NAME OF COUNCIL MEMBER

CONTESTED APPOINTMENT

ENDORSED BY

JUVENILE DETENTION COMMISSION OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA
(4-Year Term)
1 Citizen Member

_____ Brian Baker
_____ Gerylee Baron
_____ Mary Beth Flowers
_____ Dorathea Peters
_____ Michael Strutzel*

Nicholas Mihnovets
Cheryl Opacinich
Lillian Brooks

* Incumbent
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Mike Mackey
James Wilson
Lydia D’Alois
Eileen Grey
Darryl K. Francois
Rosa Byrd

Nicholas Mihnovets
Cheryl Opacinch
Lillian Brooks

* Incumbent
February 6, 2008

Alexandria City Council
3301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Euille and Council Members,

The purpose of this letter is to give my wholehearted endorsement for the appointment of Mary Beth Flowers to the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Commission to fill the Citizen Member vacancy.

Mrs. Flowers' parent perspective and her professional and volunteer experience make her a highly desirable candidate for this position. In addition, she has proven her commitment to the children of Alexandria in a variety of paid and volunteer positions for more than 20 years.

I would like to recognize Mrs. Flowers' enduring commitment to Alexandria's youth. She has proven her dedication to our through her service on many boards, committees and through volunteer work. Mrs. Flowers and I served together on several PTA boards and committees over the years. I found her to be creative, intelligent and articulate as we discussed, brainstormed, and voted on many issues related to youth, family, and community activities. She always followed through on committee assignments, and always held herself fully accountable for her actions and statements.

In addition, she worked for the school board for 8 years as a Child Nutrition Supervisor, where she was able to dedicate herself full time to the health and well-being of our children. She continues to work professionally in the Child Nutrition field at the Federal government level.

During my many years of service on the Youth Policy Commission, the HIV/AIDS Commission and working evaluate youth center program proposals on the Youth and Community Partnership Fund Committees, I have discussed with city employees, volunteers and community leaders in Alexandria the services and programs that the youth of our City need. I have also had the opportunity to do hands-on work with many youth leaders on projects designed to build a bright future for all our residents.

Because of my own experience working with and knowledge of Mrs. Flowers' commitment to positive youth development and the high level of expectations that she sets for herself, I believe that Mrs. Flowers would be an excellent choice for this appointment, and would be able to make a valuable contribution to the work of the commission.

I highly recommend her appointment to the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Commission.

Sincerely,

Darryl K. François

Past Member of
Youth Policy Commission, HIV/AIDS Commission,
City Partnership Fund Committee, Youth Fund Committee,
TC Williams PTA - President, Cora Kelly School for Science Math and Technology PTA - President, ACPS Budget Advisory Committee, ACPS Athletic Advisory Committee, Alexandrians for a Green TC, executive committee
Darryl Francois
<darrylkf@aol.com>

02/09/2008 01:49 PM

Please respond to
Darryl Francois
<darrylkf@aol.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>,
<delpepper@aol.com>, <paulcsmedberg@aol.com>,
cc <delpepper@aol.com>, <paulcsmedberg@aol.com>,
bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Recommendation for Appointment to the Juvenile Detention Commission

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


Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Darryl
Last Name: Francois
Street Address: 212 Guthrie Avenue
    City: Alexandria
    State: Virginia
    Zip: 22305
Phone: 703-548-5624
Email Address: darrylkf@aol.com
Subject: Recommendation for Appointment to the Juvenile Detention Commission
Please see the attached recommendation for the appointment of Mary Beth Flowers to the NOVA Juvenile Detention Commission.
Comments: Sincerely,
Darryl Francois

Attachment: 6bc4f8aaeee9e8f63aabdc65375e08bf.pdf
February 9, 2008

Alexandria City Council
City of Alexandria
3301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Euille and City Council Members –

Subject: Support for Mary Beth Flowers
Candidate for Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center Commission
(citizen member)

Please approve Mary Beth Flowers as a citizen member for the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center Commission (NVJDC). It is rare to find someone with past personal experience with the juvenile justice system who is so dedicated to improving the system for young people. When I visited the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center, staff there mentioned the work of a parent volunteer who arranged for programs and support. Later, I found out that they were referring to Mary Beth Flowers.

The City of Alexandria would be well served to have Mrs. Flowers on the NVJDC for her professional experience and history of active citizen volunteer service in addition to her parent perspective. Mrs. Flowers had the difficult experience of having her teen-aged African American son with special needs detained at the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center. I mention the following to help document how important it is to include a parent or personal perspective on the juvenile justice system on commissions and boards: The federal government requires that family members and/or young adults who have been through the juvenile justice system, be included among the gubernatorial appointments to state Advisory Committees on Juvenile Justice (which approve distribution of federal grants to localities within the state).

As a board member of two statewide organizations, I endorse Mrs. Flowers for the NVJDC:

- Virginia Coalition for Juvenile Justice - a network of parents, service providers, state agency staff, advocates, and individuals working to improve juvenile justice in Virginia.
- Virginia C.U.R.E., a 20 year-old all volunteer 501 (c)(3) organization that works with Virginia prison administrators and state legislators on behalf of prisoners and their families, with a focus on rehabilitation and reentry.

If I can provide further testimony in support of Mrs. Flowers, please contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

Eileen Grey
8 W. Oak St.
Alexandria, VA 22301
703-836-6442
Subject: Support for Mary Beth Flowers, NVJDC 2/12/08 Docket

Hello -

I am writing to support the candidacy of Mary Beth Flowers for the
Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Home Commission vacancy. Please see
my letter attached. Mrs. Flowers has excellent professional experience and
long history of citizen involvement in Alexandria, however, the most
compelling reason to approve her for the citizen member vacancy is that
she has had personal experience with the NVJDH due to the detention of her
son. There is no substitution for that kind of painful learning experience
especially when it is in combination with other attributes of compassion
and commitment.

Eileen Grey

Attachment: ef831a9ac1b8d2b05abe7d0b78c8e392.doc
DEAR MAYOR EUILLE, VICE MAYOR PEPPER, AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

MARY BETH FLOWERS IS THE BEST CITIZEN CANDIDATE FOR THE CURRENT VACANCY ON THE JUVENILE DETENTION COMMISSION, AN ITEM ON THE DOCKET FOR TUESDAY'S CITY COUNCIL SESSION (FEBRUARY 12).

MRS. FLOWERS' HAS A UNIQUE SET OF EXPERIENCES THAT AFFORD A PERSPECTIVE DESIGNED TO ENHANCE JUVENILE JUSTICE IN THIS GREAT CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, INCLUDING:
- ACTIVE VOLUNTEER IN THE JUVENILE DETENTION HOME;
- PARENT OF A YOUTH CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS;
- PARENT OF A YOUNG MAN WHO GRADUATED FROM ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS;
- A PARENT...
client of the juvenile detention home;
- former employee of Alexandria

City Public Schools;
- member of a multi-racial family;
- active in

Alexandria's Josephite church community, q.v.,

http://www.stjosephva.org/90years.html; and
- a Returned Peace Corps

Volunteer who relates to people of diverse backgrounds.

Also, may I take

this opportunity to express my confusion about commission appointments.

The description on the web

page for Boards & Commissions suggests that

members of commissions are citizens: "These bodies compose a formal

system through which citizens can advise City Council..."

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system through which citizens can advise City Council..."

(The City of Falls

Church supports this perspective specifically for the Juvenile Detention

Commission:

"Governed by the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention

Commission, the Detention Center comprises five citizen

representatives -

two each from the City of Alexandria and Arlington County and one

representative from the City of Falls

Church."

(While one of Alexandria's members is a

citizen, the second member is director of the unit for which this

commission is advisory

and may not be an Alexandria citizen. The

perspective of the Juvenile Court Services unit on the commission is

important, but it is a professional view, and not that of a citizen. It

is critical that membership of the Northern Virginia Commission

reflect

the state commission's inclusion of consumer citizens.

Thank you for
considering Mrs. Flowers for this important four-year appointment.

Sincerely,
Lydia D'Alois Telephone:
703-773095
1020 Vernon Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
(a researcher formerly with the Monitoring & Evaluation Office of Alexandria City Public Schools and active in the Northeast Civic Association)
To: alexvamayor@aol.com, timothylovain@aol.com, councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com.

Cc: 

Bcc: 

Subject: Citizen Member Recommendation

February 6, 2008

The purpose of this letter is to highly recommend Mary Beth Flowers for appointment to the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Commission for the citizen member vacancy.

Mrs. Flower's perspective as a parent and her professional and volunteer experiences make her a highly desirable candidate for this position. In addition, she has proven her commitment to the children of Alexandria in a variety of paid and volunteer positions over the past twenty (20) years.
Mrs. Flowers introduced herself to me shortly after I arrived at the NVJDHS about eight months ago. She offered her services to be a resource person to our school and she has been a very effective partner in developing and funding additional academic activities for our students. I find her creative, intelligent, articulate, and resourceful as we continually look for enriching academic activities for our children. Her follow-through is amazing. She is a tremendous resource for all of us. Our school staff is delighted to have Mrs. Flowers out in the community constantly trying to create partnerships and alliances to make transition paths for our students. Our program has truly benefited because of her involvement.

I strongly believe that Ms. Flowers would be an excellent choice to be appointed to this board and would be able to make a valuable contribution to the work of this commission. I highly endorse her appointment to the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Commission.

I would be happy to entertain any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

Dr. James Wilson
Principal
NVJDH School
Recommendation Letter for Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Commission

Dear Mayor Euille and City Council,

The purpose of this letter is to highly recommend Mary Beth Flowers for appointment to the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Commission for the citizen member vacancy. She has given permission for me to communicate with you about the experiences I have had with her family and suggested that I provide this to you in email form.

Mrs. Flowers' parent perspective and her professional and volunteer experience make her a highly desirable candidate for this position. In addition, she has proven her commitment to the children of Alexandria in a variety of paid and volunteer positions over the past 20 years. Mrs. Flowers has proven herself to truly be a champion for our children in Alexandria and her efforts to help the least of our children are truly admirable.
We have some history together. I was the community probation officer in Hume Springs when Mary Beth was heavily involved with the Hume Springs Citizens Association. She engaged me as a community partner and welcomed me to many events. As life would have it, her oldest son ended up in trouble and I was assigned to her family as his probation officer.

I can tell you, during all of my time as a probation officer, Mrs. Flowers was an exemplary parent and was more than cooperative with me. But Mrs. Flowers took it a few steps further. As she found deficits within the system, she did not hesitate to engage decision makers to effect change. She is a courageous woman and would make a tremendous impact on the commission, should she be selected. She is absolutely a woman of action and will not hesitate to approach whomever is needed to effect change.

I believe that she would be an excellent choice to be appointed to this board and would be able to make a valuable contribution to the work of this commission. I highly endorse her appointment to the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Commission.

I would be happy to entertain any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Mike Mackey

Mike Mackey
City of Alexandria
Gang Prevention &
Intervention Coordinator
18th District Court Service Unit
520 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703)-838-4144, x 242

www.alexandriava.gov/gangprevention
Rosa Byrd
<rebyrd@comcast.net>

02/11/2008 03:07 PM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>,
<councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>,
<delpepper@aol.com>, <paulcsmedberg@aol.com>,
cc bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Northern Va Detention Commission
Member

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

Time: [Mon Feb 11, 2008 15:07:11] IP Address: [206.158.3.10]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Rosa
Last Name: Byrd
Street Address: 203 Wesmond Drive
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22305
Phone: 703 549-2931
Email Address: rebyrd@comcast.net

Subject: Northern Va Detention Commission Member
This email is to endorse Mary Beth Flowers for appointment to the Northern
Virginia Juvenile Detention Commission as a citizen member. I have known
Mrs. Flowers more than 20 years and know she is a strong advocate for
children and families. I realize Mary Beth is white but I can attest to
the fact that she could represent the minority perspective very effectively
as a member of the Juvenile Detention Commission. It would be a tremendous
asset to have her on this commission because she has the ability to
understand what it's like to raise minority children in Alexandria. Please
vote for Mrs. Flowers
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___ Gerylee Baron

___ Mary Beth Flowers

4 Doretha Peters

3 Michael Strutzel*

ENDORSED BY

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Cheryl Opacinch
Lillian Brooks

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

* Incumbent

2-12-08
EXHIBIT NO. 1

2-12-08

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