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5-14-11

Jackie Henderson

From: Mary Anne Weber <maweber@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2011 10:48 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us:
Attachments: ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Wed May 18, 2011 10:48:15] **Message ID:** [30215]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
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Subject:

Dear Mayor Euille and members of the City Council;

I am writing to

confirm my testimony at the last meeting of the City Council on Saturday,

May 14. At our regular meeting on May 11, the Alexandria Community

Services Board voted to support the proposal by the Partnership for a

Healthier Alexandria and the Alexandria Public Health Advisory
Commission

Comments: to discourage smoking in public parks, on playgrounds and in and around
city-owned bus shelters. We join them in asking that the city council
authorize the placement of signs discouraging smoking at those sites. In
voting for this proposal, board members recognized that this action would
not forbid smoking or require a penalty but serve to educate citizens not
only to the dangers of smoking, but the danger of second-hand smoke as
well.

This is a grave concern to us because our clients already face

shorter life spans than the norm, 25 years shorter. Many of them have

physical disabilities and chronic diseases along with their mental disabilities. It is unacceptable that being exposed to second-hand smoke add to that risk.

Our clients are also much more likely to use the bus and wait in bus shelters, sometime for long periods of time. They should not be exposed to smoke while using public transportation, the only choice for most of them.

We ask that you take a public action to improve the health and well-being of all Alexandrians by discouraging smoking at public playgrounds, parks and bus shelters.

Thank you,
Mary Anne Weber
chair,

Alexandria Community Services Board