EXHIBIT NO	
2-28-01	

CONTESTED APPOINTMENTS

TO THE POST OF		
ALEXANDRIA TRAFFIC AND PARKING BOARD 5 Citizen Members		
Paul Berger		
Charles Burnham		
Rolando Gonzales	Cameron Civic	Station Association
Thomas Johnson*		
Matthew Joseff		
Edward Lenhoff*		
Mary MacPherson		
William Philipp		
Kevin Posey		
Robert Rapanut		
Robert Roberts, Jr.		
Lawrence Ruggiero*		
Gerald Tamanini		
Tom Walczykowski		
Converse West*		
Richard Williamson		

^{*}Incumbent

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NAME	OF	COUNCIL	MEMBER	

CONTESTED APPOINTMENTS

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ALEXANDRIA TRAFFIC AND PARKING BOARD 5 Citizen Members
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Richard Williamson Euille

*Incumbent

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CONTESTED APPOINTMENTS	

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Gerald Tamanini

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^{*}Incumbent

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32-28-01

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^{*}Incumbent

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CONTESTED APPOINTMENTS

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Gerald Tamanini	
Tom Walczykowski	
Converse West*	
Richard Williamson	

^{*}Incumbent

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Richard Williamson	

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^{*}Incumbent

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^{*}Incumbent

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NAME	OF	CODNCIL	MEMBER	

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CONTESTED APPOINTMENTS

ALEXANDRIA TRAFFIC AND PARKING BOARD 5 Citizen Members	Two VOT
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NAME	OF	COUNCIL	MEMBER

CONTESTED APPOINTMENTS

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32-28-01

CONTESTED APPOINTMENTS

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ALEXANDRIA TRAFFIC AND PARKING BOARD 5 Citizen Members	Two	VOTE
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Lawrence Ruggiero*		
Gerald Tamanini		
Tom Walczykowski		
Converse West**		
Richard Williamson		

^{*}Incumbent

City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Sandy Murphy (sandy.murphy@ci.alexandria.va.us)

Time: [Wed Feb 28, 2001 11:17:41] IP Address: [143.231.245.91]

First Name: Anne Last Name: Raffaelli

Street Address: 503 High Street

City: Alexandria State: VA 22302

Zip:

Email Address: anne.raffaelli@mail.house.gov

February 28, 2001

To: The Mayor and the Members of the City Council

From: Anne Raffaelli, 503 High Street, Alexandria

Re: Contested Appointments for Traffic and Parking Board

I would like to express my strong opposition to the reappointment of three members of the Traffic and Parking Board: Thomas Johnson, Edward Lehoff and Lawrence Ruggiero.

My experience with these members of the board. in the context of our neighborhood efforts to control speeding on High Street, shows them to be completely nonresponsive to local neighborhoods that are trying to promote safer streets for our children, our neighbors and commuters.

All of our neighbors on High Street petitioned for a stop sign at High and Ruffner Streets last summer to control speeding that had caused numerous accidents with resulting property damage. We were concerned for the safety of our families and pedestrians, fearing someone would be hurt if the speeding situation were not brought under control.

A speed study conducted last summer by City staff confirmed that a huge percentage of drivers exceeded the speed limit on High Street. A stop sign on High at Ruffner was installed last summer over the objection of both Mr. Johnson and Mr. Ruggiero. Mr. Johnson stated at our hearing last summer that he had "never voted for a stop sign in his nine years on the board" and that "stop signs cause accidents." To address the board members' objections, the effectiveness of the stop sign in controlling speed was to be reviewed after six months.

Comments: The board reconsidered the stop sign and voted on February 26, 2001 in a 3-2 vote to remove the

stop sign in spite of the fact that:

- * no new speed study was done to indicate that the sign was ineffective. To the contrary, Chairman West is on the 2/26/2001 record as saying that a speed study was not ordered because there was no speed problem with the stop sign in place. Nor had any accidents occurred since the stop sign was installed;
- * all High Street residents and many of our neighbors from surrounding streets supported the continued use of the stop sign;
- * City staff noted for the 2/26/2001 record that they had received no complaints about from others using High Street.

So in spite of the facts and the neighborhood concern for safety, these three members voted to remove the stop sign that has effectively controlled speeding and they recommend the installation of a speed plate costing thousands of dollars at some point in the future.

This result ignores the safety concerns of an entire neighborhood and is fiscally irresponsible.

Citizens on boards should listen to and reflect their community in their official actions. The actions of these three members were arbitrary and they should be removed.

In addition, Mr. Lenhoff should be removed for sleeping through board meetings. At the 2/26/2001 board meeting, he stated that he would vote consistent with neighborhood concerns and then nodded off only to vote against our neighborhood concerns---quite possibly because he didn't have a clue about what the vote was about. The ability to stay awake during a board meeting should be a minimum requirement for reappointment.

I will be attending the meeting tonight to watch the debate and hope I can count on your support.

February 28, 2001

Dear Council Member:

I am writing to you regarding what I consider to be an irresponsible use, actually abuse, of power by the Alexandria Traffic and Parking Board. I understand that you will be voting on some of the positions tonight. Based on my experience in the last week, I ask that you <u>do not</u> reappoint Jay Johnson and Lawrence Ruggiero under any circumstances. In fact the only truly valuable member, in my opinion, is Kathleen Burns.

Someone on the current board decided to launch their own personal campaign against existing stop signs in my neighborhood. The stop sign on my street(Valley Drive) has been there for nine years. The following are points of which I believe you should be aware:

- I and my neighbors were first informed of the possibility of losing a stop sign on our street (Valley Drive) by noticing fliers which where posted on Wednesday afternoon for a Monday evening hearing. Is this really adequate notice?
- ☐ I called the Transportation office on Thursday morning and left a message, but nobody returned my call.
- □ I emailed Rich Baier and never received a response.
- ☐ I called the Transportation office again on Monday and was told that the request for review of these particular stop signs came from a member of the Transportation board.
- One of the reasons given on the hearing notice for wanting to remove the sign was that there had been no accidents in the last 12 months. Does this makes sense?
- At the hearing neither the city employee nor any of the members of the board were aware of the facts surrounding our sign, e.g., the length of time it has been there, that it had been endorsed by the North Ridge Citizens' Association or that one of the children on the block had been hit by a car before the stop sign was installed.
- No member of the community had initiated this action.
- □ The reason for reexamining these particular stop signs was never explained. They had not discussed as a board a systematic way of reviewing stop signs throughout the city.
- □ Lawrence Ruggiero did not offer any explanation, but voted against retention of all three stop signs in our neighborhood.
- Jay Johnson appeared arrogant and narrow minded and only voted in favor of retaining our stop sign after he was aware that we knew his reappointment would be considered tonight.
- The staff member present and a few of the board members digressed from the issue at hand and starting talking about modified speed bumps (they had another name). This evidently is being examined but surely this board has no power over whether such a practice will be implemented, plus this

- option would be much more costly than the stop sign with which everyone was happy.
- More than a dozen of my neighbors, including some elementary age school children, had to spend 3 hours on Monday night to defend a stop sign that has been in place for almost a decade. That does not include the time spent in the FOUR days beforehand trying to organize our neighbors. I hate to think what would have happened if the sign had been posted two weeks ago when I was out of town for a week.
- I am a lifelong resident of this city and I am embarrassed as such by what happened. Quite frankly it made our city look very unprofessional, disrespectful of citizens' beliefs and uncaring.

I would be happy to discuss this in further detail with you. I can be reached at 703-836-8378 or by email at cmacindy@aol.com. I imagine you will be hearing from some others today. Some who would like to express their opinions either don't know about tonight or are too busy because of the events of the last week to spend more time on this issue so soon. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Cindy/Anderson 2709/Valley Drive

Alexandria, VA 22302