

4/4/05

**Statement to
Alexandria City Council
April 4, 2005**

Good Afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today.

My name is Nathan Allen and I am a resident of the City of Alexandria.

I am here today to speak as a private citizen who is concerned about how the City of Alexandria is helping adults with developmental disabilities live full and meaningful lives in our community.

People with developmental disabilities need your help. Today there are adults with developmental disabilities on the waiting list – waiting for services and housing in our community. Some of them need a lot of support, some of them need only a little, but they all wait. There is no increase in funding for services and housing for high functioning individuals with developmental disabilities in the Community Services Board's proposed budget. Many people with developmental disabilities live with their elderly parents or family member. Families are "taking care of their own." In the event of death or disability of these elderly unpaid caregivers, those adult children with disabilities will suddenly need paid support. It could happen this afternoon or tomorrow. Financially that's a problem. What does the City of Alexandria plan to do to help our most vulnerable citizens when they are

in need? Do we just ask them to be patient and wait for their name to come up on the waiting lists?

As you go forward with the budget process, please remember Amber Nightingale and her sister Victoria and the other families in the City of Alexandria who are waiting for affordable housing and services. Please do everything in your power to support people in need. Increase funding for services and housing for people with developmental disabilities! They're counting on YOU!

Again thank you for the opportunity to address you today.