

4-4-05



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04/04/2005 10:51 PM

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cc

bcc

Subject City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor, Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com, delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net, councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com, macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com, rose.boyd@ci.alexandria.va.us, jackie.henderson@ci.alexandria.va.us, tom.raycroft@ci.alexandria.va.us)

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Time: [Mon Apr 04, 2005 22:51:36] IP Address: [152.163.100.132]

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I had hoped to be able to speak with you personally at this afternoon's City Council meeting. I waited for about 3 hours but, before my turn came up to speak, I had to return to my office. Here's what I planned on saying:

I've been a resident of the City of Alexandria for about 20 years. In the past 5 years, my real estate property tax assessment has increased by approximately 160%. For 2005, may real estate property tax assessment is scheduled to increase by approximately 33%. My tax bill will soon

outstrip my mortgage payment. This tax burden on property owners is too high.

Comments:

During the past 5 years, the City's budget has increased by almost 50%. This growth in City spending is unsustainable and frankly is out of control. The Vice Mayor was quoted recently in the Alexandria Gazette as saying that City residents demand a high level of service. This may be so but the City Counsel needs to start saying no to the demands from all of these special interest groups.

The City Council needs to bring greater discipline to the budget process. The City Council should impose a cap on the annual growth in City expenditures. The City Council should also impose a cap on the annual increase in residential property taxes (tax rate x assessment). We need real tax relief.

The City Council should take a close look at all discretionary spending. We cannot afford and do not need, among other things, any more dog parks, \$1.0 million a year dog shelters, skate parks, wi-fi, burying of power lines in Old Town, etc. All non-essential spending should be cut substantially or eliminated.

Thank you for your consideration.