACPS allocation in order to assure

that our staff is appropriately compensated.

Sincerely,
Lisa Jacobs

President, GWMS PTA

Jackie Henderson

From: Linda Moncure <lbmonc@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 10:32 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Keep the ACPS budget
Attachments: ATT00002.txt

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

Time: [Mon May 07, 2012 10:31:38] Message ID: [39181]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Linda
Last Name: Moncure
Street Address: 609 North View Terrace
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703-509-1962
Email Address: lbmonc@comcast.net
Subject: Keep the ACPS budget
Comments: Dear City Council People, Having read the letter from our PTSA president I

would have to say I concur. We really have to stop taking away from our

kids, our working families, and our teachers. They are all an integral

part to our, any, community. Please, vote to help educate our kids. Thank

you, Linda Moncure

Jackie Henderson

From: Patricia Chamberlain <chamberlain_patty@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 11:24 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: ACPS budget
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Mon May 07, 2012 11:24:09] Message ID: [39184]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Patricia
Last Name: Chamberlain
Street Address: 5102 Richenbacher AVe
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703-370-3750
Email Address: chamberlain_patty@hotmail.com
Subject: ACPS budget
Comments: Dear Mr. Mayor, Mr. Vice Mayor and Member of our City Council, I write to

express my strong support for the ACPS budget to remain as it came to you.

As a parent of three children in our school system, I want the best for

them and for all the children who will soon enter into the ACPS programs.

I feel that Dr. Sherman and the members of the School Board presented you

with a fair, sound budget and it should be passed! Any additional cuts

will be detrimental to our City's future.

Also, as a preschool teacher

within Alexandria, I have a commitment to my students to receive the same,

if not better, education that my own children receive.

Finally, I

support everything that our PTSA president, Priscilla Goodwin, wrote to

you. Our future and the future of our City is in the hands of the children

(not dog parks, etc).

Please put our children first!

Patricia

Chamberlain

Jackie Henderson

From: Lisa Vohra <lwvohra@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 12:44 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: ACPS
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Mon May 07, 2012 12:44:03] Message ID: [39197]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Lisa
Last Name: Vohra
Street Address: 636 Kings Cloister Cir
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22302
Phone: 703-519-4563
Email Address: lwvohra@gmail.com
Subject: ACPS

Comments:
Please NO budget cuts for ACPS.

Per my Alexandria fellow parents please

do" not approve the 1.23M in cuts that have been recommended to

Council by the City Manager. These cuts will result in the inability to

retain good teachers and result in the loss of good teachers based simply

on salary. It could conceivably move ACPS to the bottom of the pay scale,

comparatively in our region. This is very short sighted on Council's part,

especially considering some recent academic gains. Are they just trying to

scold the Superintendent? How are we to retain and attract good teachers to

our system when other school systems nearby will pay them

more?"

"Please urge Council to reconsider as they contemplate

the fact that the single determining factor to increased student

achievement is the quality of the teacher in the classroom. Without them,

increasing student achievement is an impossible goal to reach. One year

with a bad teacher can set a child back two grade

levels."

"Other school districts, specifically Arlington and

Fairfax, will be following the full state recommendation this year and will

provide salary AND step increases in order to offset new VRS contribution

requirements. How ACPS can be successful and how can we retain talented

teachers under this scenario?"

We have a ninth grader at Minnie

Howard and are very concerned about possible cuts.

Thank you for your

consideration.

Jackie Henderson

From: Timothy Peterson <tpete@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 12:35 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Proposed FY13 Budget
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Mon May 07, 2012 12:35:28] Message ID: [39196]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Timothy
Last Name: Peterson
Street Address: 307 Russell Rd.
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703-837-0388
Email Address: tpete@mac.com
Subject: Proposed FY13 Budget

Comments:

Mr. Mayor, Mr. Vice-Mayor, and Members of Council:

I write you today as

an Alexandria resident and a parent. I understand that the City Manager

has
recommended eliminating certain important funding in the FY13

Proposed Budget ("Budget"), including
funding which supports early

childhood care and programs for family health. I urge you to continue the

City's support for these programs.

Specifically,

- Childcare

Tuition Assistance: The Budget eliminates $519,680 for funding of early

childhood tuition
assistance programs in the City.
- Healthy Families

Alexandria: The Budget does not include $56,607 in funding required to

support the
loss of state funding for Healthy Families

Alexandria.

- Preschool Classrooms: The Budget does not include funding to

support the resources necessary to
ensure all 4-year olds currently on

preschool the waiting list have access to quality preschool
opportunities

(at least $125,067 to support just one additional classroom).

I urge you

to provide funding for these initiatives, including a $500,000 set aside to

support early childhood
tuition assistance, $56,607 to support Healthy

Families Alexandria, and at least $125,067 to support an
additional

preschool classroom. Without these resources, Alexandria's most
vulnerable

families will face
significant hardship. And as I am sure each of you

understands, our City is only as good as it treats the
most challenged

among us.

We can ensure that Alexandria maintains its strong commitment

to families. The City has a $9.2 million
surplus. We can take a portion

of that surplus to support the above initiatives. While recognizing that

fiscal discipline requires a certain degree of forbearance, the City

should not look to children and families
in the same light as other

constituencies; cuts to children and family programs will only create more

costs
in the future. The City Council should temper any necessary

immediate austerity against this long-term
reality.

I happen to be

the Chair-elect of the City's new Children, Youth and Families

Collaborative Commission
("CYFCC"). The CYFCC submitted a recommendation

to the City Council on April 12, and the City Manager
responded to this

recommendation on May 2. Speaking for myself individually, I ask that the

City Council
reconsider the CYFCC recommendation. Also speaking for

myself, but consistent with the CYFCC's

recommendation, I ask that the

City Council approve funding for the initiatives outlined above.

I have

faith the in future of Alexandria, and I know that our elected

representatives will do the right thing
for our City's

children.

Respectfully,
Timothy P. Peterson

Jackie Henderson

From: Julie Naughton <Julienaughton@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 12:25 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: ACPS budget
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Mon May 07, 2012 12:24:39] Message ID: [39194]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Julie
Last Name: Naughton
Street Address: 127 Commonwealth Avenue
City: Alexandria
State: Va
Zip: 22301
Phone:
Email Address: Julienaughton@comcast.net
Subject: ACPS budget
Comments:

Dear Council Members,

Please, restore the 1.2 millon dollars to the ACPS

budget. With increasing enrollment and mounting challenges, now is not

the time to decrease the school's percentage of the

budget.

Respectfully,
Julie Naughton
Parent of 3 ACPS students

Jackie Henderson

From: Margaret Dickson <dicksonma@me.com>
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 12:07 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: ACPS Budget
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Mon May 07, 2012 12:06:31] Message ID: [39192]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Margaret
Last Name: Dickson
Street Address: 2181 Jamieson Avenue
Unit 1907
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703-401-0092
Email Address: dicksonma@me.com
Subject: ACPS Budget
Comments:

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of the City Council:

I am concerned that

you are considering cutting the ACPS budget during your add-delete work

session today. As a member of the T.C. Williams High School

Parent-Teacher-Student Association I am very aware of both the current

state of the schools and what our parents feel about our schools. Contrary

to the opinion of the few loud critics currently running for City Council,

all of the parents I have talked to in our PTSA , serving both the King

Street and Minnie Howard campuses (their are about 3,000 students combined

at the campuses), are happy with their children's education. It's not

perfect, but there is a decided improvement in the TC curriculum, faculty,

principals, discipline, and student expectations since Dr. Sherman began

working in ACPS.

To we parents, those are the most important aspects

of education along with facilities and we were already blessed with a

wonderful building. Dr. Sherman had made a marked improvement since

he has

come aboard. I do not believe ACPS would be able to absorb the loss of the

$1M transformation money next year. The city needs to take care of its

children (its future) and those (the teachers/administrators) who take care

of and teach them every day.

My daughter has been attending ACPS since

kindergarten and will be in tenth grade next year, but I fear for those

children who will follow her in the future. It doesn't seem as though ACPS

has reached its peak of improvement and has begun to decline now that its

out of the hotseat. Do our children's educations no longer matter? I

vote - as many of the ACPS parent do and we stay informed of council

actions regarding school budget cuts.

Margaret Dickson

Jackie Henderson

From: Joanna Baltes <kiwibaltes@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 11:52 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: ACPS Budget
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Mon May 07, 2012 11:51:30] Message ID: [39188]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Joanna
Last Name: Baltes
Street Address: 2407 Davis Avenue
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22302
Phone: 571-344-3913
Email Address: kiwibaltes@yahoo.com
Subject: ACPS Budget
Comments: City Council:

I am writing to express my objection to the planned $1.2 million funding cut to the ACPS budget. My husband and I purchased our home in the George Mason Elementary school district because we wanted to send out children to good public schools and still live close in to the Washington D.C. area where we both work. I am a government employee, my husband is active duty military, and we rely on Alexandria City Public Schools for the education of our children, one who is in kindergarten at George Mason. I've been informed by members of the George Mason PTA, that at least one member of the city council has jusified the proposed cut by noting that only 15% of Alexandria city residents have children in public schools. I find this comment appalling and incredibly short-sighted. I hope that this does not represent the sentiments of the entire council. Supporing public schools is not just for those who have school-age children. Public education is a worthy investment for state and local

governments, with immense social and economic benefits. Research shows that

individuals who graduate and have access to quality education throughout

primary and secondary school are more likely to find gainful employment,

have stable families, and be active and productive citizens. They are also

less likely to commit serious crimes, less likely to place high demands on

the public health care system, and less likely to be enrolled in welfare

assistance programs. A good education provides substantial benefits to

individuals and, as individual benefits are aggregated throughout a

community, creates broad social and economic benefits. Investing in public

education is thus far more cost-effective for the state than paying for the

social and economic consequences of under-funded, low quality schools.

Additionally, good public schools boost property values within a community,

leading to higher revenue from property taxes.

I know that my

concerns are shared by many within the Alexandria community and I hope that

the city council take them into consideration before electing to cut the

ACPS budget.

Sincerely,

Joanna Baltes
Alexandria City resident

Jackie Henderson

From: Gloria Sitton
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 11:45 AM
To: William Euille; Kerry Donley; Frank Fannon; Alicia Hughes; Rob Krupicka; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg
Cc: Beth Temple; Judy Stack; John O'Neal; Karen Parker; Elizabeth Jones; Jane McDonald; Nancy Lavalle; Jackie Henderson; Rashad Young; James Banks; Bruce Johnson
Subject: FW: Please forward to Mayor and City Council

Please see below. Email about budget from Mollie Danforth attached.

From: Mollie Danforth [mailto:mdanforth2@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2005 11:21 PM
To: Gloria Sitton
Cc: Sheryl Gorsuch
Subject: Please forward to Mayor and City Council

Dear Mayor and City Council -

The City Manager does not run the schools. Do not allow him to flippantly cut the budget of an organization for which he has no accountability.

This budget has been vetted through a year long process starting at the grass roots level of schools and departments. Elected persons have overseen this budget. From what I understand some draconian cuts have already been made. Unlike streets, children can't wait for repairs.

The City of Alexandria already contributes a tight-fisted percent of its total revenues to our schools. Instead of cutting, Council should seek ways to fund the schools at closer to 40% of local revenues than the current 35%.

We should have great schools. For some our schools are outstanding, but to serve the families City Council welcomes to Alexandria thru its generous housing policy, significant resources are required in the schools.

Thank you for your stewardship of our City.

Mollie Danforth
4016 Harris Place
Alexandria, VA 22304

703 370 9454

Jackie Henderson

From: Boyd Walker <boydwalker2012@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 1:17 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Budget adoption
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Mon May 07, 2012 13:17:02] Message ID: [39202]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Boyd
Last Name: Walker
Street Address: 1307 King St.
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703-732-7269
Email Address: boydwalker2012@gmail.com
Subject: Budget adoption
Comments:

Budget Choices I Would Make

Budget decisions are some of the most

important decisions City Council members make, and the most clear way to

indicate policy priorities. When I sat in on the add-delete session last

week it was clear that there is a tug of war between human services and

economic development, between increasing salaries and merit pay, between

budgetary constraints and staying competitive in hiring. But I could not

help thinking of the choices I would make as I was sitting there.

One

place to start is how much we as a city value our employees, who have not

gotten a raise in 5 years. There is a proposal to give them a 1% raise to

offset the 1% more of salary they are being asked to contribute to the

Virginia Retirement System. This is not enough, and some Police officers

are stuck in a pay freeze, that allows newer officers to leap frog over

them in rank and pay. Not only are we not rewarding our dedicated public

servants, but we are not addressing the time and attention to detail required by those seeking public service. City Council members are equal to the very bottom of the pay scale, at 27,500, while the city manager is way off the pay scale, making 60,000 more than a 16 year veteran in the city can make. I would urge increasing aides wage to 25,000 and city council members to 30,000, costing 39,000. This is a clear question of fairness. In the interim, I think we need to support the Career Ladder program for 522 employees at 1.7 million. The City, as one of the largest employers in the city will benefit from these employees contributing back to our local economy.

Speaking of employees, I think the proposal to hire a budget analyst to oversee the school budget and process vouchers is entirely necessary. Yes, that is the schools job, and the city shouldn't need to do it, but clearly with the number of issues over the last year, the city does need to do it, be good stewards of the money they allocate to schools, make sure the money is spent wisely, not wasted, and have some oversight. I am sure some of the issues that have arisen in the schools have cost far more than the 90,000 proposed for this position, and if this new employee can help us avoid problems in the future it is money well spent. I would take 90,000 from the school allocation, and urge them not to rehire in the front office to replace the recently departed asst. superintendent. We cannot continue to fully fund the school board budget without oversight, and students deserve full funding so class sizes don't balloon and teachers are not cut, because of front office mistakes. I would school the transfer by an equal amount.

Please also consider giving $50,000 so that the libraries, which provide so many services, like computer access, community meeting rooms, bathrooms for the public, not to mention all the programming for children and readers, to restore full hours. I think it is also important for special collections to be open every Saturday, as we have unique history that researchers and the public should have access to more than 1 Saturday a month. $200,000 would restore

all the pre-recession hours, plus fund special collections initiatives, and

would support the full budget request of the libraries. Generally, I would

also support the funding requests for Meals on Wheels, Healthy Families,

and funding to the Community Services Board, and the programs that make us

a better more caring community. Increasing the living wage of our lowest

paid employees would also show we are a caring community, and recommit us

to this principle that we first passed in 2000. At 147,00, I would hope

that there would be a top level position we could leave unfilled to pay for

it.

I would not support the tree lighting, or even having the city pay

for banners on King St. I think banners are better left in the hands of

the Business Association, which can raise funds for such a project, and can

always request matching funds from the city later, or seek grants. I think

the banners would be replaced on a more regular basis, and decisions about

what attracts visitors should be made by the business owners on King St. I

would also not fund the 83,000 dollar request for marketing for AEDP. I

think in general we need to rethink what we are marketing and to whom, and

if Alexandria is not "Ideal" we certainly shouldn't be using it as a

slogan. I also think AEDP would have the ability to find other funding,

perhaps by corporate sponsors, or banner ads on the website to pay for

this. In general I would favor the funding of human services over economic

development in this budget, as the most vulnerable among us have no where

else to turn, where those promoting economic development do.

I do not

have a budget analyst sitting next to me, but what I have I believe I have

would add up to aprox. 2.2 million in additions to the budget. I have also

included the 38,000 for funding for Parades, as we should not have to rely

on the Scottish Parliament to fund our parades, and as it is something

Alexandria is known for, I think it is something we should support. I know

this is one of the things on my list there is not support for, and so I am

not too worried that you would agree with every addition I am recommending.

I would urge you to consider them, and realize there has been a surplus in

revenue for the last several years, thanks to our wisely conservative

revenue projections, so we can possible move some items to a contingency

giving us an opportunity to fund some of these worthy causes. Thank you

for your consideration.

Boyd Walker

Jackie Henderson

From: Kelly Conlan Baron <kconlanbaron@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 1:44 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Proposed reduction in school funds
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Mon May 07, 2012 13:43:45] Message ID: [39211]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Kelly
Last Name: Conlan Baron
Street Address: 300 W. Glendale Avenue
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703-838-8574
Email Address: kconlanbaron@gmail.com
Subject: Proposed reduction in school funds
Comments:

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor and Council Members,

I was appalled to learn of

your proposal to reduce the ACPS school budget by more than a million

dollars.
I hope that you realize the increase in funding from the state

is specifically allocated to raising teacher
salaries. This is a

worthwhile use of the state funds because through adequate pay we can

attract
talented teachers to our school district. Not to mention, the

district does not have the choice to use the
funds for other things.

Your decision to do this will not leave the city at the "status

quo," but will cause the
district to make choices they otherwise

would not have to make. You are hurting the students and
teachers. We

are one of the few states in these difficult times that is able to provide

more education
funding. If we are going to get our country back on

track, we need quality education.

I have lived in Alexandria for almost

9 years now and I was delighted to see the city finally taking
education

seriously after what appeared to be years of neglect. In my Rosemont

neighborhood the vast
majority of families now send their children to the

public school. That was not the case when we moved in
here. Nobody did

-- they all sent their children to private school or moved to Fairfax or

Arlington when
their children reached school age. We are happy with our

elementary school, but I have to wonder if we
made the right choice

staying in Alexandria. We'd considered moving to Fairfax or Arlington

because of
their fine school systems, the pride they take in their

district, and their commitment to their youngest
residents. Should you

decide to defund ACPS in such a short-sighted manner, I think the only

conclusion I
can come to is that nothing has actually changed and

Alexandria is not serious about education.

Alexandria is on the cusp

of becoming one of the better school districts in the area. The teachers

know it,
the school board is working hard to make it happen, and the

parents are doing what they can to make it
happen as well. It would be

shameful for the city to hold the school district back when they are

finally
making such strides. We took a chance on Alexandria and stayed.

Please don't make us regret that
choice.

Sincerely,

Kelly Baron

Jackie Henderson

From: Linda Bock <LindaEBock@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 1:50 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: school budget cuts
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Mon May 07, 2012 13:49:43] Message ID: [39214]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Linda
Last Name: Bock
Street Address: 1303 Oakcrest Drive
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22302
Phone: 703-519-7783
Email Address: LindaEBock@comcast.net
Subject: school budget cuts
Comments: This council seems to have great bias against the current Superintendent, and therefore, against the students of Alexandria. While there are many things still not right with the school system, enormous progress has been made and should be the only thing considered when looking at the school budget. You have been able to find money for some truly ridiculous line items of late, do not penalize our students. years ago someone made the comment to me: when you move to Alexandria, you know you will have to send your children to private school. As a landlord, I am now finding tenants seeking out Alexandria as having a desirable school system. But there is still a long way to go. It will take a longer time than a few years to create a truly well functioning school system, but student progress is the main place to begin. Irregularities in the budget office should not be used as a weapon against our students.