

3
10-30-08



Scott Littky <scott@littky.com>

10/29/2008 09:04 PM

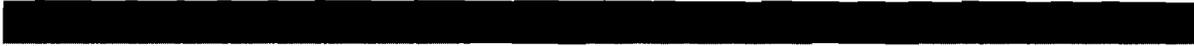
Please respond to
Scott Littky <scott@littky.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov, timothylovain@aol.com,
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,
delpepper@aol.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Police Officer @ Minnie Howard



Time: [Wed Oct 29, 2008 21:04:41] IP Address: [68.55.39.104]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Scott

Last Name: Littky

Street Address: 2900 Valley Drive

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22302

Phone: 7035485795

Email Address: scott@littky.com

Subject: Police Officer @ Minnie Howard

Understanding that money is tight and that each dollar is important. We have been told that due to budget cuts the City would be cutting the Police Officer from Minnie Howard. I hope that this will not happen. Although for the most part I'm sure we have wonderful young people at Minnie Howard I know that the presence of an officer at the school has been very helpful.

3

10-30-08



"Sauls, Lynn \ (ME/TS)"
<LSauls@usaid.gov>
10/30/2008 12:22 PM

To <jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject FW: please open for tonight's budget hearing

jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov

Michael the e-mail for Jackie does not appear to be correct as it just bounced back – can you assist? Lynn

Jackie, I'd like these comments to be submitted for the record for the October 30, 2008 Public Hearing.

With respect to the operating budget and capital improvements programs preparation for the City of Alexandria, I am submitting a suggestion that I, my family and neighbors urgently hope will be considered and taken seriously,

The area of concern is located on the Mt Vernon trail along the water front just south of Ford's Landing and north of the WW Bridge (also known as Jones Point Park). It is in deplorable condition. The bike path that runs along the water is often covered with trash when the river frequently over-flows. The area is littered with old stumps, weeds and broken trees. The bridge path is being eroded underneath the tarmac because of lack of upkeep. There are rat holes along the water front where animals and other insects crawl. The inlet collects all kinds of debris from the river that washes up daily like gasoline drums, plastic containers, trees of every shape and size, cans, and other trash.

This area has been neglected for many years. We have been told that once the bridge is completed that there will be improvements. But again, nothing.

There is great confusion as to who has responsibility and jurisdiction for this area. Does it belong to the National Park Service because its Park Service land or is it the WW Bridge project's responsibility? Does Transportation and Environmental Services from the City of Alexandria hold responsibility or is it Recreation and Parks? Some one needs to take a bit of time – hold a meeting, invite all parties mentioned above and determine a realistic plan for what's to be done!

There also needs to be budget set aside for this area which is used by hundreds of people every day – bikers, families walking babies, people walking dogs etc. Its not only uses by those who live in the neighborhood.

We'd like a long-term plan to be established; clean-up alone will not help the sorely debilitated infrastructure along this stretch of Mt Vernon trail. We will not rest until something is done. As you know, a lot of us pay high taxes every year and we'd like to see some improvements in our neighborhoods too.

Respectfully,

Lynn Sauls

14 Alexander St

Alexandria, VA 22314

e-mail: lynnbsauls@aol.com

Tel # 703-549-5799



"Diane Charles"
<dianecharles@scanva.org>
10/30/2008 03:19 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject For the Mayor and Members of City Council

3

10-30-08

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

Thank you -- to you and the City Manager -- for the work undertaken thus far and what faces you tonight and the months ahead as it relates to the City's budget. It is tough times ahead for everyone in every sector.

I cannot personally be at the Public Hearing tonight, but I did want to briefly express my general thoughts on the budget cuts that are on the table for consideration to address this current year's budget shortfall.

There is nothing about this process that will be easy nor non-emotional. I know you all realize that it is in tough times like these when our human services are actually in greater need and of greater assistance to our residents. Please keep this in mind as you try to weigh what has to be prioritized and what might need to wait for funding. Our residents and their well-being will be what will help all of us make it through these difficult times. For example, as many of you know, SCAN operates the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program (CASA) in which trained community volunteers advocated for over 175 Alexandria children this past fiscal year who were in the court system because of abuse and neglect. SCAN also provides two on-going Educational Parent Support Groups, one in English and one in Spanish, that serve as incredible outlets for information, stress reduction, idea generating and supportive havens for parents. We also provide parenting classes and playgroups to help parents navigate their way through the challenging job of parenting --- especially during stressful times.

I also want to say THANK YOU to the City for the funding support provided through the Community Partnership Funds --- that provide valuable support to Alexandria's nonprofit organizations to deliver these needed and critical services to our residents. I appreciate that those funds are not on the revenue reduction list. I can assure you that those funds will be investments that pay off ten-fold in what they provide for our most vulnerable residents.

Thank you again for your leadership during this very challenging time.... A time that is likely here with us for awhile.

Sincerely,

Diane L. Charles

Diane L. Charles

Executive Director

SCAN of Northern Virginia / www.scanva.org

Building hope for children and families in Northern Virginia

1705 Fern Street, 2nd Floor
Alexandria, VA 22302
703-820-9001
703-820-9002 fax

Stay in touch with SCAN...subscribe to our monthly Email Newsletter!

3
10-30-08



Linda Childs <lchilds@cox.net>

10/30/2008 03:47 PM

Please respond to
Linda Childs <lchilds@cox.net>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov, timothylovain@aol.com,
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,
delpepper@aol.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Minnie Howard School Resource Officer

Time: [Thu Oct 30, 2008 15:47:33] IP Address: [206.158.3.10]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Linda

Last Name: Childs

Street Address: 6329 Chaucer View Circle

City: Alexandria

State: Virginia

Zip: 22304

Phone: 703.823.1983

Email Address: lchilds@cox.net

Subject: Minnie Howard School Resource Officer

I understand that the Mayor and City Manager of Alexandria is considering removing the School Resource Officer position at our school, Minnie Howard.

I believe that this would be a very poor decision.

Ninth grade is a

critical year in our teenager's lives. Research shows us that this is the year of strong dropout rates and easy separation from family and school influence. We need to keep our children involved in their education so graduation is obtainable. We do not want to let peer influence along with volatile tempers, so normal for this age group, ruin their lives.

Our

school does not have the fine reputation it does for simply existing. It is because of the framework and high expectations we adults have for all of our students. The strong bond between the SRO and the students along with his impressive demeanor in the halls is one of the reasons discipline is

Comments:

maintained in our building. I truly believe it is also carried out into

the community when the children leave at 3:15.

I cannot fathom how we

would need this position at the two middle schools and at TCW but not here

in the between stage. It makes no sense!

=====

Linda B.

Childs
Testing Coordinator
Reading Specialist
Minnie Howard School
3801

West Braddock Road
Alexandria, VA 22302

Alexandria, VA

22302
703.824.6755



"Jesus Moreno"
<jmoreno@hcva.org>
10/30/2008 04:19 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject

3

10-30-08

Mayor and members of the City council of the City of Alexandria:

The Hispanic Committee of Virginia would like to thank the City Mayor and Members of City Council for not reducing the human service contributions to nonprofit organizations

We`are extremely happy to see that we can still keep using your funds **the poorest of the poor among Hispanic/Latino immigrants in the City of Alexandria**. In fact, more than 90% of our clients are foreign-born from Latin American countries and more than 90% live below the poverty level. Forty percent of its clients have been living in the United States for less than five years and another 40% have been living in the United States for ten years or less. Forty percent have less than an eight grade education and another 40% are high school graduates. Less than 10% are college graduates.

We really appreciate the City's understanding that now more than ever it is very important to keep providing social services to the people in the lower scale of society.

Best Regards

Jesus Moreno

Executive Director (Acting)

Hispanic Committee of Virginia

5827 Columbia Pike Suite 200

Falls Church, VA 22041

703-671-5666 Ext 27

jmoreno@hcva.org

www.hcva.org

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10-30-08



"Patricia Donnelly"
<pdonnelly@lcnv.org>
10/30/2008 04:25 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>
cc
bcc

Subject Funding for Non-Profit Organizations

City Clerk: I am writing on behalf of the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia and we are grateful for the continued support of the City of Alexandria. Your financial contributions through the Department of Human Services has helped thousands of adults improve their literacy and language skills and become engaged, productive citizens.

This economic downturn is troubling to us all and we must make sacrifices, but I ask you to please consider not reducing any funds for human service non-profits. The difficult economic times are when our clients need our help the most. Shelter, food, health care, education, among many other services cannot be denied to our neighbors, especially during rough economic times. Non-profit human service organizations can meet these needs much more efficiently and cost-effectively than any other sector, and with your help, we can continue to keep our doors open.

The Literacy Council of Northern Virginia educates over 2000 adults in Northern Virginia every year. In Alexandria alone, 218 adults participated in our basic literacy or beginning-level English classes. We are investing in the future of our neighbors through education, which in turn will invest back in our economy. The continued support of the City of Alexandria is critical to our mission. Please keep this in mind when you are looking for ways to scale back the budget. Many thanks, Patti Donnelly

Featured in the 2007-2008 Catalogue for Philanthropy
Patricia M. Donnelly
Executive Director
Literacy Council of Northern Virginia
2855 Annandale Road
Falls Church, VA 22042
p) 703-237-0866
f) 703-237-2863
www.lcnv.org

3
10-30-08



Mark Jinks/Alex
10/30/2008 05:54 PM

To Jackie Henderson/Alex@Alex
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: Comments for tonight's budget hearing

----- Forwarded by Mark Jinks/Alex on 10/30/2008 05:54 PM -----



"Stephanie Landrum"
<landrum@alexecon.org>
10/30/2008 05:20 PM

To <Alexvamayor@aol.com>, <dellepper@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <rob@krupicka.com>, <paulcsmedberg@aol.com>, <Justin.Wilson@alexandriava.gov>, <timothylovain@aol.com>
cc <Jim.Hartmann@alexandriava.gov>, <Mark.Jinks@alexandriava.gov>, <aartemel@aol.com>
Subject Comments for tonight's budget hearing

Please see the attached letter as it pertains to tonight's City Council public hearing on the FY 2009/2010 Budget.

Stephanie Landrum, CECD

Senior Vice President
Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, Inc.
1729 King Street, Suite 410
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-739-3820, ext. 102
www.alexecon.org



Letter to City Council- FY2009-2010 Budget 103008.pdf



October 30, 2008

Alexandria City Council
City Hall, Room 2300
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

As you are faced with the difficult task of making cuts to the current year budget and setting guidance for preparation of the FY 2010 budget, there will be many priorities that will prove difficult to balance. In these tight economic times, it is critically important to continue to invest in activities that will ensure we have sufficient revenue for the City's future budget needs. Strengthening economic development efforts City-wide will yield greater revenues in the future as our business sector strengthens and expands, enhancing collection of real and personal property taxes, sales taxes, meals taxes, occupancy taxes, etc.

Every dollar invested in economic development returns real tax dollars to the City. Increasing our commercial activities through new and expanded business growth will continue to assist the City in funding the public services that make Alexandria a desirable location for both residents and businesses.

As City staff noted in presentations to Council over the weekend, with the exception of real estate tax revenue, the City's economy remains relatively strong. We are committed to working with our partners in City government and beyond to assure that Alexandria emerges from these trying economic times as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Agnes Artemel
Chair

cc: Jim Hartmann, City Manager
Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager, AEDP Board member
AEDP Board of Directors

3
10-30-08

Statement to the Alexandria City Council- October 30, 2008

Mr. Mayor, Mr. Manager and Members of Council

My name is Gary Carr and I rise once again to advocate for you to pay it forward and restore the running tracks to G.W and Hammond Middle Schools.

Because of my limited amount of time, I would like to introduce for the record some of the extensive reasoning for this action made over several years, and reiterate a few important points.

If, in fact, you don't ascribe to the notion of the emerging threat of childhood obesity, the health consequences of a sedentary lifestyle one of these factors should be persuasive-

Simple Need- In a community of 130,000, no public running facility. What we have at the middle schools is substandard and the children and the community deserve better.

Historic Importance- It is impossible to truly "Remember the Titans" without understanding the relationship between Hammond, G.W., Parker-Gray and T.C. Williams. The segregationist legacy of this city, from black and white children not being able to learn or play together, to an African America who was a product of the separatist legacy rising to lead this city. The running tracks are an important artifact of our history, and when the tracks are restored, a plaque should be placed at each site to commemorate and explain the role of these former high schools in the city's complex racial history.

Economic Opportunity- A first class running facility will serve as a magnet for runners all across the region. There are a hundred way to leverage this public infrastructure investment.

Cost- In a time of true fiscal constraint, it is a cost-effective expenditure. At its most basic, it is simply a matter of one-mile of asphalt road. Once this base is constructed, the rubberized track surface could be added later along with any field improvement. All it takes for now is blacktop and paint. Furthermore, if even just the architectural drawings are created, there are organizations that are willing to build these structures at *no cost* to the city at all. You would even be surprised at construction workers who would be willing to supply the labor get this done for free.

Location- The place to put the tracks is plain to see, encircling the fields at our middle schools. And by serendipity or grace, the perfect location for a community track of championship caliber is still available- Braddock Field. It has parking, bus, metro, shelter, flat topography, surrounded on three sided by non-residential. I implore you to investigate creating what would truly be an All-City and All-Sports Facility. Three fields together where track, football, soccer, rugby, lacrosse and field hockey, along with basketball and tennis- could coexist, and where the infrastructure already exist.

These are times of austerity. We must be thoughtful and what we expend upon. The running tracks pass this test. Restore what rightfully should be there.

I made my case and now I'm done- but if we build it, they will run.

**THE CASE FOR RESTORING THE RUNNING TRACKS AT
FRANCIS HAMMOND AND GEORGE WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOLS
IN THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**

The running tracks at Alexandria, Virginia former high schools were eliminated when the facilities were renovated after being converted into middle schools. The basis for case for the restoration of running tracks at Francis Hammond and George Washington Middle Schools is the following:

Community Need- The simple fact is that for a community of better than 150,000 a single track is insufficient to meet the need. Tracks are focused on the schools, but used by all.

Childhood Obesity- Overweight children represent a significant and growing number of child who through overeating and lack of exercise put their long term health at risk. Overweight or obese children and adults could comprise a majority of population

Type II Diabetes- This largely preventable malady is the scourge of the 21st Century primarily a result of sedentary lifestyles and poor dietary choices. Incidence of other metabolic related disease are also increased.

Cardio-vascular Disease- Experts also warn that if left unchecked, childhood obesity and a sedentary lifestyle may undo advancements that have been made in heart disease prevention and survival. It is the leading cause of death in the United States.

Standards of Learning- Numerous SOL items could be addressed in a practical manner. Time, distance, speed, velocity, decimals, fraction, ratios to mention just a few.

College Scholarships- nearly 15,000 scholarship are offered and track and field annually.

Universal Usage- All segments of the community from the very young to the very old will be patron of the tracks. It will be used males and female equally. In shape or out of shape, come one come all.

High School Track Unavailable to Community- Single track at High School not available during school hours, many times after-school due to practices or games, and never at night due to no lighting apparatus.

Track Surfaces- Specialized track surfaces are much healthier for the feet, knees and legs of runners.

Enhances Limited Field Inventory- Addition of a track whenever possible dramatically increases the usage of a finite resource without diminishing field inventory. Running can occur simultaneously in most case with field usage.

Use By All Athletes- Athletes in every sport, from swimming to golf, will benefit from usage of the running tracks. Cardio-vascular fitness is a requisite for success.

Loss of Physical Activity During School Day- As Academics take priority there are fewer opportunities to engage in exercise during school

Economic Benefits- Running tracks draw runners to the area both locally and nationally, would purchase everything from water to hotel rooms and everything in between.

Better Dietary Choices- Individual who run make better dietary choices

Disproportionately Affects Minorities- African Americans and Hispanics are more like to bear the negative impact of sedentary lifestyles. They are also growing faster than the general population.

Reduces Smoking and Drug use- Studies clearly show that runner statistically smoke tobacco products and illegal substance at a much lower rate

Cost- Obesity and cardio-vascular related diseases represent billions of dollar in health related cost, loss of productivity. One and every six health care dollars are spent on obesity related illnesses.

Prestige- The positive notability that would be brought to the city from hosting a regional track event. Alexandria would receive incalculable free advertisement.

Piggyback Promotions- Track related events that corresponds to The Marine Corps Marathon and Army Ten-Miler and others would bring thousands of visitors to the city.

Character- Running builds and reinforces positive character attributes. (i.e. work ethic, judgment, commitment, focus, resolve, and determination)

Self Esteem- Studies have shown that physically active children, especially adolescent girls, have a markedly improved self confidence, resulting in better overall performance gains.

Reduces Inhibitions- The group mentality encourages the hesitant to engage in physical activity.

Safety- Running tracks provide a safe environment for exercise for children and women. Running or jogging on the city streets or in isolation have inherent dangers

Self Esteem- Weight loss and physical fitness have been proven to improve self images and positive outlook.

Inangible Benefits- Many other things that have not been mention here.



Temporary Bleachers
Area as Needed

BRADDOCK FIELD AND GW SCHOOL

by Leslie noir Carr
If you build it they
will rain.

If you do't it won't
be fun.

build it happy or build it
sad.

build it for me and my
dad.

build it please or will
be sad.

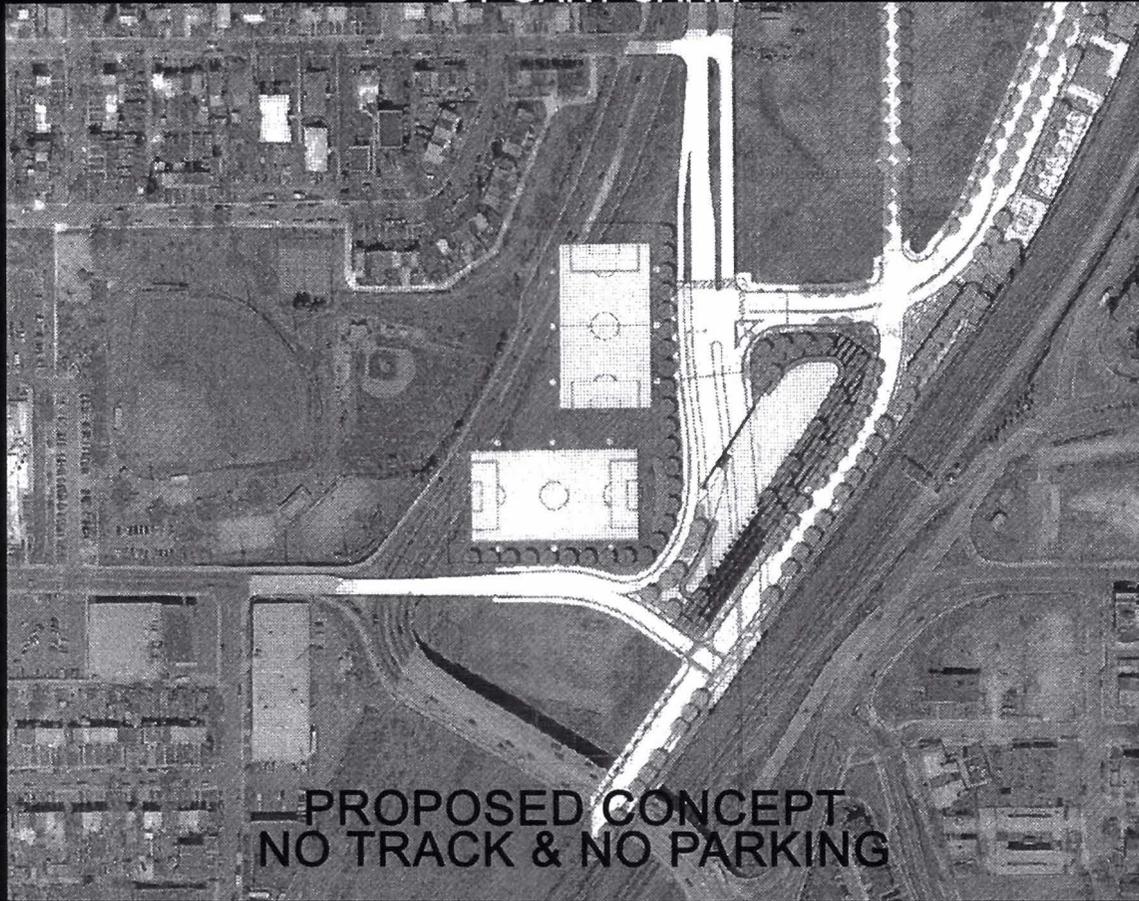
build it now and will
be glad.

please build it build it
now.

come on you know how.

But do't just build it
for me build build it for
the community!!!

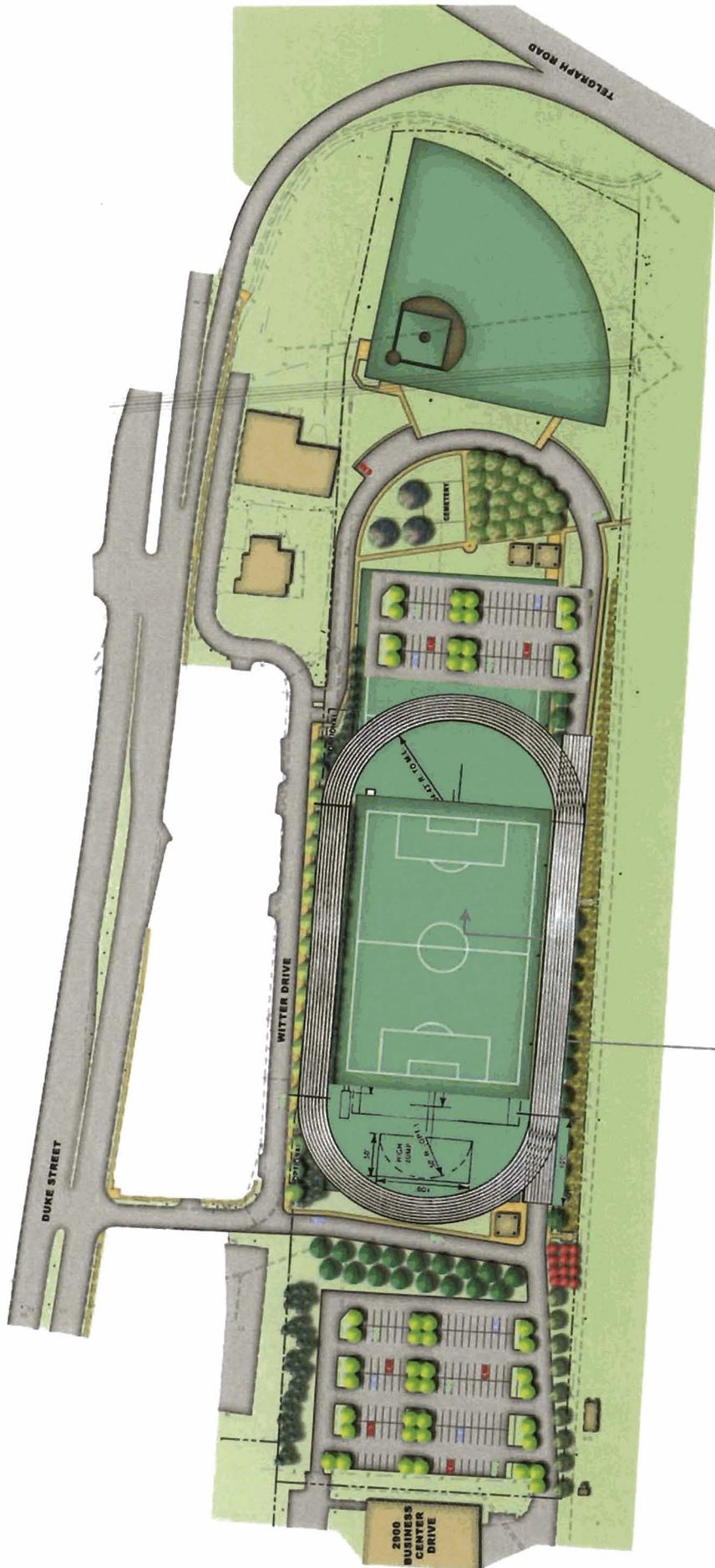
BY GARY CARR



PROPOSED CONCEPT
NO TRACK & NO PARKING



ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT
8-LANE TRACK & PARKING

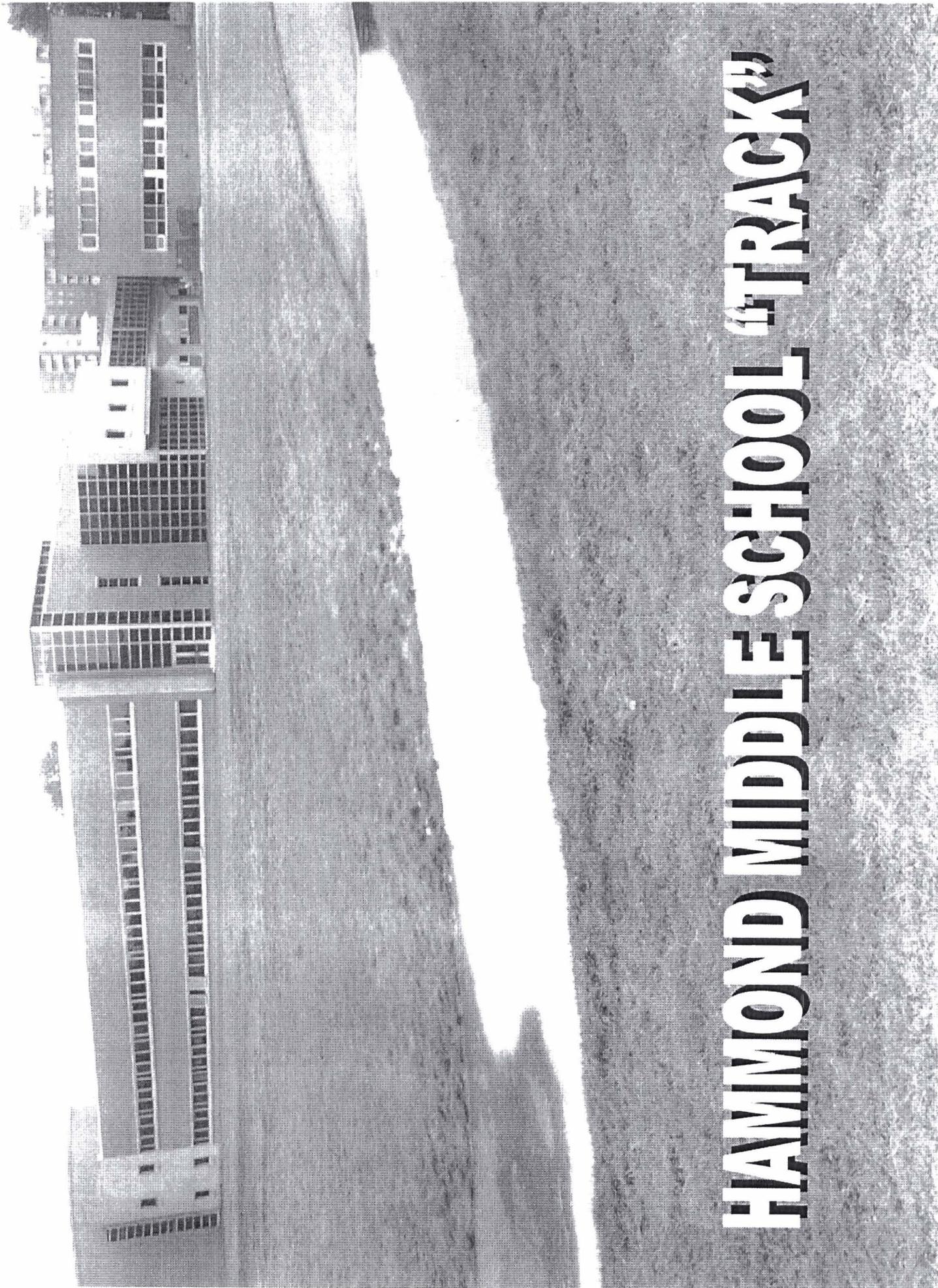




Temporary Bleachers
Area as Needed



BRADDOCK FIELD AND GW SCHOOL



HAMMOND MIDDLE SCHOOL "TRACK"



What are your CIP PRIORITIES?

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN COMMUNITY MEETING

Thursday, November 6 , 2008

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Lee Center, Exhibit Hall, 1108 Jefferson St.

The City of Alexandria is hosting a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Community Meeting on Thursday, November 6. The meeting will provide an opportunity for the public to learn about the City's Capital Improvement Program, and will help inform City Council about community priorities.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Prior to the meeting, residents are encouraged to learn more about the CIP process and projects by visiting alexandriava.gov/budget.

MEETING FORMAT

At 6:00 p.m., a Capital Project Fair will be held for the public to learn about all of the CIP projects, ask questions of City staff, and receive additional information. The community meeting will formally begin at 7 p.m. Attendees will break up into small groups to discuss the CIP projects with other community members and express their opinions about them. The meeting will conclude with a polling exercise where participants will answer specific questions about CIP priorities.

REGISTRATION

To attend, please RSVP by e-mailing dawn.webster@alexandriava.gov or calling 703.838.4780. Residents who are unable to attend may submit written comments on the CIP to:

Dawn Webster
Office of Management and Budget
301 King Street, Room 3630
Alexandria, VA 22314

Comments may be e-mailed to:

CIPcomments@alexandriava.gov

Please submit all written comments no later than November 30.



October 15, 2008

The Third McCain-Obama Presidential Debate

SENS. MCCAIN AND OBAMA PARTICIPATE IN A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES
DEBATE, HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY, HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK

“The rise of obesity amongst young Americans is one of the most alarming statistics that there is.
We should have physical fitness programs and nutrition programs in schools.

Every parent should know what's going on there.

We need to have employers reward employees who join health clubs and practice wellness and fitness.”

U.S. SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN (AZ)
REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE

**BFAAC TESTIMONY ON FY 2010 BUDGET
OUTLOOK**

Good evening, Mr. Mayor and Members of Council. My name is Tracy Rickett and I am here to present the views of the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee. BFAAC appreciates the opportunity to present our preliminary views on the FY 2010 budget at this public hearing, and we encourage your on-going efforts to ensure public involvement in the budget process.

Before getting to the FY 2010 budget, we would like to make a few comments about the current FY 2009 budget. At the Council Retreat last Saturday, the public was told that the City has a budget shortfall of \$10.5 million. That shortfall is primarily the result of the higher than predicted decline in the value of real property. To close the funding gap, the City Manager has recommended \$10.5 million in budget adjustments: \$4.2 million in efficiency measures; \$5.3 million in service reductions; and \$0.9 million from fee increases and use of the Environmental Settlement Fund.

The efficiency measures and service reductions are set forth in detail in the City Manager's Spending Reductions Report and the corresponding Spending Reductions Plan. We commend the City Manager and the Office of Management and Budget for the transparency with which this information has been provided to the public. We also commend City departments for making the tough choices necessary to maintain essential services while reducing costs.

BFAAC would like to note that the City's ability to rationally determine which efficiency measures and service reductions would have the least impact on core services is the direct result of City budget processes adopted just a few years ago. The Management for Results Initiative (MFRI) required City Departments to categorize their work into five-hundred different activities and to rank those activities in terms of their importance to its core mission. Similarly, City departments recently completed an Activities Analysis that self-assessed each department activity on

its importance and on the department's effectiveness in delivering the activity.

As a result, when the City realized the extent of the revenue shortfall, it already had in hand the information that would make it possible to determine which efficiency measures and service reductions would least impact a Department's ability to deliver its core services. BFAAC supported the adoption of the MFRI and the Activities Analysis from their inceptions because we believed it would improve the budgetary process by increasing accountability and by providing a rational way of determining whether tax dollars were being spent on essential services before non-essential ones.

Without the MFRI and the Activities Analysis, the City would be scrambling to figure out what to do with a \$10.5 million shortfall. As it is, very difficult budget decisions can be made, in the parlance of this campaign year, with a scalpel and not a meat cleaver.

That said, at a time when good budget processes are yielding desired results, it is troubling to BFAAC that the Spending Reduction Plan includes cuts that will: 1) scale back the MFRI; 2) de-emphasize the CIP Phased Review Process; and 3) stop improvements to the long range budget forecast model--all of which we have supported as important improvements in the budget process. To BFAAC, such cuts appear to be penny wise and pound foolish, because now is the time when those budgetary tools are most needed. They may have been useful tools to utilize during the revenue-rich years, but they are essential tools now. With respect to the CIP budget, BFAAC has volunteered to assist City staff in the Phased Review Process of any project.

The budget challenges being dealt with by the City in 2009 look easy compared to challenges confronting us in FY 2010. Next year, a \$56 million revenue shortfall is anticipated simply to maintain current services in the 2009 budget, without an MRA. With the fiscal pressure that will put on the City, it will be

especially important to adhere to sound financial policies and procedures, and to maintain a long-term perspective.

With regard to sound financial policies and procedures, we continue to support the managing for results initiative and its use of performance measures. We agree with the concept of determining the cost of current services as a foundation for building the budget. And we continue to support the use of budget guidance from the City Council to the City Manager.

Two years ago, BFAAC recommended that the City adopt a new framework for assessing CIP projects, one that would make it possible for the Council to make careful and reasoned decisions on which projects to potentially scale back, slow down, or eliminate. The City has adopted a number of our recommendations and BFAAC hereby advocates for their continued use, most particularly that:

- 1) each project in the CIP be linked more clearly to the City's strategic plan;

- 2) each project demonstrate its ability to maintain or enhance a service level as identified by the relevant department through MFRI; and
- 3) MFRI will be implemented in the CIP using a “stage-gate” review process focusing on efficiency, technical performance, and impact metrics.

With regard to maintaining a long-term perspective, BFAAC has consistently expressed concern about the City’s heavy reliance on real property taxes. Few, if any, of us have ever seen the kind of drop off we are experiencing in real property tax revenue. With 57% of our real property tax revenue coming from residential and 43% from commercial, BFAAC encourages Council to find ways to promote commercial growth so as to provide relief to our residents who have been asked over the last few years to shoulder more and more of the financial responsibility. We also encourage the City to continue to try to diversify its revenue sources, despite the constraints imposed by the Commonwealth. Accelerated

implementation of the recommendations of the Economic Sustainability Group would be an important step in any attempt to equalize the residential to commercial disparity and to grow revenues. We see economic development as one place where budgets might actually be increased because of the potential for return on investment of public money.

With regard to compensation, we look forward to the Watson Wyatt Study. We continue to believe that the City should shift the ratio of its overall spending on benefits away from fringe benefits and toward salary.

We are pleased that the City and Schools have addressed ways to control health care costs while trying to maintain the quality of care. Because health care costs are increasing so dramatically with no end in sight, we have particularly urged the City to consider cost containment strategies in its employee health benefits, including looking at the option of self-funding.

With regard to the setting of the real property tax rate, we

have previously urged Council to monitor the percentage of per capita income that goes to pay the residential real property tax and to be especially cautious in setting rates that result in ratios above the historical ranges. This measure could be helpful in a year where incomes (as well as property values) may be decreasing. In addition, as noted earlier, the City should continue to utilize the MFRI and the Activity Analysis when making Operating Budget decisions and the Phased Review Process when making CIP decisions.

As always, BFAAC looks forward to working with Council and Staff as we grapple with this very challenging economic environment, and we thank you for the opportunity to speak to you tonight.

BFAAC TESTIMONY ON FY 2010 BUDGET OUTLOOK

Good evening, Mr. Mayor and Members of Council. My name is Tracy Rickett and I am here to present the preliminary views of the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee on the FY 2010 budget.

Before getting to that, however, we would like to make a few comments about the FY 2009 budget. At the Council Retreat last Saturday, the public was told that the City has a budget shortfall of \$10.5 million. That shortfall is primarily the result of the decline in the value of real property. To close the funding gap, the City Manager has recommended \$10.5 million in budget adjustments: \$4.2 million in efficiency measures; \$5.3 million in service reductions; and \$0.9 million from fee increases and use of the Environmental Settlement Fund.

The City's ability to rationally determine which efficiency measures and service reductions would have the least impact on core services is the direct result of City budget processes adopted just a few years ago. The Management for Results Initiative (MFRI) required City

Departments to categorize their work into five-hundred different activities and to rank those activities in terms of their importance to its core mission. Similarly, the City recently completed an Activities Study that scored City activities on importance and on the City's effectiveness in delivering the activity.

As a result, when the City realized the extent of the revenue shortfall, it already had in hand the information that would make it possible to determine which efficiency measures and service reductions would least impact a Department's ability to deliver its core services.

Without the MFRI and the Activities Study, the City would be scrambling to figure out what to do with a \$10.5 million shortfall. As it is, very difficult budget decisions can be made, in the parlance of this campaign year, with a scalpel and not a meat cleaver.

That said, at a time when good budget processes are yielding desired results, it is troubling to BFAAC that the Spending Reduction Plan includes cuts that will: 1) scale back the MFRI; 2) de-emphasize the CIP Phased Review Process; and 3) stop the implementation of the long

range budget forecast model. To BFAAC, such cuts appear to be penny wise and pound foolish, because now is the time when those budgetary tools are needed most.

The budget challenges being dealt with by the City in 2009 look easy compared to challenges confronting us in FY 2010. Next year, a \$36 million revenue shortfall is anticipated simply to maintain current services in the 2009 budget. With the fiscal pressure that will put on the City, it will be especially important to adhere to sound financial policies and procedures, and to maintain a long-term perspective.

BFAAC continues to support the managing for results initiative and its use of performance measures. We agree with the concept of determining the cost of current services as a foundation for building the budget. We continue to support the use of budget guidance from the City Manager to City Departments. And we continue to support the use of a Phased Review Process on CIP projects.

With regard to maintaining a long-term perspective, BFAAC has consistently expressed concern about the City's heavy reliance on real

property taxes. We encourage the City to continue to try to diversify its revenue sources, despite the constraints imposed by the Commonwealth. Accelerated implementation of the recommendations of the Economic Sustainability Group would be an important step in any attempt to equalize the residential to commercial disparity and to grow revenues.

With regard to the setting of the real property tax rate, we have previously urged Council to monitor the percentage of per capita income that goes to pay the residential real property tax and to be especially cautious in setting rates that result in ratios above the historical ranges. This measure could be helpful in a year where incomes (as well as property values) may be decreasing. In addition, as noted earlier, the City should continue to utilize the MFRI and the Activity Study when making Operating Budget decisions and the Phased Review Process when making CIP decisions.

As always, BFAAC looks forward to working with Council and Staff as we grapple with this very challenging economic environment, and we thank you for the opportunity to speak to you tonight.

3
10-30-08



Paula Whitacre
<ptw@fullcircle.org>

10/31/2008 08:00 AM

Please respond to
Paula Whitacre
<ptw@fullcircle.org>

To jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov
cc
bcc
Subject COA Contact Us: Testimony from Oct. 30 hearing



Time: [Fri Oct 31, 2008 08:00:20] IP Address: [69.143.40.57]

Issue Type: City Clerk and Clerk of Council
First Name: Paula
Last Name: Whitacre
Street Address: 600 Ft. Williams Parkway
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703-212-0350
Email Address: ptw@fullcircle.org
Subject: Testimony from Oct. 30 hearing
I forgot to leave my statement from the budget hearing with you last night.
Comments: I have attached it. Please let me know if you have any questions.
Attachment: 3199e488b986104446cd518a751b5076.doc



3199e488b986104446cd518a751b5076.doc

Testimony By Paula Whitacre, TC/MH PTSA
October 30, 2008

Mister Mayor, Members of the City Council, and Mr. City Manager,

My name is Paula Whitacre. I am one of the co-chairs of the Minnie Howard part of the TC Williams/Minnie Howard PTSA, and I am representing the PTSA tonight. We have many parents here tonight, and you also heard from some other people who are really on the front lines.

We realize how tight the budget is, and the economic difficulties of everyone in our city. We know you have tough choices to make. We are very concerned, however, with the plan to cut the School Resource Officer from Minnie Howard as part of the Police Department's proposed cuts.

Our understanding is that the argument for the cut is that violent incidents are relatively low at Minnie Howard and that the school administration can contact the police in the event of an emergency.

We can't neatly count or quantify the number of incidents **prevented** as a result of the school resource officer—but that's what will be lost if this position is eliminated. Officer Tony Sydnor is involved in conflict resolution, diffusing situations before they escalate. He deters as well as solves problems, as many as several dozen a day. Maybe members of the City Council would consider spending a day with him.

The situation is this: Minnie Howard has about 740 students.

That's 740 15-year-olds with raging hormones.

Classes have up to 30 kids in them. The halls are crowded, and I'm sure you can imagine what the cafeteria is like at lunch.

But more seriously, kids are coming together from two different middle schools for the first time, and many of them are testing of each other. With tough economic times, many kids are coming to school from increasingly stressful home situations.

Dr. Sherman has set out some bold challenges for our students and teachers. However, safety is paramount. A School Resource Officer is not a 100% guarantee that a violent incident will never arise, as the news media has shown. But it is scary to think that something really bad has to happen to realize the value of prevention.

That's why the PTSA supports keeping our one School Resource Officer at Minnie Howard.

Thank you very much.

HOPKINS HOUSE



A Learning Center for Children, Youth, and Families

Alexandria Center
1224 Princess Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Fairfax Center
8543 Forest Place
Alexandria, VA 22309

3
10-30-08

Alexandria City Council Meeting October 30, 2008

**Testimony submitted by:
Linetta Earley, President of the Helen Day Preschool Academy
Parents Council, Hopkins House**

Dear Council Members and members of the community:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight and for the city's support and investment in child care and early childhood education.

My name is Linetta Earley and I am the President of the Parents Council at the Helen Day Preschool Academy at Hopkins House. My son Myles is 4 and has been at Hopkins House since 2007. Last year in his preschool class, he learned alphabetical recognition and in and out order. This year in junior K Prep, Myles is learning to write. I know he'll be more than ready when it is time for him to start kindergarten.

On behalf of the Parents Council and the entire community at Hopkins House, we urge you to at least maintain the current level of funding for early childhood education in Alexandria, and if at all possible to increase your investment. We recognize that these are difficult financial times for everyone. Individuals, families, businesses and our government are faced with tightening their budgets. But it is critically important to get our children quality early childhood education to best prepare them to succeed at school and in the future.

To prepare these comments, the Parents Council surveyed parents of children enrolled in Hopkins House. I would like to share some of their comments with you so you can see the difference your investment in early childhood education makes.

As you know, a number of Hopkins House families receive subsidies or scholarship assistance. If this financial assistance was not available, a number of our families would use an in-home day care provider or a family member to care for their child. These options would not include an educational component to the child's day. Several other families said that without assistance to attend Hopkins House, one of the parents would not be able to work. This would negatively impact that family and the economy.

Our parents credit Hopkins House with providing increasingly important early childhood education and preparing Hopkins House children for kindergarten and beyond. One parent summed it up by saying that Hopkins House has helped her child develop "basic language, social and academic skills". Other parents report a rapid increase in verbal and communication skills, children becoming more independent, and children blossoming in the Hopkins House environment.

Finally, Hopkins House is a community with programs to help the entire family. Parents have participated in financial management and resume workshops, sessions on housing and mortgage information, fathers and mothers day dinners and workshops on children's issues. As one parent said, "Hopkins House is a great partner".

Thank you for your time and your dedication to our children. We hope to have your continued support.

Sincerely,

Linetta Earley



OFFICERS:
Robert "Bob" Bogan
Chair
Mark Eisenhour
Vice Chair
Richard G. Cole, Jr.
Secretary / Treasurer

Julie N. Jakopic
Assistant Secretary / Treasurer
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Valeria S. Henderson
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Clarence A. Johnson
Jeff Kline
Gregory H. Leisch
Amy Liu
Amy L. Maddox
Blanche Maness

Linda Martin
Juliette McNeil
June Monterio
Alvin Nashman
Lee Quill
Noel A. Shepherd
Deborah Schoerner

October 30, 2008

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

Dear Mayor Euille and City Council Members,

On behalf of the Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission (APHAC), I would like to make four comments regarding the Health Department portion of the FY 2009-10 budgets. We appreciate the City's work in proposing this budget at a time of considerable economic uncertainty.

1. Nursing Salaries Are Not Competitive – Because of the inability to recruit nurses, services have been cut back at the Casey Clinic. Three nurses have been moved from Casey Clinic to King Street to cover essential services including immunizations, tuberculosis treatment and child care. Casey Clinic is not accepting new patients except for those with HIV infection - HIV care is covered by federal Ryan White Care Act funds. The inability to recruit nurses is a result of competition from the private sector which can offer significantly higher salaries than the health department can offer.
2. Casey Clinic Service Losses Are Permanent – State budget cuts for FY'09 resulted in the permanent loss of four positions (3 nursing, 1 medical records) in the Alexandria Health Department. This means that the nursing service moves (#1 above) from the Casey Clinic to King Street will be permanent. No lay-offs were necessary with FY '09 state budget cuts in the Alexandria Health Department.
3. Adolescent Clinic Services Will Be Reduced – City budget cuts in FY'09 will result in two positions (1 medical care, 1 mental health counselor) being held vacant at the Adolescent Clinic. In addition to decreasing mental health counseling services, the Adolescent Clinic will limit the availability of free sports physicals and focus on family planning and teen pregnancy prevention services. For FY'10 the health department will look at alternative ways to provide services in the Adolescent Clinic, including focusing on nurse practitioner services and decreasing physician services.
4. Healthy Partnerships, Which Are Vital to Achieving Our Public Health Goals, Need Your Support – Yes, there are imperative linkages such as among the Alexandria Health Department, INOVA Health Systems, and Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, Inc. (ANHSI). Everyone in these organizations has a specific and challenging technical role, but moreover, an inherent responsibility to work with their peers across these organizations in order to solve problems. Seeking out and recognizing this kind of business practice is a solid investment for the City.

In that same spirit, the APHAC says “thank you” to the Mayor and City Council for participating in and supporting the *Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria*. Today 174

DOCKET #11 – Minnie Howard SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

It is the responsibility of the city to provide safe and secure schools for ALL of our children. The decision to remove the School Resource Officer from the 9th grade Minnie Howard School appears to be based on the fact that too few incidents are being called in to the police communications department to justify the expense of the officer's salary. Yet SROs are being retained at both GW and Hammond schools, and TC Williams has two SROs, a full-time off-duty police officer, and the head of school security (who is a retired Alexandria police officer), totaling four security positions (three in uniform) in addition to the eight administrators required to keep the premises secure at TC.

Thus it stands to reason that if the diverse student populations of GW and Hammond are coming together for the first time as a future graduating class, yet there are actually fewer calls for service to support the ninth graders when the circumstances would suggest more need for police support, then Minnie Howard's SRO program is actually proving itself to be **EXCEPTIONALLY SUCCESSFUL**. Minnie Howard administrators, teachers, support staff, and SRO work together as an extraordinary team to reduce violence and conflict within the school community.

In my experience the role of the SRO is fourfold. Obviously having someone in uniform on a daily basis is a deterrent to impulsive actions from our youth. Having a patrol car parked outside the building is also a deterrent to outside threats which are increasingly common in today's society. Just as importantly, our young people get to know our SRO not just as a police officer, but as an advocate who can provide intervention to prevent bullying, fights, gang activity, and other risky behaviors from happening in the first place. And when such incidents do occur, including outside threats, an SRO is a first responder in the most literal and critical sense since it is our children we are protecting.

A school resource officer is exactly that – an **OFFICER** who is a valuable **RESOURCE** to the **SCHOOL** community. And the Minnie Howard SRO seems to have gone above and beyond the call of duty to REDUCE the number of calls for service to this school, and instead of acknowledging this positive effect, city ^{the manager} ~~council~~ seeks to jeopardize the safe and secure environment provided for our children to grow and learn by removing the uniformed officer most vital to maintaining this stability.

The city should not sabotage the safety and security of its ninth graders as they transition from middle school to high school, especially while these teenagers are managing all the existing peer pressures and the many challenges that come with adolescence.

A school resource officer protects Alexandria's most valuable resource – its children.

Respectfully submitted,
Elissa Webster

3
10-30-08

Testimony to Alexandria City Council

My name is Moira Bindner and I have been a resident of the City of Alexandria for 15 years. I am here to share on your investment in early childhood education. I want to thank the city council for their past support of early childhood education. Your dedication to the next generation indicates that “you get it”.

I reviewed your presentation materials online before this evening. It was extremely thorough and you have huge challenges in prioritizing resources and I don't envy you that.

What I can say is that early childhood education has benefitted my daughter Catie. She is an alumni of Hopkins House Preschool Academy. This fall she started kindergarten at Patrick Henry Elementary School. She was very prepared to start school because of her attending a quality preschool program. I choose Hopkins House for the curriculum and for the diversity. I wanted

Catie to be in a school that represented Alexandria.

Catie now is in the minority in her kindergarten class, but she doesn't think anything of it. Because she knows that diversity is a part of the community we live in.

But there are still too many kids who don't have the opportunity to prepare for school by attending a quality program. By maintaining your commitment to early childhood education, you prevent more children from falling through the cracks. The implication of not investing in childhood education is then the elementary schools are challenged in bringing everyone up to speed. Thus schools don't meet the SOL standards and then the city of Alexandria schools suffers in their reputation. Please help strengthen the entire educational chain in Alexandria by maintaining the funding for early childhood education.

Additionally, because of the economic roller coaster, many organizations - Hopkins House included are facing cuts from foundations and corporation grants. The city

allocated funds allows Hopkins House to maintain diversity, keep those at-risk students engaged and prevents them from falling through the cracks.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to contribute to the discussion. Being a citizen in Alexandria means being engaged in the process. In case anyone forgot the meaning of being a citizen - don't forget to

VOTE on Tuesday to make sure your voice

is heard.



Northern Virginia
Family Service

3
10-30-08

**Testimony provided by Nina Randolph on Behalf of Healthy Families Alexandria,
a program of Northern Virginia Family Service, October 30, 2008**

Mary B. Agee, ACSW
President and CEO

Good Evening Mr. Mayor and Members of City Council,

Administrative Offices
10455 White Granite Drive
Suite 100
Oakton, VA 22124
703.385.3267
703.385.5176 - Fax

My name is Nina Randolph. I am a resident of Alexandria and the chair of the Resource Development committee for Healthy Families Alexandria, a program of Northern Va. Family Service. As a school psychologist by training, my commitment to support this program lies in knowing the critical importance of a mother receiving timely prenatal care and for a family to receive caring guidance in nurturing their child to a healthy start in life. Last year, the program served 219 families.

Alexandria
5249 Duke Street
Suite 308
Alexandria, VA 22304
703.370.3223
703.751.5197 - Fax

Thank you for your strong support for and commitment to Healthy Families Alexandria and other early childhood programs in the City.

Arlington
3401 Columbia Pike
Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22204
703.769.4600
703.892.0895 - Fax

All of us recognize the current challenges facing local and state governments and the difficult choices you must make to reduce the deficit. I am here tonight to ask you to continue your support for the most vulnerable in our City, children ages 0-5. Our services are needed now more than ever. The impact of growing economic uncertainty upon the families we serve is huge. Parents are working longer hours at jobs that may vanish tomorrow. At the same time, many of the government programs that they relied on in the past are being reduced or eliminated. All of this contributes to mounting stress at home, putting a greater number of Alexandria's babies and children at risk for neglect, abuse and developmental delays. Programs like ours provide a critical safety net for these families.

Loudoun
2 Pidgeon Hill Drive
Suite 430
Sterling, VA 20165
703.404.2021
703.404.2415 - Fax

As you know, Alexandria has been chosen as one of 2 Healthy Families sites in Virginia for expansion when funding becomes available from the State. We were selected because of the strong support this program receives from the City and from the community. We are positioned and ready to grow and when the time comes, we will more than double the number of families we serve.

Manassas
9842 Business Way
Manassas, VA 20110
703.392.4901
703.392.0052 - Fax

In conclusion, we ask you to maintain level funding for the Children's Fund. By ensuring that all babies have **good health, strong families and positive early learning experiences**, we can lay the foundation for success throughout their lives. Let us remember that they are the future for our community.

Woodbridge
2200 Opitz Boulevard
Suite 100
Woodbridge, VA 22191
703.490.3646
703.490.4954 - Fax

Thank you.

Online
www.nvfs.org



City Council Public Hearing on the FY2010 Budget –October 30, 2008
Comments of Mary Riley, Chair, Community Services Board

3
10-30-08

Mr. Mayor, Council members. I'm Mary Riley, Chair of the *Alexandria Community Services Board (CSB)*, which oversees the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse.

Understanding the difficult budget situation in the City, the CSB has sought outside funding and has been very successful in securing that funding. For children's mental health services alone, more than \$1.3 million in federal and state grants has been secured in the past two years. In Alexandria, 56% of the children's mental health services budget comes from grants, a much larger percentage than surrounding jurisdictions.

We have some of the hardest-working staff in the region whose job it is to work with some of the most difficult-to-serve clients. And now, those same staff are being asked to work even harder to make up for the vacant jobs that have been frozen because of the budget crisis. Freezing vacancies also means that we will increase wait times for services, while we lessen our ability to provide those services in a safe and high quality manner. Because we do not see this as a viable long-term solution, our Board will need to seriously consider the elimination of services and programs for FY 2010 and beyond.

This year alone, the cuts will mean that up to 18 clients will be denied access to intensive substance abuse residential treatment. Please consider the fact that, as we cut back on services and programs, the populations that the CSB serves continue to grow. We came before you last year to talk about the increasing numbers of children we see who are diagnosed with autism, mirroring a national epidemic. And a recent public school survey¹ shows that 30% of Alexandria's middle school girls have seriously considered suicide; half of those report having actually attempted suicide. At the high school level, 36% of females and 20% of males report symptoms of depression, with 18% of high school females reporting a suicide attempt in the past year. Yet we know from

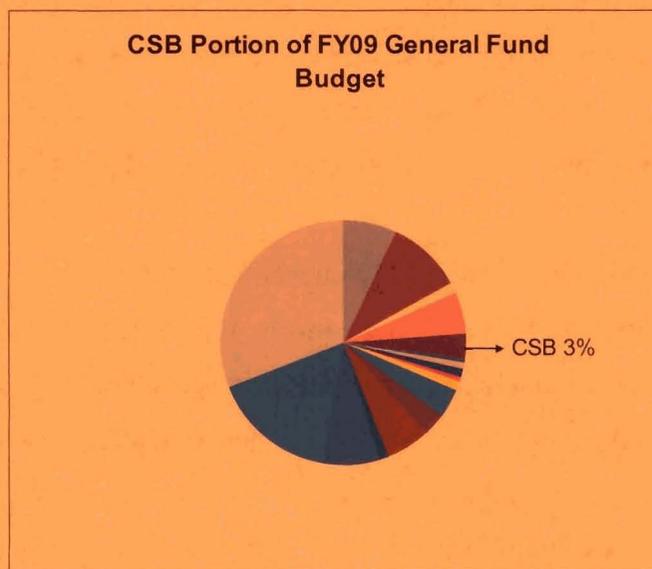
¹ *Youth Risk Behavior Survey: Final Report*. Alexandria City Public Schools, Monitoring and Evaluation Services, February 2008.

our own experience and from the testimony of school principals and others at CSB public hearings that the number of mental health counselors in the schools is well below the need.

For almost every category of disability identified among the children referred to the CSB, research shows that early diagnosis and intervention can lead to significantly improved outcomes. So, as the old saying goes, we can pay now or we can pay later. Unfortunately, “later” is much more expensive.

The need for our services is also expected to increase among other vulnerable populations, such as elderly persons with Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia.

Thank you for your past support of the CSB and, as you develop the FY 2010 budget, please consider first our most vulnerable residents who need CSB services. The CSB portion of the City’s general fund budget is 3%. I ask you to consider whether that is sufficient, given the need, even in this difficult budget climate.



The CSB serves more than 4,000 clients annually. These clients are among Alexandria’s neediest residents. While Alexandria’s median income is \$80,000, more than 40% of CSB clients make less than \$5,000 annually and have severe disabilities.

3
10-30-08



Susan McLaughlin
<white_tortoise1@msn.com>

10/21/2008 04:08 PM

Please respond to
Susan McLaughlin
<white_tortoise1@msn.com>

To: william.euille@alexandriava.gov, timothylovain@aol.com,
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,
delpepper@aol.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject: COA Contact Us: the budget and Eco-City Alexandria



Time: [Tue Oct 21, 2008 16:08:38] IP Address: [134.67.6.11]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Susan
Last Name: McLaughlin
Street Address: 609 Little Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703-299-8370
Email Address: white_tortoise1@msn.com
Subject: the budget and Eco-City Alexandria

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Pepper, Councilmen, and City Manager Hartmann:

I have been privileged to own a home in Alexandria for the last eleven years. And, as demonstrated by our current investment in a major renovation of our house, my husband and I plan on living here for a long time to come.

I love being a citizen of Alexandria. Never, however, have I been as excited about an initiative in our city as I am about Eco-City Alexandria. I congratulate you for making the Charter a reality and for the awards that it is winning. I look forward to providing feedback on the Environmental Action Plan and to participating in specific Eco-City activities.

I do not envy you your jobs: In addition to your usual responsibilities—maximizing the tax base, minimizing taxes, improving traffic, fighting for green space, and so forth—you also have to deal with

our current budgetary crisis. You will have to make cuts in areas that are important to everyone, including the Eco-City initiative. After nearly 15 years at the US EPA working on partnership programs with businesses, I know that when funds are scarce, "beyond compliance" initiatives (such as Eco-City Alexandria) quickly fall to the end of the financing queue. While I am sure that Eco-City Alexandria will still receive some funding in the short term, I hope we can find some creative ways to maintain a high level of momentum, especially in its early years.

My initial suggestion is to examine the City's annual expenditures for short-lived plants such as bulbs and annuals. I recognize that such plants are very popular for the colorful cheer that they bring to our landscapes, but they are quite expensive to purchase and maintain. What's more, the production and maintenance of these "disposable" plants are significantly detrimental to the environment. (Environmental impacts include the fertilizers and pesticides used to grow them, the extraction of the peat moss used in the potting material, plastics used for the containers, greenhouse gases released as maintenance trucks patrol the City to replace and/or water them, irrigation, etc.). Additionally, their roots do not grow as long or penetrate as deeply as do those of perennials, so they cannot absorb nearly as much stormwater as can the longer-living plants.

Many beautiful, less expensive, and more environmentally sound alternatives to these short-lived plants exist. For example, last year the USDA realized that the bulbs, annuals, and cold weather-blooming plants at its Whitten building on the National Mall cost the Department more than \$240,000 on an annual basis—not even counting the costs of irrigation. With a group of experts, they created an entirely new and sustainable landscaping plan that reduces stormwater runoff, reduces maintenance costs, creates new wildlife habitat, and enhances the beauty of the landscape, while respecting the L'Enfant plan and the building as a destination for tourists (which, of course, is also a concern for Alexandria). More

Comments:

information about this project can be found at

www.da.usda.gov/HQs_GreenTeam/WhittenCharretteFinalReport2-8-08.pdf.

|

recommend that we explore similar options for Alexandria's landscaping, both to save money as well as to improve our planting material in the spirit of Eco-City Alexandria. Some initial analyses and proposals to support such changes were presented in Alexandria's Horticultural Operations' "2007 Fiscal Year Cost Center Report." (See [alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/info/HorticulturalCostCenter\(1\).pdf](http://alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/info/HorticulturalCostCenter(1).pdf), pages 24-26.)

My second suggestion is to more fully leverage existing City programs to educate citizens about important environment issues. For example, that same Cost Center Report describes crucial invasive plant removal programs led by Rod Simmons, the City's Natural Resource Manager. (See pages 9-13 in the Cost Center Report.) However, a search on the City's website for "invasive plants" comes up with no results. Citizens should be informed about these efforts, and the public needs to be aware of what plants are invasive in this area, how these plants are damaging our natural heritage and biodiversity, and how the planting of invasive plants can impact parks and natural areas far from our home gardens. (Seeds can travel great distances by wind, birds, and stormwater.) The public simply is not aware of these issues, but we can begin to alert them to the problems and to recommend alternative (non-invasive) plants by providing information on the website (and through other media, when funds are available).

Similarly, the Office of

Environmental Quality could do more on its website to inform the public about how to reduce fertilizer and pesticide runoff to the Chesapeake Bay. Currently, the site refers to using pesticides "wisely" and asking a lawn care company to use fertilizers "with care," but the site provides no more detail as to what "wisely" or "with care" might mean. (See

[alexandriava.gov/tes/oeq/info/default.aspx?id=3844&terms=watershed%20ma](http://alexandriava.gov/tes/oeq/info/default.aspx?id=3844&terms=watershed%20management)
nagement under "Around Your Yard".) The public—and the Bay—could gain
greatly from information on Integrated Pest Management, on the benefits of
fertilizing in the fall, and on the wastefulness of fertilizing in the
spring.

I have other ideas as well, but I will bring them up with the
Environmental Policy Commission. In the meantime, thank you for listening.

Good luck to you as you make the difficult decisions on the
budget.

Sincerely,

Susan McLaughlin
609 Little Street

3
10-30-08



"Brenda D'Sylva"
<Chaiforme@Verizon.net>

09/08/2008 04:57 PM

Please respond to
"Brenda D'Sylva"
<Chaiforme@Verizon.net>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov, timothylovain@aol.com,
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,
delpepper@aol.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: AGEA



Time: [Mon Sep 08, 2008 16:57:49] IP Address: [206.113.148.2]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Brenda
Last Name: D'Sylva
Street Address: 181 E. Reed Avenue
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22305
Phone: 703-329-6761
Email Address: Chaiforme@Verizon.net
Subject: AGEA

Alexandria Government Employees Association
Alexandria, VA
August,
2008

Memorandum to: The Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council

City Manager James Hartmann

From: Brenda D'Sylva, President,

AGEA

Subject: Employee Compensation Issues in FY 2009 and
FY 2010

Planning for the FY 2010 Budget is underway. On behalf of the
City's general employees, the AGEA requests that you include funding in
your target budget to address recommendations in the forthcoming
Watson-Wyatt study. Based on recent reports from market experts showing
higher inflation, and the overall pay erosion general employees have
experienced, the AGEA requests implementation for July 1, 2009. Including

funds for pay increases in the 2010 planning stages would indicate to City employees that they are a high priority, rather than the factor considered at the end of the budget process when all other priorities have been established and funded.

General employees face these pay and compensation issues routinely:
* new employees hired for more pay than

experienced employees,
* increases to pay grades of some positions, but

Comments: no increase made to similar/linked positions,
* growing gaps between

civilian and sworn pay for positions performing the same job functions,
* failure of the City to conduct broad reviews of civilian pay

grades, and to communicate any findings or results,
* lack of career

ladders, eroding quality of health care and fear that pension benefits will be reduced or become more costly to us.

We are aware that Alexandria's

sworn employee representatives met with City Personnel staff over the summer to conduct another review of their salaries compared to neighboring jurisdictions. This is the second pay review for sworn employees in less than 3 years. Both sworn and School employees received substantial pay raises in FY 2006-07.

The general City employees have been given no commitment that the City will act on recommendations from Watson-Wyatt that may benefit us. We have been told that there are insufficient funds to correct pay disparities, and we were told the same in 2006. We are concerned that other employee groups may be given preferential consideration at the expense of the general employee population. We are united in our position that this cannot happen, and we respectfully request that you ensure it does not. Earmarked funding for general employee compensation improvements is very important to our membership. Thank you for your consideration.

Attachment: b31dea2d4076eb356725bb985ab5153a.doc



b31dea2d4076eb356725bb985ab5153a.doc

Alexandria Government Employees Association
Alexandria, VA
August, 2008

Memorandum to: The Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
City Manager James Hartmann

From: Brenda D'Sylva, President, AGEA

Subject: Employee Compensation Issues in FY 2009 and FY 2010

Planning for the FY 2010 Budget is underway. On behalf of the City's general employees, the AGEA requests that you include funding in your target budget to address recommendations in the forthcoming Watson-Wyatt study. Based on recent reports from market experts showing higher inflation, and the overall pay erosion general employees have experienced, the AGEA requests implementation for July 1, 2009. Including funds for pay increases in the 2010 planning stages would indicate to City employees that they are a high priority, rather than the factor considered at the end of the budget process when all other priorities have been established and funded.

General employees face these pay and compensation issues routinely:

- new employees hired for more pay than experienced employees,
- increases to pay grades of some positions, but no increase made to similar/linked positions,
- growing gaps between civilian and sworn pay for positions performing the same job functions,
- failure of the City to conduct broad reviews of civilian pay grades, and to communicate any findings or results,
- lack of career ladders, eroding quality of health care and fear that pension benefits will be reduced or become more costly to us.

We are aware that Alexandria's sworn employee representatives met with City Personnel staff over the summer to conduct another review of their salaries compared to neighboring jurisdictions. This is the second pay review for sworn employees in less than 3 years. Both sworn and School employees received substantial pay raises in FY 2006-07.

The general City employees have been given no commitment that the City will act on recommendations from Watson-Wyatt that may benefit us. We have been told that there are insufficient funds to correct pay disparities, and we were told the same in 2006. We are concerned that other employee groups may be given preferential consideration at the expense of the general employee population. We are united in our position that this cannot happen, and we respectfully request that you ensure it does not. Earmarked funding for general employee compensation improvements is very important to our membership. Thank you for your consideration.

Budget

3

10-30-08



Delreo Norris
<delreonorristowler@yahoo.com>
>

10/17/2008 08:22 AM

Please respond to
Delreo Norris
<delreonorristowler@yahoo.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov, timothylovain@aol.com,
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,
delpepper@aol.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Alexandria Recreation Center's licensed child
care programs

Time: [Fri Oct 17, 2008 08:22:23] IP Address: [198.23.5.11]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Delreo
Last Name: Norris
Street Address: 530 East Duncan Avenue
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703-974-1786
Email Address: delreonorristowler@yahoo.com
Subject: Alexandria Recreation Center's licensed child care programs
Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members:

I am writing to you out of

concern for the cities Alexandria Recreation Center's licensed child care
programs. I am to understand the city has some budget cuts that have to be
made because of the state of the Economy. I am hearing rumors that the
Alexandria Recreation Center's licensed child care programs may be affected
by potential budget cuts and this has so unnerved me that I can't
sleep.

As a single parent of three children in this city. I depend
heavily on the the Alexandria Recreation Center's licensed child care
programs. It is the only way with the state of the economy that my family
is able to stay afloat. We have already cut our family budget to bare
bones. If we were to lose Alexandria Recreation Center's licensed child
care programs. I have no idea what would become of us.

I must say that

Comments:

I don't just speak for myself many families are facing this same situation we have no other place our children can go and be safe, get help with their home work until there parents can pick them up and take them home.

So

I have some questions:

Are the rumors true are you going to make cuts to the Alexandria Recreation Center's licensed child care programs? If so what are they?

As a citizen and a parent what can I do to ensure that this program stays in place?

As my Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council

Members what can you do to help us keep these vital programs running?

I

went to the meeting held by the Recreation and Parks Dept. last night at Patrick Henry this meeting didn't reassure me or help me to better understand what's going on.

Please respond,

Delreo Norris

3
10-30-08



Paula Lader
<Gelader@comcast.net>

11/01/2008 01:24 PM

Please respond to
Paula Lader
<Gelader@comcast.net>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov, timothylovain@aol.com,
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,
delpepper@aol.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Community service cuts



Time: [Sat Nov 01, 2008 13:24:34] **IP Address:** [76.21.172.158]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Paula
Last Name: Lader
Street Address: 903 Chalfonte Drive
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22305
Phone:
Email Address: Gelader@comcast.net
Subject: Community service cuts
I have a question about the budget cuts affecting the most vulnerable in
our community. It is troubling to see these cuts and
then to hear about
a meeting to discuss capital improvements. Why can't some funding from the
capital budget be diverted to
serve our most needy? The homeless
emergency fund cut-back is certainly one of the most disturbing to

Comments: me.
When I see the wealth contained within our city, it seems
unimaginable to me that we cannot fully fund not to mention expand
vital
services to the poor and needy. Shame on us.
Thanks for listening.
Paula Lader



Dino Drudi <Drudi_D@bls.gov>

10/31/2008 06:16 PM

Please respond to
Dino Drudi <Drudi_D@bls.gov>

To william.cuille@alexandriava.gov, timothylovain@aol.com,
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,
delpepper@aol.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Budget Cuts

3
10-30-08

Time: [Fri Oct 31, 2008 18:16:08] IP Address: [146.142.65.196]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Dino
Last Name: Drudi
Street Address: 315 N West Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 202-691-6172(d)
Email Address: Drudi_D@bls.gov
Subject: Budget Cuts

I attended almost an hour of yesterday evening's hearing and was troubled to hear so little regarding public transit cuts. I would hope you would give the following counterarguments concerning cuts' counterproductiveness

consideration:

1 - Runs on particular DASH routes are "underutilized" in

part because riders usually ride at other times, but chose to ride DASH in

part because they know if some evening they are late, there will still be a

bus to deliver them safely home.

2 - Eliminating "underutilized" runs

may have a cascading effect which reduces ridership on other runs and makes

them also appear underutilized.

3 - Proposed public transit cuts come at

a time of anticipated ridership increases, "peak-oil" induced gasoline

price increases, and critical concern about growing greenhouse gas levels

largely generated by single-occupancy vehicles. A true commitment to

greenhouse gas reduction argues for continuing and even expanding transit

routes in the face of austerity.

4 - I purchased my house partly as a conscious response to the King Street trolley--a service I use and would like to see expanded rather than contracted. If one just misses one, 20 minutes is a long time to wait for the next one. If the service started

Comments: when MetroRail opened in the morning, I would be more likely to get breakfast at the King & Washington Così than at the Penn Quarter Così downtown en route to work.

5 - The King Street Trolley pays for itself in additional revenue generated by the customers it delivers deep into the business district in a relatively short time, the car trips it obviates, and the parking it frees up for additional customers.

To the extent these services cover their costs, cuts may reduce revenues.

Alexandria should consider adopting a "cyclically balanced budget", meaning building up a rainy day fund based on budget surpluses during business cycle peaks which would fund countercyclical spending and cushion annual deficits during business cycle troughs. The business cycle is a sufficiently established and well-researched concept that such an approach to budgeting would be feasible. Just as individuals are told to keep 4-6 months salary in a savings account or similarly liquid asset for emergency needs, at the peak of the business cycle Alexandria's rainy day fund would be similarly capitalized and could be drawn down to cover deficits during business cycle troughs like the current one.

3
10-30-08



Samuel Jones
<slash.mclovin@gmail.com>

11/02/2008 05:53 PM

Please respond to
Samuel Jones
<slash.mclovin@gmail.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov, timothylovain@aol.com,
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,
delpepper@aol.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Removing police presence at Minnie Howard



Time: [Sun Nov 02, 2008 17:53:15] IP Address: [70.17.81.248]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Samuel
Last Name: Jones
Street Address: 959 North Pegram Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703-823-5261
Email Address: slash.mclovin@gmail.com

Subject: Removing police presence at Minnie Howard
Dear Mayor Euille and members of the city council,

My name is Sam Jones

and I am currently a student at Minnie Howard School.

I have heard that

due to budget problems you are thinking of removing a police officer at our school.

I would like you to know that I feel safe at Minnie Howard but

that the police officers do a good job of controlling us. I would say that

Comments: there is probably a fight about twice a month at the school and there is lots of yelling in the halls and the police officers are always there right away to make sure things don't get out of control.

If something is

working please don't change it. Minnie Howard is a great school but there are many students from two different schools who need your help to keep us safe.

Sincerely, Sam Jones

3
10-30-08



Katie Jones
<kjonesbacon@hotmail.com>

11/02/2008 06:56 PM

Please respond to
Katie Jones
<kjonesbacon@hotmail.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov, timothylovain@aol.com,
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,
delpepper@aol.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: SRO at Minnie Howard



Time: [Sun Nov 02, 2008 18:56:57] IP Address: [70.17.81.248]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Katie
Last Name: Jones
Street Address: 959 North Pegram Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703-823-5261
Email Address: kjonesbacon@hotmail.com
Subject: SRO at Minnie Howard

Dear Mayor Euille and members of the city Council,

As a former Minnie

Howard student, and a current senior at TC Williams, I would like to state my opinion about the potential loss of the Student Resource Officer at Minnie Howard School.

When I attended Minnie Howard, fights among the students were common. 99 percent of the time it was yelling and 50 percent of the time it escalated to physical violence. I always felt safe and secure, however, because the SRO was there right away to prevent anything bad. Teachers help but this is not part of their job description!

Comments: My

brother, Sam is at MH now and I want an SRO there to keep him and the other students safe, just as I was.

I would suggest moving one SRO from TC to MH as fights at TC are less frequent.

I'd be happy to talk to you
about this issue in person if you would like.

Sincerely,

Katie

Jones
class of 2009, TCW

Speaker: Bill Reagan, Alexandria Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
(speaker # 8)

We heard the sobering budgetary details at the Council Retreat and recognize the challenges you face allocating scarce funding.

I believe the SBDC provides substantial return on the City's investment in terms of --

- Successful business starts
- Well-operated businesses
- New jobs
- Gross receipts
- & Business friendly environment

In view of funding constraints the SBDC has already cut our very low overhead costs to protect staff time, our most valuable resource for working directly with businesses.

Next year the SBDC is already facing a \$15,000 shortfall in private sector contributions, not for dissatisfaction with our performance or lack of fundraising effort on our part, but because our contributors are tightening their own belts. The bottom line is that any cuts in City funding will require cutbacks in SBDC staff and that will limit the SBDC's ability to work directly with businesses.

In addition to a focus on expense reduction I'd like to talk about the SBDC's important role in revenue generation using whatever resources you're able to allocate to us to grow the economy. I'll give you several examples:

1. The first of these is contending with economic uncertainty, and I don't have to tell you that our business owners are worried. Worried business owners don't make wise strategic decisions – they pull in and shut down. Alexandria SBDC has detailed and specific guidance to provide them that helps them:
 - Better manage their cash flow
 - Control costs
 - And re-strategize their marketing for new circumstances

2. Our message to businesses is an energizing one – and that is that times of uncertainty are also times of opportunity and Alexandria is fortunate to be situated where our businesses can take great advantage of a relatively robust region. A number of our businesses are having very good year despite what’s going on around them. They’re going against the grain of conventional instinct and are doing things like--
 - staying open later
 - re-focusing their marketing,
 - and increasing their advertising on innovative and collaborative campaigns like the recent Old Town Boutique District campaign that’s been a great success.

Alexandria SBDC can help owners manage decreasing revenues and give them purposeful things to do to overcome their panic & plan for Surviving & Thriving.

3. In another area, just as City officials learn new approaches and best practices from attending League of Cities programs, small business owners need to learn better ways of doing things from their trade/professional associations, but they typically don’t find the time to do that. Alexandria SBDC has staff focused on researching trends, buying habits, marketing campaigns, and best practices for individual business types
4. For our Service Sector Businesses Alexandria SBDC has had great success connecting many of them to new markets such as federal and state contracting opportunities. Our guidance has resulted in subcontracting opportunities into the millions of dollars. We’re also working with VDOT, MWAA, and others to link our businesses to their contracting opportunities.

Alexandria SBDC’s key message to business owners is that this is not a time to fret. Rather, this is a time for careful analysis, planning and action. Alexandria SBDC has a key role to play in that analysis and planning.

Alexandria SBDC also has a critical role to play in generating City revenues.

I thank you for your time and consideration.